

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness**  
**General Coalition**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**  
**12-1pm Courtenay Public Library**

**Facilitators:** Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Sarah Sullivan (AIDS Vancouver Island)

**Attendees:** Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Jody MacDonald (CV Community Foundation), Harry Panjer (CV Community Foundation), Cynthia Zirkwitz (CV Seventh-Day Adventist), Pauline Lawrence (CV Seventh-Day Adventist), Kelly Broom (Family advocate), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Angel S. (CV Family Services Association), Jesse Atton (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Tyra Townsend (concerned citizen), Chris Goble (VIHA), Tasleen Mall (AIDS Vancouver Island), Bev Miller (BC Housing)

**Regrets:** Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Brent Hobden (Salvation Army), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Nancy Carlson (Salvation Army)

**Recorder:** Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

**1. CVRD Year 2 Funding Update**

- a. Leadership Team and HDT members met with CVRD to discuss Tiny Homes as an option but were encouraged not to pursue
  - i. Tiny Homes do not meet BC Building Code
  - ii. No municipalities in Canada have approved these yet
  - iii. Looked at funding an elevator at Pidcock House, but unfortunately the cost was over 100k and we only had 50k of funding available
  - iv. Decided that the funds would go to Dawn to Dawn to purchase an additional condo unit
  - v. Remaining funds would go to support the Braidwood project
- b. Betty and Richard updated the CVRD Board on Coalition's Year 1 accomplishments and Year 2 recommendations
- c. The updated 5 Year Plan was passed unanimously and final budget will pass in March, with funds being distributed in August.

**2. United Way/Rural Remote HPS funding opportunities**

- a. Both due Feb 17<sup>th</sup>
- b. Who will be applying?
  - i. HPS:
    1. Jesse with Wachiay for increased rental top-ups and emergency funding, increased agency collaboration etc
    2. Coalition will apply through Transition Society for Drop-In Program and Coordination funds

- 3. D2D may be applying
- ii. United Way
  - 1. VIRL for the Drop-In Program
- c. Who needs a letter of support?
  - i. Wachiay

### **3. “Designated Community” Status**

- i. Federal government has an extensive website on HPS
- ii. Strong on community strategies/collaborations/partnerships for housing first funding
- iii. In the 2014-2019 current funding cycle, 61 communities have ‘designated community’ status with special funding arrangements, more funding available etc
- iv. Post 2019 should the Coalition apply for this designated community status?
  - 1. Who can apply? a municipality, regional district, First Nation
  - 2. Might need to start a special committee
  - 3. We might encourage CVRD or municipality to apply for status
  - 4. Leadership Team to research and discuss how to move forward

### **4. Comox Valley Community Foundation 2016 Vital Signs presentation by Jody MacDonald and Harry Panjeer**

- a. Vital Signs paints a broad picture of the community using real data
- b. Community Foundations Canada leads this report – approximately 30 communities participated for 2016
- c. Report can be accessed at [www.cvcfoundation.org](http://www.cvcfoundation.org)
- d. 70% of respondents of the survey were female
- e. “Do you generally have enough money to buy the things you need to live well” – Self-identification indicator
- f. Comox Valley poverty rate is 13%
- g. Income comfort level is the key determinant for issues in the community
- h. Health & Wellness
  - i. Depression/anxiety is high in the Comox Valley
  - ii. We have low access to mental health services
  - iii. Child poverty rate is 20% in the Comox Valley
- i. Gap Between Rich & Poor
  - i. Compared to the rest of Canada we have fewer rich people and similar numbers of those in the lower percentage
  - ii. More affordable housing was a high community need to address the gap between the rich and the poor
  - iii. No adequate support for people living in poverty

- iv. Respondents do feel they can earn a livable wage in the Comox Valley
- j. Housing
  - i. More affordable housing units are a top priority for people in the Comox Valley
  - ii. Increased services to homelessness are also a top priority
  - iii. The public supports addressing issues to reduce homelessness
  - iv. Data shows that the older a person is, the more they are concerned about homelessness
- k. Every question in the survey is broken down by age, gender and economic comfort level
- l. Only get responses from those who are interested in taking the survey
- m. Responses were proportional to those living in Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland
- n. Awareness of survey was spread through radio ads, newspaper ads and distributed by service agencies.
  - i. Next time would like to see more collaboration to encourage more responses – SD71 for example
- o. Vital Signs is informing strategies for the Comox Valley Community Foundation

## **5. Terms of Reference Review upcoming in March**

- a. ToR review in March.

## **6. All-Teams Meeting (potentially in April)**

- a. Stay tuned

## **7. Team Updates**

### **a. HPT**

- i. Library Drop-In Program
  1. Well attended 15-25 people each session
  2. Sunday and Wednesday afternoons
  3. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday is meditation group in the meeting room, so the Drop-In folks meet in the lounge
  4. Looking for male outreach workers
  5. AVI did a naloxone training
  6. Upcoming workshops
    - a. looking for more workshops
    - b. asking clients for feedback on what they want to learn
    - c. Lots of hidden homeless folks are attending
    - d. Donations are starting to come in, shower and laundry vouchers are needed
- b. Looking at creating a Resource Checklist for clients
- c. Been discussing rent control advocacy in the Comox Valley

- d. Also discussing Airbnb regulations, increasing the housing stock and how we can do this locally
- e. NIC housing issues, there is a large international student population
- f. Hospital, lack of units available because of the construction workers
- g. We need to be creative about who we are engaging with when talking about housing
- h. **HDT**
  - i. Exploring the UBC Tiny House Institute and how we can support them
  - ii. Tiny Homes Challenges: BC Building Code – currently no code for small/micro houses
  - iii. The discussion and planning has been bumped to Year 3 and the HDT is doing research in the meantime

## **8. Other Updates**

- a. EDAS presentation to SD71 was successful
- b. Transition Society
  - i. 4plex is built and occupied by 4 female led families with children at rent geared to income
  - ii. 2 transitional units have been built at Amethyst and are occupied.
  - iii. Thanks for your support and way to go!!
- c. Coldest Night of the Year – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Native Sons Hall
  - i. Comox Valley was #1 in BC last year and #13 in dollars raised in Canada
  - ii. This year's goal is 75k!
  - iii. Looking for more team captains
    - 1. Team captain rally on Friday at CVTS
    - 2. Need team members
    - 3. Need volunteers for registration, marshalling, kitchen etc
    - 4. Online fundraising tools available
  - iv. Registration open at 4pm, walk at 5pm
  - v. Important fundraising for CVTS and D2D that has a direct and immediate impact!
  - vi. [www.cnoy.org](http://www.cnoy.org) and search for Comox Valley to sign up

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 12-1pm at Courtenay Public Library**