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Description automatically generated**Communities 4 Families**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2024 in person at CMWI**

**1:30 pm**

**Attendees:** Zeinab Ali, Dene Birchwood, Karen Bryce, Johnell Collins, Zebiba Ibrahim, Corrie Monk (staff), Jennifer Neufeld, Ingrid Peters Derry (staff), Mandy Safronetz, Cathy Seitz, Chris Voss

**Regrets**: Emma Fineblit, Anne Sikora, Jess Smith, Fatuma Sufi, Nancy Tovell, Barby Sewrjugin (staff), Cheri Wright-Kaguah (staff)

**Chairperson:** Zebiba Ibrahim

**Minutes:** Ingrid Peters Derry

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Consent Agenda** – all approved

* Approval of Agenda
* Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2024

1. **Financial Update** – welcome Johnell Collins
2. **Agency Profile:** CMWI
   * + - Helping clients learn new skills, decrease isolation.
       - Goal - first language cultural sensitivity. Wholistic approach – identifying needs and supporting clients.
       - Refugee claimants often don’t get these services – CMWI has many refugees coming
       - First contact with clients is usually donation center
       - They will also refer to other programs that are suitable.
       - Other agencies also come here to let them know about their services

* + - * Community Support Services
        + Food and donation

Food bank

Halal food pantry

Emergency food

Donation – clothing and household items

* + - * + Financial empowerment

Money management training series

RESP workshops

Halal investment workshops

Financial literacy workshops

Access to benefits and filing taxes - $4,000,000 have been claimed in tax refunds for 845 clients

Citizen application and classes

* + - * + Health and Wellness

Women’s support group

Physical activity - Women’s only swimming, exercise - partnership with city at Sherbrook pool – started in 2019

Healthy eating – nutrition workshops

Building healthy family relationships addressing family violence

10-week sessions

CMWI toolkit

Partnership with Aurora, Legal Aid, and religious leaders

Facilitated by trained facilitators, Family Therapists, lawyers and spiritual counselors.

Training facilitators for healthy relationship program

Facilitators speak many languages

* + - * + Family/parenting programs

Wiggle Giggle & Munch

Handle with Care

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting

Circle of Security

Nobody’s Perfect

* + - * + Outreach

Recruitment for programs

Accompany clients

Home visits

Translation and interpretation

* + - * + Settlement services

For refugee claimants, international students, temporary residents and naturalized citizens

* + - * Employment Training Services
        + Commercial cooking training
        + Childcare skills training
        + Industrial sewing training
      * In addition to the hands-on skills required to work in these three fields, the program provides:
      * Specialized English classes related to their employment field of interest
      * Work readiness sessions
      * Employment counselling
      * Employers’ referrals
      * First aid training for the childcare participants,
      * Food handlers training for the culinary participants,
      * Reimbursing the child abuse and criminal record checks for participants when they are applying jobs

1. **Member Sharing: agency updates and/or emerging issues**

**WRHA**

* + - * Mandy coordinates the sharing network (NOAWNIR) - meetings 5 times/year.
      * Newcomer community mobilization hub – Thunderwing model. Focus is newcomers, to prevent involvement in crime. Ways to connect and work with struggling families. Brainstorming for how to connect people, navigate systems. Reach out to [Mandy](mailto:msafronetz@wrha.mb.ca) if you have a family.
      * Pathways – formerly called the Shoe Project (newcomer women and artifacts). Matiness on June 22 and 23 at Manitoba Museum. Sunday show hoping to do Q and A after.

**Thrive Community Support Circle**

* Anger management program in summer.
* Field trips on Fridays, for anyone in the community– the beach, the forks, leaf – first 20 who sign up. Facebook and Instagram will carry schedule.
* Nurse comes on Mondays.
* Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoons outreach – handing out materials. (Back of Portage Place).
* Thursday mornings – EIA disability onsite.
* Building on Spence has just been torn down. New building still being designed.
* Therapy cat – Spencer – died.
* New artistic empowerment coming – no dates yet.
* Jess is working from home on Wednesdays.
* Krista - financial support.
* Jenn - family support.
* Karen – childcare.
* Steve – food coordinator. Has ordered a greenhouse to grow veggies for families.
* 2 openings for childcare assistants in summer. On [website](https://thrivecommunitysupportcircle.com/) and Facebook. Also, will be looking for a cook for the childcare program.
* Childcare – newcomer employment hub (8 spots), respite spots, drop in spots, infant spots. There is a waiting list.

**Mosaic**

* 15 different programs in partnership with other agencies.
  + Circle of Security
  + Nobody’s Perfect
  + Community Engagement – sharing culture while learning about others. Cultural games, cooking and baking, arts and crafts, singing and storytelling.
  + Living Healthy 1-1 Home Visiting Program in First Language
  + Stay and Play (drop-in programs) at Mosaic Family Place at Knox Church (Mondays to Fridays 8:45 am – 3:00 pm). Special programs runs 11:15-1:15.
  + Wiggle, Giggle & Munch
  + Connecting through the Arts
  + HIPPY (home visiting program)
* New program positive foundation in everyday – directed to pregnant or thinking of pregnancy.
* Free cycling classes for newcomer women at the Forks. June 5-28 Wednesdays and Fridays (9:30-11:30 am)
* Zoom presentation – *ask the doctor* (Measles in Canada).
* Subscribe for news from their website.
* Summer programs are not yet confirmed.

**Villa Rosa**

* They have no summer schedule yet.
* Offer trauma programs, pre-natal programs, and healthy relationship programs. Programs are also open to community members.
* Programs are held in the morning in summer, activities in the afternoon.
* Call Villa Rosa for more information about programs.
* Villa Rosa is having staffing changes. Cathy is taking her name off Member at Large for the C4F Executive Committee.

1. **Staff updates**

* **Raising the Village updates** – pilots in Mosaic and AFP have been completed. We are working on interim reports for Literacy for Life. The pilots were very successful.
* **Outdoor Play updates** – Play Summit coming up. [Cheri](mailto:outdoorplay@communities4families.ca) will do presentations/trainings to organizations about outdoor play. Talk to her if you would like something for your organization.
* **Mentoring/training updates**
  + WGM training at end of May (28, 39 and 31).
  + MOA with Mosaic allows them to do training for their own people while still having us involved.
  + WGM peer network is being established – first meeting in June. This meeting will be about food, having healthy relationships with food, including sensory pieces around food. This is for program leaders. 7 oaks school is doing a new WGM program.
  + Exploring options with OFE for single moms’ program.
  + WGM program leader’s newsletter was just launched – this will be done quarterly.
* **Other** – our storage moved to WestEnd Commons this week.

1. **Committee Updates** 
   * **Executive Committee** – Committee met on May 9. Johnell Collins (Klinic) is replacing Genny. Executive nominations – the committee is still looking for a co or vice chair. Cathy is resigning from her position on the committee. AGM on June 19.

* **Resource Committee** – no meeting yet. The next meeting will be to discuss grant applications.
* **Social Enterprise Committee** – next meeting in October.

1. **Next Meetings**
   * **June 19 @ 1:30** – Annual General Meeting