

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
March 1st, 2017
12-1pm
Courtenay Public Library

Facilitators: Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Heather Ney (Transition Society)

Attendees: R.E. Scales (BC Lions Club), Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Chris Goble (VIHA), Sabina Acheson (Comox Bay Care Society Care-a-van), Jonathan Kerr (Division of Family Practice), Cynthia Zirkwitz (Seventh Day Adventist Church), Pauline Lawrence (Seventh Day Adventist Church), Nancy Carlson (Salvation Army), Colleen Nelson (VIRL), Kelly Broom (CV Family Public Education), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United Church), Betty Tate (CVARNBC)

Regrets: Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

1. Review of General Terms of Reference

i. Meeting Procedures (pg. 3):

1. Suggestion to change wording to: "teams should meet quarterly" (instead of 'will')

ii. Mandate pg. 1:

1. 'Low-barrier housing' – Coalition's definition is listed in Appendix A of the ToR
2. Housing First without supports isn't very useful, need to incorporate harm-reduction
3. We incorporated this new line about 'low-barrier' housing to make clear that the Coalition isn't supporting the entire continuum of housing options.
 - a. We were getting requests for letters of support from developers who weren't building housing on the continuum
4. Suggestion to change wording to: "develop and support local low-barrier housing initiatives such as but not limited to subsidized housing"

iii. Internal Communications (pg 3)

1. ToR was missing this information and Flow Chart
2. Added to all the teams ToRs and has been approved on a team by team basis

iv. Coalition reached consensus on all proposed edits and Andrea will update, distribute and publish

- b. BC Housing has recently switched language to 'affordable housing' from 'housing first and homelessness'

- c. Challenges within the housing continuum for those who don't fall within certain requirement areas (income, addiction, disability etc)
 - i. There is a lack of co-op housing in the Comox Valley

2. Discussion of Website and suggested updates

a. History Page

- i. brief write up of the Coalition's history
- ii. Previous Task Force reports aren't accessible on City of Courtenay and CVRD sites - will find them and add them to the history tab

b. Resource Page

- i. Andrea will ask each team for 3 or 4 useful link suggestions
- ii. Will break into categories such as: landlords, tenants, developers, those looking for assistance, general public

3. SMART Update

- a. Tim Walton (RCMP) wants to look into the potential implementation of the SMART program (or something similar to it)
 - i. <http://www.surrey.ca/community/18661.aspx>
 - ii. He is particularly interested in assisting high-risk youth in the Comox Valley
- b. Currently there is an Intensive Case Assessment Team (ICAT)
 - i. Organizations come together to share info and work on safety plan for at-risk people. Meeting are often called on an emergency basis.
 - ii. Addresses domestic violence, at-risk behaviours etc
 - iii. A similar group exists within the School District
 - 1. Paul Barrie is the contact
- c. LT thinks John Howard Society would be a great organization to spearhead project with RCMP if it is being targeted to high-risk youth.
- d. Coalition isn't the right group to implement the project as we are focused on homelessness and low-barrier housing
- e. We will ask Tim to present/discuss with Coalition

4. Coldest Night of Year Update

- a. Comox Valley ranked #4 in BC! THANK YOU!
- b. Currently at \$48,000 raised. Last year we raised \$64,000
 - i. 2nd year there is normally a dip in funds raised. There is still a lot of funds trickling in. Hoping for \$60,000 total
- c. Funds raised go to CVTS and D2D, towards subsidized housing, maintenance of units, augmenting HPP funds, rental supplements and some staffing costs.

5. HPS and UW funding proposal update

- a. HPS Rural and Remote Funding
 - i. D2D did not apply

- ii. Wachiay (HPS top-ups and coordinated support) and Coalition applied (Library Drop-In and continued Coalition coordination)
- iii. Coalition wrote a letter of support for Wachiay
- b. Only VIRL applied for United Way funding (for the Drop-In Program)
- c. Funding decisions sometime in April

6. BC Non-Profit Housing Association's Vancouver Island Regional Education, Network and TradeShow (RENT)- April 6th in Parksville

- a. <https://secure.bcnpha.ca/SITES/VIRENT/Home/VIRENT/Home.aspx?hkey=7174e4ba-6db7-4e0e-b657-5591bd553623>
- b. Betty and Bunny, will be presenting on the Coalition and facilitating a discussion, sharing ideas with the Victoria Coalition Against Homelessness

7. Coalition Meeting Potential Guest Speakers Recommendations

- a. Tim Walton (RCMP) - SMART program
- b. City of Campbell River – TENT program (container homes for emergency weather etc)
- c. Planning departments from all 3 municipalities
 - i. Updates on what is happening with affordable housing plans
 - ii. May need to book a longer meeting for this as each municipality will need 15-20 minutes to speak
 - iii. Hugh can help to arrange this, or get the word out there
- d. Any other suggestions can be brought forward to Andrea
- e. Could format our meetings so one month is a business meeting and the next is a guest speaker

8. Team Member Animation

- a. Coalition Team membership participation is down across the board
- b. Andrea to send a survey to all team members to find out why
- c. Please feel free to invite new members to attend meetings

9. Agency Updates

- a. Braidwood:
 - i. have received Preliminary Project Approval (PPA) & Project Development Funds approvals. Still working with Courtenay on property transfer. Moving forward with permit applications with Courtenay.
- b. HOP/ HPP Funding
 - i. Contracts move to month to month effective Apr. 1, 2017. Contract renewal to be processed later in the year.
- c. LUSH – Urban Ag Survey
 - i. Asking residents about urban agriculture practices as a way to bolster food security. Survey available until Mar 15th

- ii. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CourtenayUrbanAgriculture>
- d. Care-A-Van
 - i. New website will be available soon www.cvcareavan.ca
- e. VIRL
 - i. Rachel Blaney, NDP MLO will be hosting a 'pop up office' at library
 - 1. Purpose is to help people fill out Service Canada/Government of Canada paperwork
 - ii. Provincial Election Voter Registration March 22nd 10-4
 - iii. Drop-In Program
 - 1. Since November 377 people have accessed the program with an 80% return rate!!
 - 2. Gladys has replaced Stasia as program facilitator
- f. Lions Club
 - i. Free Income tax returns 1-3 Tuesday afternoons at 1729 Comox Ave
 - ii. \$21,000 income or below
 - iii. Not able to make appointment
 - iv. Served 180 people last year
- g. NDP MLA Judy Darcy Health Forum
 - i. March 11th 2:30-4 at the Little Red Church

10. Team Updates

- a. **PAT**
 - i. Upcoming Provincial Election
 - 1. Written Briefing Notes on housing and homelessness issues for candidates
 - 2. Once approved, will send out to all candidates and schedule non-partisan, information meetings
 - 3. Only 6 candidates in 2 ridings - Green, Liberal and NDP
 - ii. Will be having a joint meeting with HPT this Friday
 - iii. Updated print materials are almost complete.
 - 1. New flyer including PiT data, Housing built in last year and what people can do to help
 - iv. Updated PowerPoint has been created
- b. **HDT**
 - i. Researching micro housing.
 - ii. Bowser has regular open houses to view tiny homes, however these do not meet BC Building Code and are on wheels.
- c. **HPT**
 - i. Joint meeting with PAT this week
 - ii. This team mostly consists of busy frontline workers so exploring how the HPT can inform other teams

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 5th 12-1pm Courtenay Library