



REPORT

From the office of the...

Student Community Support Network

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Erika Richter
SUBJECT: Student Community Support Network Report 1

UPDATE

After discussions over the summer with the Board of Directors it became evident that SCSN needed to undergo some strategic changes in order to increase its effectiveness and ensure that it was functioning to serve the students. While there are many changes that need to be made in order for SCSN to reach all its goals, definite progress has been made so far this term and we have received positive feedback from the city, community members, students and the employees of SCSN.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Community Assistant training was essential to the one of the shifts that SCSN is undergoing this year. By reframing the idea of what a community assistant is we were able to facilitate a change within the CA program. The position was outlined as a leadership role in which they are encouraged to contribute ideas for new initiatives. It was made clear that their role is not primarily patrolling, but more importantly in providing resources for off-campus students and acting as an ambassador in their area. The team dynamic has also greatly improved when compared to past years and there is a strong sense of community among the staff. Part of this development is that the CA's of each area have created a facebook page for that area, in order to start to gather a following of people, and keep people informed about what is going on in the community.

The peer-to-peer program, has also been changed so that CA's are required to patrol a flat 2 hours a week rather than 2-3 hours in the past, this was done in an effort to shift the focus of the position away from by-law enforcement. In addition, the number of areas covered by the CA's was lowered from 6 to the 3 directly surrounding McMaster, because in past years it has only been these three which have received complaints. Two CA's are assigned to each area, they patrol together, and approach houses together, in order to lessen risks involved with approaching houses as well as increase accountability.

Cycle Safe is once again running, and we have worked with security services, and str targeting the areas on campus that require special attention.

During Welcome Week SCSN was involved in events such as MacDraft and more notably, the community clean up and BBQ which was successful, and had much more students than expected come out.

SCSN was on the committee for Open Streets, our staff assisted in volunteering, and SCSN also ran an interactive booth at the event. In addition, we hosted multiple tables in the student centre throughout September leading up to the event in order to promote the event, encourage students to come out to it, as well as recruit volunteers.

SCSN partnered with Red Door to run an open mic night, the CA's facilitated games and different activities, gave away prizes, and informed those attending about SCSN and the services we offer.

SCSN attended the AWWCA Annual General Meeting and spoke with community members about community relations.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Party Smart Campaign is going to be a week-long campaign held in November, with an event in the atrium promotion "smart partying" we hope to collaborate with other services including SWHAT, SHEC, Maroons, and potentially other McMaster organizations such as the student wellness centre.

We are getting t-shirts made for staff members, in order to increase visibility on campus and give them some legitimacy when visiting houses.

We will be partnering with the G.R. Allen school to run the Pumpkin Hike. We will be recruiting volunteers to carve pumpkins, and help out at the event, and will also be encouraging students to attend the event.

Get Cultured is going to be running a photo contest during the month of October, encouraging participants to take a photo that depicts why they like Hamilton.

Our community connections newsletter will be distributed in early October.

BUDGET

There have and will continue to be some additional costs to the SCSN budget due to the changes that the service is undergoing, however we are currently on track with the budget and has sought out alternative funding measures where necessary.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Gaining more awareness on campus about our service is an ongoing challenge that we are working on by hosting table days in the student centre, and centering our service more towards the needs of students.

SUCSESSES

The constant communication within the OCE as well as with the city has been incredibly successful so far. The peer-to-peer program has also been running very successfully. In addition, the SCSN team this year is very strong and there is a sense of community among staff members which has led to more successes for SCSN.