

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**  
**12-1pm**  
**Courtenay Public Library**

**Attendees:** Bunny Shannon (CV Social Planning, LUSH Valley), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Tim Walton (RCMP), Vicki Luckman (John Howard Society), Roger Albert (Cumberland Community Housing Society), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Sabina Acheson (Care-a-van), Kathy Duperron (Cumberland Homelessness & Affordable Society), Hugh Mackinnon (Town of Comox), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Kevin Elsasser (Salvation Army), Will Cole-Hamilton (DCBIA), Lindsay McGinn (United Way)

**Facilitators:** Betty Tate, Lindsay McGinn

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

**1. BC Housing**

**a. Community Housing Fund EOIs**

- i. Affordable Housing, looking for partnerships, land must be ready to go, no operating funds and must be a mix of 25% shelter rate, 25% rent geared to income and 50% affordable
- ii. BC Housing contribution is 100k per unit built
- iii. Webinar with details happening on May 29<sup>th</sup>
  1. Andrea can arrange a group viewing please email her if interested
- iv. CVTS has an opportunity to build a few more 4plexes
  1. May fit into this model
  2. Should reach out to Glacierview Lodge to see if they are applying as they are looking to expand
- v. Cumberland Housing Society has been talking about a proposal for Cumberland
- vi. Foursquare Church knows about the EOI but there is a tree issue on their land that needs to be sorted before it's available to be built on

**b. Supportive Housing Updates**

**i. Courtenay**

1. There will be an announcement later this week from BC Housing and City of Courtenay

**ii. Cumberland**

1. Mayor Baird has met with VIHA
2. VIHA is considering leasing the land to BC Housing for affordable housing

3. Coalition will write a letter to Village of Cumberland Council and Island Health in support of the transfer or leasing of land for affordable housing
  4. D2D, CVTS or other partnerships to operate housing potentially
  5. Could be more appropriate for 2<sup>nd</sup> stage housing for women and children,
    - a. supportive housing should be closer to services
  6. Since it is a VIHA lease agreement they may be interested in bringing in onsite practitioner health services
- iii. Coalition members – please stay connected, and let Andrea know of any proposals/ideas as these all need to go into the 5YP

## **2. Leadership Team Nominations in June**

- a. Andrea to send an email outlining the roles and time commitment
- b. 1 or 2 spaces available on the team
- c. Monthly meetings, emails and quarterly dinner meetings
- d. Must be a representative of a member agency, cannot be an advisory member

## **3. Sustainability Forum Coalition presentation – Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

- a. Coalition will be presenting on what municipalities can do to support affordable housing in our community
- b. Free event – tickets can be found on Eventbrite (just search Sustainability Forum)
- c. Candidates and current council were invited

## **4. BCNPHA Rent Conference Update**

- a. Cumberland Housing Society learned a lot and thought the sessions were great
- b. New Policy Director of the BC Not for Profit Housing Association Marika Albert
- c. BC Housing Neighbourhood Engagement with Jill Atkey - can help/consult/troubleshoot
- d. Lots of presentations from the local islands all are struggling with affordable housing, homelessness and water issues
- e. Discussion about the shortage of development consultants since so much is happening with BC Housing

## **5. June General Coalition Developer Meeting Planning**

- a. Coalition has been contacted by developers, HDT was going to meet with them, but Coalition agreed not to do this and instead invite them to our June meeting to educate them on what the Coalition does and have a Q&A

- b. Many different types of developers and the ones that aren't focused on affordable housing we want to make sure we aren't being used for our relationship, and we will not give endorsements (we are asked from time to time to write letters of support for non-affordable housing projects)
- c. Invite Construction Development Association and Chamber of Commerce to attend the meeting
- d. Bring questions to June meeting and if you know of anyone specific who should be invited please let Andrea know
- e. Developers need to be included and invited to participate in the Coalition; construction companies, architects etc. as well
  - i. Build relationships with and educate them

#### **6. Denman/Hornby Housing Initiatives Update**

- a. 2 projects on Denman
  - i. Seniors Housing (raising 100k to buy land) and working families
- b. Hornby is also working on an affordable housing project
- c. The Islands opted out of CVRD HSS Fund, but we are including them in our 5 Year Plan
- d. We have invited them to become members of the Coalition

#### **7. Campbell River Housing Strategy Survey**

- a. Due May 8<sup>th</sup> and can be found on their website
- b. They are trying to get a Coalition going, and are doing a needs assessment, community plan and will then develop their Coalition terms of reference etc

#### **8. Letter to Editor re: response to homeless encampments in media**

- a. Lots of press about the tenting on the 5<sup>th</sup> St lot
- b. Coalition was going to write a letter to editor but are now going to hold off until the City of Courtenay/BC Housing announcement
- c. People are still coming and going at the site
  - i. The City and RCMP did a site clean up
- d. It is important to make community aware of what the Coalition does
  - i. lots of comments that nothing is happening
- e. Looking at ways to get positive messaging out there
- f. Can we organize community volunteers do some clean up at the site?

#### **9. Coalition Internal Structure Review & Updates**

- a. The Leadership Team will start reviewing Terms of Reference
  - i. They are on the website, if you have any comments or thoughts and we will include them for the next meeting
- b. Coalition to look at team structures and what is/isn't working
  - i. Instead of having set teams can we rally project based teams as necessary?

- ii. Please give any feedback to Andrea
- c. Coalition to create a funding proposal form for CVRD HSS Funds and a scoring rubrick etc
  - i. A more formalized process will be ready for the beginning of fall

## **10. Team Updates**

- a. PAT will be working on a briefing note for the municipal elections focusing on what municipalities can do, and asking questions about housing/homelessness
- b. HPT meets quarterly
- c. No updates from HDT

## **11. Other Updates**

### **a. Salvation Army**

- i. Currently has 6 newly renovated transitional units incl a pet friendly room,
  1. Transitional unit occupants will take courses on harm reduction and nonviolent crisis intervention, anger management, John Maxwell training, relapse prevention, self-esteem, forklift training , first aid etc
  2. Willing to give presentations on the program
  3. Want partner with agencies to get the right people into this transitional housing
- ii. Looking into permanent housing, BC Housing EOIs, purchasing land, applying for grants

### **b. John Howard**

- i. MCFD funding is being made available for staffing at Abbeyfield youth housing
- ii. CVRD funding is going to cosmetic renovations, furniture in rooms and common areas
- iii. Hoping to have 10 youth housed in the summer
- iv. Name hasn't been decided yet – Gateway, Salish House, 3 Rivers are suggestions

### **c. Braidwood**

- i. Construction is happening!
- ii. Still waiting on sod turning announcement – BC Housing is busy

### **d. Amethyst House**

- i. Working with an architect, design being worked on for 5 units
- ii. Construction costs have gone up so units might be more expensive, and the work won't be as extensive
- iii. Owner might be interested in selling the housing to CVTS or to BC Housing

- iv. Success stories – someone moved out to their own place, and others are moving in, so the model is working
- e. AVICC Convention in Victoria**
  - i. Lots of workshops on affordable housing and homelessness – the crisis is across the island, more hope than in the past
  - ii. Workshops related to opioid crisis, marijuana legislation and how municipalities will handle that
  - iii. Edwin Grieve CVRD director is the new president of Vancouver Island chapter
- f. Cumberland**
  - i. Looking at homelessness portion of their Terms of Reference
- g. Care-a-Van**
  - i. New routes have been implemented where people are camping and near homes where there is substance use happening
  - ii. Still looking for a long term location. Need a covered space, electric hookup, and 24 hour access
- h. City of Courtenay**
  - i. Resolved to donate land to supportive housing, announcement coming soon
  - ii. BC Housing can work with city on communication strategies regarding NIMBYism
  - iii. If you hear of an announcement you are happy with reinforce that with council
    - 1. Neighbourhood processes will happen
- i. Cumberland Community Housing Society and Affordable Housing Committee**
  - i. Currently selecting a committee – terms work needs to happen before the election
  - ii. Housing Society is going to move full steam ahead, needs assessment is done, looking at funding available and land
- j. RCMP**
  - i. Has office furniture, computer monitors available to sell
- k. D2D**
  - i. Street Soccer Maple Pool United is starting up again! Anyone welcome to join
- l. St. Georges Unites**
  - i. Sunshine Lunch Clun Hall has been renovated and next up is the kitchen
- m. Vital Signs 2018**
  - i. 600 responses so far and skewed to a certain demographic
  - ii. Please share widely with your networks

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm at the Courtenay Library**