

Gender Based Violence and Family Violence Minutes - Meeting 1900 hours March 11, 2019

In attendance:

Kathee Andrews, Anne Niec, Iuliia Povieviena, Lauren Beales, Arielle Giest, Stephanie Daust., Meera Manhendiran

1. Kathee Andrews began with formal introductions. Meera is a second year MD student at U of T; Stephanie is a 4th year MD student from UBC; Arielle and Lauren are 2nd year MD students at McMaster; Iuliia is a 1st year Family Practice Resident in Brampton; Dr. Andrews is President, FMWC, a Family Physician and also Branch President in TO; Dr. Niec is a Pediatrician at McMaster.

The group discussed hopes they had with involvement in this committee such as wanting to help raise awareness and learn skills to address sensitive issues of violence; to develop advocacy skills; be involved in public awareness and education; support refuge and immigrant health regarding violence. There was enthusiasm and interest in the subject area of violence in our society.

2. Anne Niec reported that a draft was developed for a preamble and terms of reference (T of R) of this group which will need to be worked on further. It was decided that Drs. Niec and Andrews could complete this draft and send around to the group for further input before the next meeting in order to finalize the document for publication on the FMWC website under this advocacy group. The mission and vision would be presented in this document.

Action: Drs. Niec and Andrews will work on the draft of the T of R with development of the mission and vision.

3. Anne Niec discussed the FMWC's commitment to become a partner with VEGA (Violence, Evidence, Guidance and Action). Drs. Niec and Andrews met with Dr. Harriet MacMillan (co-chair of VEGA) in December 2018 to review interests and needs. Drs. Niec and Andrews then presented at the IBM 2019 to the Board to approve not just this advocacy group but also this partnership. This was approved. Dr. Niec gave a description of VEGA and its goals. The group was referred to the website for this project.

Action: Dr. Niec will have a conversation with Dr. MacMillan in order to determine what we can do as an advocacy group to be involved with the launch and support this initiative. We would like to be active participants with this project.

4. Kathee Andrews discussed her interest in the area of sex trafficking (having had a patient who was victimized). She reported her investigation into resources. We have none on our FMWC site yet AMWA has great resources in this area. Additionally there is the Canadian Medical Student Alliance against Human

Trafficking which has a well-developed website and Facebook page with resources. February 22nd was a date designated for awareness of human trafficking. Dr. Andrews identified the gap of individuals seeking medical care yet clinicians not recognizing nor asking questions which would elicit information to recognize youth at risk or involved as victims in human trafficking.

Dr. Andrews has connected with the group. Dr. Andrews proposed that we do a Saturday resource workshop on this topic with the branch groups from Hamilton and Toronto. She also discussed the book “Invisible Change” written by a lawyer regarding this area and recommended it for reading.

Action - Dr. Andrews will follow-up with the Alliance in order to see their availability for a potential work-shop in May (prior to the loss of MD students on break or completion of programming). Additionally, she will connect with Wendy Weaver, a retired police investigator in this area and her on-going connections in this field for their availability as resources.

5. A call for other areas of interest raised the recent concerns regarding Bill 71 the Gun Control Bill. FMWC (Dr. Andrews as the lead) wrote a blog on the topic with FMWC’s WPS (Women Peace and Security) advocacy group. Additionally one of the FMWC’s members presented to Senate on this topic. Conversation focused on whether gender based perspectives were being recognized (guns in the home and deaths from guns to women in cases of IPV).

Action - Lauren Beales raised interest in this area. She will lead a follow-up on the Bill and see what further advocacy we could do in this area through education, statements, supports.

The meeting ended at 1945pm.

.Submitted by : Anne Neic and Kathee Andrews