

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose:

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Directors. Its main purpose is to recommend an advocacy agenda for Board approval. Comprised of a combination of Strides Board members, community partners and community members, the Advocacy Committee's work is aligned with Strides goals of strengthening health equity, addressing social determinants of health and/or improving systems.

Duties:

The committee's role is to identify, with input from staff and interested parties, public policies, legislation or other issues of concern affecting the people and communities Strides Toronto serves, and to develop advocacy strategies that will effect systemic change that leads to health equity, addresses social determinants of health and/or improves systems. Ways in which the Advocacy Committee may achieve its goals include:

- Studying the critical issues impacting clients, communities and the city; selecting areas of focus for advocacy efforts.
- Joining with other existing groups, individuals, coalitions or campaigns that are already lobbying around a specific issue.
- Organizing or supporting public forums, seminars, conferences or other awareness-raising events.
- Researching, writing and publicizing reports and position papers on selected issues.
- Initiating meetings with political representatives, bureaucrats and others.
- Making presentations to government bodies at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.
- Developing and disseminating educational materials on selected issues.
- Recommending to the Board of Directors the human and financial resources required to carry out this work.

- Supporting communication work in the area of advocacy.

The committee will develop an annual work plan based on the above duties. The committee will review its terms of reference annually and will make recommendations to the Board for any revisions as appropriate.

Membership:

The Advocacy Committee shall be chaired by a director appointed by the Board and will include a minimum of three other members who are directors: three representatives of community partner agencies and up to three community members, as appropriate. The president of the Board shall be an *ex-officio* member of the committee and the organization's Chief Executive Officer is a non-voting member.

Authority:

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee under the authority of the Board of Directors. No decisions of the committee are binding on the Board until approved or endorsed by the Board.

Reporting:

The Advocacy Committee will report regularly to the Board on its activities and progress on its annual work plan.

Quorum:

A majority of voting members of the committee constitutes quorum (fifty-one per cent).

Voting:

Only members of a Board committee are entitled to vote on a motion at a committee meeting. Staff assigned to Board committees will not be voting members or included in the quorum.

Term:

Terms on the Advocacy Committee are two years, renewable.

Evaluation:

As this is a new committee of the Board, two years after striking the committee there will be an evaluation of the work of the committee to identify strengths and potential areas for improvement. Committee members, board members and management will be invited to participate in this evaluation.