

**CV Coalition to End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
November 2nd, 2016
Courtenay Public Library
12-1pm**

Facilitator: Betty Tate (ARNBC), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

Attendees: Bob Scales (BC Lions Club), Mark Fortin (Cumberland Homelessness and Affordable Housing Committee), Kelly Broom (CV Families Public Education), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Emma Payton (St. Joseph's Hospital), Bunny Shannong (CV Social Planning Society and LUSH Valley), Jonathan Kerr (Division of Family Practice), Sarah Sullivan (AVI), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Cynthia Zirkurtz (Seventh-Day Adventist), Pauline Lawrence (Seventh-Day Adventist), Lindsay McGinn (United Way CNVI)

Regrets:

1. 5 Year Plan Update to CVRD now due mid-December

- a. No positive BC Housing funding updates yet
 - i. CVRC will not be funded by BC Housing
 - ii. Announcements are starting to trickle in from other communities
- b. CVRD is supportive of the Coalition submitting updated 5 Year Plan in mid-December when we have more information about the status of BC Housing proposals
- c. Updated 5 Year Plan and funding recommendations for Year 2 will be presented to the CVRD in January
 - i. Recommendations and budget aren't passed at CVRD until March 2017

2. Library Drop-In Program Update

- a. Transition Society has agreed to enter an MOU with the library and someone has been hired to do the program coordination.
- b. Colleen is in the process of organizing their next steering committee meeting soon to get the project going.
- c. The Coalition's funding application for Library Drop-In programming has been approved by Rural and Remote HPS.
 - i. Approved amount is uncertain and should hear back from funder mid-November
 1. Coalition applied for \$26,500 for this program

3. Lindsay McGinn of United Way Presentation: Comox Valley & Nanaimo vs National PiT Results

- a. 21 participating communities across Canada
- b. Episodic homelessness is more of a problem here in the Comox Valley than nationally
- c. More homeless in our community were non-sheltered, this is likely due to less access to shelters. We don't have as many resources as other communities in Canada.
- d. Gender: Females are over-represented (particularly older females) according to our week-long PiT data.
 - i. Nanaimo's findings were more in alignment with the National data
 - ii. Need to look into why senior females are more affected by homelessness in the Comox Valley
 - 1. Can look to new 2016 National Census data when it comes out. Do we have more women in our community?
 - 2. Physicians and other supports could look at what can be done to help this population of women
 - iii. Nationally, homelessness in females happens earlier in life then tapers off into older age, whereas male homelessness continues rising steadily past the age of 65.
- e. Age and Contributing Factors:
 - i. Older population: unable to pay rent
 - ii. Younger population: experiencing conflict at home, substance abuse etc
 - iii. There isn't one solution for all people experiencing homelessness. Different needs for different ages and genders.
 - iv. Comox Valley had a higher level of veterans (9%) in comparison to National average (4.7%) this can be explained by our military base located in Comox.
 - v. Newcomers
 - 1. Next PiT Count in 2018, the data will differentiate refugees vs immigrants
 - 2. The Comox Valley has low immigration rates, so our data may be over-represented

4. Resource Fair: November 10th, 2016 Lewis Centre 11am-4pm

- a. Coalition will be sharing a booth/partnering with United Way
- b. Need people to help at the table (can be in shifts). Let Andrea know if you can help

5. Team Updates

a. Homelessness Prevention Team:

- i. Will be discussing talking points for an upcoming CBC radio interview focusing on the Comox Valley housing crisis from the perspective of frontline workers

b. Public Awareness Team:

- i. PiT Press Release and Infographic complete and will be submitted to newspapers this week.
- ii. Working on updating materials for our booth at the Resource Fair including a Suggestion Box
- iii. We have created an Interview Consent Form to protect those whose stories we may use in media campaigns
- iv. Coalition Social Media Campaign November 13th-20th
 1. Please “like” our Facebook page
 2. Will have local and relevant articles, interviews and profiles of local homeless each day
 3. Please share articles on your personal and organization’s pages (share articles as ‘public’ to reach a wider audience – just don’t forget to change your setting back afterwards!)
 4. Will send a reminder to Coalition before Campaign Starts
- v. Andrea to add Coalition email to Facebook page and website
- vi. Suggestion box for Library Drop-In.
 1. Pilot program. One box will be built and housed at the Library.
 2. A chance for homeless people to tell the Coalition what they think
 3. Vanier/NIC can build more boxes in February if the pilot is successful
- vii. PAT will re-focus on presentations once Resource Fair and Social Media Campaign are complete
- viii. There is a Facebook Group called “Homeless in Courtenay” with 72 members

c. Housing Development Team

- i. Small Homes
 1. Betty and Bunny went to see a ‘small’ home (not a tiny home)
 2. Even with scavenged materials, the cost was 60k
 3. Can we connect with NIC’s Trades department for building opportunities?
 4. Coalition will approach Maple Pool to see if they could have tiny homes on their property
 5. If yes, need to investigate bylaws and regulations
- d. Jane Murphy from St. Joseph’s Hospital presented on senior’s health issues and housing challenges
 - i. St. Joe’s would love to see a Campus of Care model, addressing the spectrum of senior’s health needs all the way up to hospice
 - ii. There is an RFP is out for 70 residential beds at St. Joes’.
 1. 30 beds already exist – 40 new beds to be built

6. General Coalition Updates

- a. Hoping to have someone come present on the Housing section of the Vital Signs Report
- b. Town of Comox will be doing a Strategic Plan
 - i. Trying to get affordable housing on the forefront of the plan
 - ii. Developers are required to put forward some affordable housing in their proposals or have a fund for affordable housing
 - iii. There are still affordable housing funds available – looking for input
 - iv. Can Coalition come to speak to council? Will there be public consultations?
- c. Outreach to Komok's First Nation to invite them to be involved in the Coalition
- d. Housing emergency in the Comox Valley – we have a 0.5% rental vacancy rate.
- e. What can Coalition do to continue to reach out to developers, to educate the community about the need for a diverse spectrum of housing options? *(In response to the Comox backlash against the 4 story development on Guthrie Rd. in Comox)*
- f. New apartments on 5th St:
 - i. Coalition has reached out to the developer for more information
 - ii. Small units, 350sq ft
 - iii. Commercial enterprise, not sure what rent cost will be
- g. Municipalities:
 - i. Can we have 10% of all developer fees to go towards the construction of affordable housing units? Pose question to City of Courtenay council.
 - ii. Hugh MacKinnon of Town of Comox can bring in municipal housing development requirements
- h. 3rd draft of Affordable Housing framework has been written in Cumberland

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7th, 12-1pm at the Courtenay Public Library