

# COMMITTEE AGENDA

**CONSOLIDATED AS OF MAY 10, 2013**



TO **Community & Social Services Committee**

DATE May 14, 2013

LOCATION Council Chambers, Guelph City Hall, 1 Carden Street

TIME 5:00 p.m.

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## DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES-** April 9, 2013 open meeting minutes

## PRESENTATIONS (Items with no accompanying report)

None

## CONSENT AGENDA

*The following resolutions have been prepared to facilitate the Committee's consideration of the various matters and are suggested for consideration. If the Committee wishes to address a specific report in isolation of the Consent Agenda, please identify the item. The item will be extracted and dealt with separately. The balance of the Community & Social Services Committee Consent Agenda will be approved in one resolution.*

ITEM	CITY PRESENTATION	DELEGATIONS	TO BE EXTRACTED
CSS-2013.14 Long-Term Care Project Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Karen Kawakami, Social Services Program &amp; Policy Liaison</li><li>Michael Klejman, consultant</li></ul>		√
CSS-2013.15 Community Investment Strategy Review of Discretionary Grants Cost Shared with the County of Wellington		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sheila Markle on behalf of Give Yourself Credit</li><li>Heather Pfaff on behalf of Give Yourself Credit</li></ul>	√

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stefanie Elsey on behalf of Give Yourself Credit</li> <li>• Becky Linder-Batemen on behalf of Give Yourself Credit</li> <li>• Fiona Robinson on behalf of Give Yourself Credit</li> </ul> <p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheila Markle</li> </ul>	
CSS-2013.16 Community Benefit Agreement: Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition			

Resolution to adopt the balance of the Community & Social Services Committee Consent Agenda.

**ITEMS EXTRACTED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Once extracted items are identified, they will be dealt with in the following order:

- 1) delegations (may include presentations)
- 2) staff presentations only
- 3) all others.

**REVIEW OF DRAFT MEETING FLOW GUIDE**

**ADJOURN**

**NEXT MEETING:** June 11, 2013



# give yourself credit

## HISTORY

- 2003 - service providers in Guelph and Wellington County express concern re: the growing number of at-risk, street-involved youth who were not in school and homeless
- 2004 - research conducted by the Social Planning Committee (United Way) identified the need for an Education Programme for at-risk youth in Guelph and Wellington County to re-engage them in education which in turn would allow eligibility for social assistance and housing.
- Research found that more youth were “not making it” in school. Without an education, there is a greater likelihood that youth will encounter significant challenges in society, such as unemployment, reliance on social assistance, finding and maintaining housing, increased involvement in the criminal justice system, and poor health status including increase in addictions and mental health. This places a greater future financial burden on our community.
- **Local stats showed that in 2003, 36% of Wyndham House’s residents were unable to enroll or maintain their enrolment in school and in 2004, only 3% (8 of 278) of the youth who used Change Now’s Emergency Shelter were enrolled in school.**
- In 2006, in response to the identified need, service providers formed a collaborative and started operating Give Yourself Credit (GYC).

## ABOUT GIVE YOURSELF CREDIT

- GYC serves “at risk” youth, 16-21 who are amongst the most in need of targeted and intensive support in our community. Most of the youth have experienced halted school success due to such issues as homelessness, mental health, poverty, addictions, pregnancy and parenting, abuse/neglect; marginalization due to sexual or gender orientation and identification and conflict with the law
- Students receive the support required to overcome the daily challenges they have been facing. Achieving educational success boosts self confidence and enables youth to obtain part-time employment, maintain or acquire housing, and eventually can lead to the world of post-secondary education and full-time employment. In addition to providing students an opportunity to work on school credits, they receive therapeutic programming to address those issues which impede their ability to see success outside of the classroom.
- Many students at GYC receive Ontario Works. If these students are not enrolled in a formal educational program, they will not be eligible to receive Ontario Works, placing them at significant risk of homelessness.

- In 2008, Give Yourself Credit received status as a Section 23 classroom. Section 23 classrooms are partnerships between the provincial Ministry of Education and community organizations. GYC is considered a treatment program. The Ministry of Education provides a teacher, educational assistant, and educational materials. The community agency must provide the therapeutic component of the program in the form of child and youth worker support. **A Section 23 classroom cannot run without commitment from a community agency.**
- The community agency for GYC is a unique community collaborative, consisting of many local youth service providers, who comprise the GYC Steering Committee.
- Give Yourself Credit has received funding from the County of Wellington Discretionary Fund since 2009. This funding has been used to cover the rental costs of the facility and staffing of the child and youth worker. This is approximately \$80,000 per year. This funding was GYC's first stable funding.

## CURRENT SITUATION

- In April 2013, GYC received word from the City of Guelph that funding through this discretionary fund would no longer be provided, and that it was the opinion of the City of Guelph that GYC is more appropriately funded by the Upper Grand District School Board.
- Given the requirements for Section 23 funding, community funding is mandatory. Given the strong connection between GYC students and reliance on social services (housing, social assistance), the City of Guelph and Wellington County have a vested interest in the success of these young people. High school graduation is one of the highest predictors of future success!
- There are a number of other education programmes and partnerships to which community partners are already committing funding and staffing to. Given the nature of GYC, it is the only programme that seeks City and County funding given its close ties to municipal social services (Ontario Works, employment and housing support).
- There is strong community support for this programme. GYC has been instrumental in assisting many youth who previously had been loitering in downtown Guelph with no clear plan for their future.
- This funding is required for GYC to continue to operate.

## REQUEST

- The City of Guelph and the County of Wellington have been visionary in their funding of this programme. The connection to the health of individuals, the community and the impact on reduced reliance on social assistance is clear. This programme is an investment in the future.
- We would respectfully request that the City review its decision. In our opinion GYC does meet the City's criteria for funding.
- Should the City not reverse its decision, we have also been advised that the City will assist in locating new funders for the programme. Should these efforts not be successful, we would respectfully ask the City to revisit the decision.