



LAUNCH AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

Date: June 24, 2023

Location: Lobongo Fine Dining, 3454 Danforth
Avenue, Scarborough, ON, M1L 1E3



Preface

Raising the Hope Community Services is pleased to have organized its first 'Community Consultation on Mental Health and Isolation' meeting held on 24/06/2023 at Lobongo Fine Dining at 3454 Danforth Avenue, Scarborough, ON, M1L 1E3 when this Not for Profit organization unveiled its entity and highlighted its arena along with its mission and vision. The event was a success with active participation of community members from different walks.

Gathering of Professionals and Community Members

Starting with greetings, chit-chat and snacks, the event turned into a 'Get-together' of professionals, particularly from Health and Social Services field. Doctors, Psychiatrists, Social Workers and Social Service Workers, Community Development Workers, Case Managers/Workers along with lawyers, community leaders, media personalities and above all, the community members including members dealing with mental health challenges.

Around 50 community members attended the program. Different thoughts, perceptions and opinions from the presence made the event colorful and meaningful and thus served the purpose of the program.





Organizational Outlook

At the very beginning of the program, president of the organization gave out the logical and moral perspective behind founding the organization, emphasizing the importance of working on mental health in the community with elucidating data and research on mental health while secretary of the organization presented the mission, vision, core values and future action plan of the organization.



Open Forum Discussion and Community Recommendations

An open floor discussion along with a question-answer period followed. Question on financing of the organization, board of directors, action plan and strategy, target group, referral process, partnership was raised by community members and those questions were answered by the team members of the organization.

Several recommendations were brought forth by different professionals and members of the community such as:

- Founding a Senior home for the Bangladeshi community
- Faith/religious based counselling for people with mental health
- Arranging more workshops on building awareness on mental health and suicide among youth in Bangladeshi community
- Build up a team of experts on mental health field and not to include anyone in the team without mental health expertise
- To be in collaboration with other community agencies for support and referrals
- To find out alternative source of funding and suggestion on how to get funding from different levels of government



Financial Contributions

To date, the organization has received a generous contribution of nearly CAD 5,000, which has served as its primary source of funding. We are sincerely grateful for this support, which has enabled the launch of our initial activities. In addition, operational costs have been sustained through the voluntary financial contributions of our dedicated team members, reflecting their strong commitment to the organization's mission and long-term vision.

Closing Remarks

The program concluded with remarks from the Vice President of the organization, who expressed gratitude to all participants for their presence, thoughtful contributions, and valuable recommendations. He also extended sincere appreciation to the donors for their generosity and continued support of both the organization and the wider community. In his address, he emphasized that the organization's vision for progress can only be realized through the ongoing collaboration of professionals and community members.

Following the formal proceedings, dinner was served to all attendees, and Tim Horton's gift cards were presented as tokens of appreciation to the young volunteers who supported the event.

Image Source: *Raising the Hope Community Services on Bangla News Paper*

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