

Consumers Supporting Midwifery Care

Monday May 7, 2007

1473 Brule Ave, Ottawa ON

Present: Katie Nolan, Mary Beatty, Julia Driedger

1) a) letter writing campaign-update (Mary Beatty)

Mary explained the letter writing campaign. Essentially there are 2 levels: those on waiting list can write to complain about the waiting list and those on consumer list to bring attention to the waiting list issue. The website has templates that can be used for this. The templates can be sent pretty much as they are, if appropriate (i.e. those on waiting list) or edited. The idea is to get as many people as possible to write in order to bombard those that make the decisions regarding midwives in the hospital. Mary has let the 5 area practices know that they can refer people to our website to complain when they are on a waiting list. There is some concern that this information is not getting out to those on the waiting lists due to the busyness of the administrators and forgetting to get this information out to potential clients. The point to is get voices across, not to create a media blitz like in the past.

Each of the templates was written by a different author therefore the tone does vary and Mary suggests changing them if to suit. Katie wrote the letters and received a response from Douglas Black, which she read at the meeting. There was little said in the letter other than information that the Consumer Group has heard before.

Mary is asking that we get this letter writing campaign done before things get to be too busy in the summer.

b) how to make our letter-writing campaign as successful as possible (Christy)

Christy was not in attendance, therefore this item was not discussed.

**Leslie has only had a couple of responses from individuals mentioning they have participated, or would be... not here.*

2) next midwifery session-carling/holland - May 23rd (Katie Nolan- coordinator)

Katie said that things seem to be going well for this session. She plans on contacting Leslie to pick up "the kit". Erin at CEA donated \$25 for refreshments. Jessica has created a lovely poster for this evening. Katie asks that Consumers request this to be emailed (Leslie) so they can print it and display it for publicity. Midwives who have confirmed attendance are Frederique Picker and Josee Nolet. Jennifer Stewart and Donna M will be speaking about VBAC and hospital birth experiences respectively.

Erin at CEA would be happy to sponsor the info session – snacks and room rental if necessary - info has been shared with Katie

Katie has e-mailed the midwives twice, and Leslie has e-mailed once, but we have not received any responses, other than from Frederique (who has offered to come, despite it being out of her catchment area, unless she has a birth), and the SLVM have also responded, mentioning that being out of their catchment area, they are not available.

3) picnic info - June 9th, rain or shine @ Britannia Park, poster to follow shortly

This is a fun, family oriented event. The idea behind the event is mostly for people who want to see their midwife again and show off how much their baby/child has grown and to catch up with your midwife. It's a pretty fun event.

4) Fundraising (Nisha)

Nisha was not in attendance, therefore this item was not discussed.

5) Low Attendance of Meetings

There was a discussion about the low attendance of these meetings as this is the second in a row with only 3 Consumers in attendance. Discussion began about whether or not we are being effective. It was said the the midwives think we are doing a great job, but it seems that the administration is very busy and it is difficult to get information.

There was uncertainty about whether the midwives are even aware of when the meetings are as the emails tend to go to the practice administrators, but not individual midwives. There is a concern about the potential lack of communication this way. People need to be coming out to the group to keep going. The people who are going to keep this group going are those current clients and those who go on waiting lists. If we can't get the information out to those people, then they don't know we exist and the group can't be effective.

There was discussion about having **consistent monthly meetings**, such at the third Monday in the month at 7:30. The location can rotate among West, Central and East. Those 3 locations can either be consistent or vary. There are many events in the fall that require involvement. CSMC needs midwifery attendance to get more information out. If everyone knows when the meetings happen, then they can plan around it. If CSMC have this community of midwives that want our help, we need to communicate with them as well. Are the meeting times even getting to the midwives? It was suggested that a member of CSMC acts as a liaison with a specific midwife from each practice in order to improve communications. The midwives meet each week and hopefully we can communicate with them and they with us. Mary Beatty has volunteered to liaise with the Midwifery Group, as well as Prescott-Russell. Julia Driedger with the Midwifery Collective. **We need other volunteers for other locations.**

5) Next meeting date & location...

It was decided that no meeting will be necessary until September as there are no pressing issues. At that point we would like to meet on a monthly basis.