

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**  
**12-1pm**  
**Courtenay Public Library**

**Attendees:** Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Ed Patterson (AAHA), Pamela Willis (CV Seniors Support), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Will Cole-Hamilton (DCBIA), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Kathy Duperron (Cumberland Committee on Affordable Housing & Homelessness), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Bunny Shannon (CV Community Health Network and CV Social Planning), Jenny Nykefl (Island Health), Vicki Luckman (John Howard Society), Carly Ferguson (John Howard Society), Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society), Lindsay McGinn (United Way/CVCHN), Betty Tate (CVNNPBC)  
**Regrets:**

**Facilitators:** Richard Clarke & Heather Ney  
**Recorder:** Andrea Cupelli (Coordinator)

- 1. Welcome to our new member agency – Comox Valley Senior Support!**
- 2. Leftover Year 3 Funding and Reserve Homelessness Supports Service Funds**
  - a. \$45,000 left over from Year 3 funding and there are some reserve funds still available
    - i. Coalition reached out to CVRD to see if there are stipulations on using the reserve funds then decision can be made on usage
  - b. Braidwood would be interested in the remaining Year 3 funds to help reduce their \$1 million mortgage – this amount could potentially add one more unit to be offered at \$375/mo shelter rate
  - c. Transition Society also interested in the funding to go towards the transitional units – they were able to build 5 units in the basement, not 4 and they have a shortfall of \$55,000 this year
  - d. Can the funding be used to help the people currently camping on the 8<sup>th</sup> St site? Or to fast track getting a permanent drop-in centre built?
    - i. No. CVRD HSS funding can only be used towards capital projects directly related to housing
    - ii. Leadership Team will inquire with CVRD, the housing climate has changed, so they may be more open
  - e. Wachiay and Transition Society will write a proposal for the remaining Year 3 funds and consensus decision to be made at November meeting when we have more information from CVRD
- 3. Year 4 Funding EOI due Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**
  - a. No one has applied yet for Year 4 funding. Please submit your EOIs by Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at 4pm. Decision on funding will be made by consensus at December meeting



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#### **4. Municipal Election Update**

##### **a. Meetings with Candidates**

- i. Met with Comox candidates on Oct 2
- ii. Great discussion – notes will be made available after all the meetings are over
- iii. Courtenay meeting Oct 9
- iv. Cumberland meeting Oct 17

##### **b. Upcoming all-candidates meetings**

- i. Oct 4<sup>th</sup> – Cumberland 6:30-9pm Cumberland Cultural Centre
- ii. October 12<sup>th</sup> – Comox 7-9pm Comox Community Centre
- iii. October 16<sup>th</sup> – Courtenay 6-8pm Sid Williams Theatre

##### **c. Voting info for those who are homeless or at-risk**

- i. Andrea putting together information from each municipality on voting requirements, voting dates etc
- ii. BC Transit might be free on election day
- iii. Homeless people can vote! Just need to provide an address of shelter hostel, park etc and sign a statutory declaration of residency.
  1. Still must provide one piece of government issued ID with a signature (photo ID not necessary)
- iv. Bob Wells, Doug Hillian will be providing rides on election day

#### **5. Affordable Housing Benefits Everyone Campaign Update**

##### **a. Ideas Walls**

- i. Have been very successful with lots of comments and conversation

##### **b. Drop-In Open Houses**

- i. Joining forces with the CV Community Health Network to put these on
- ii. **Weds, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – 5-7pm Cumberland Council Chambers**
- iii. **Thurs, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – 4:30-6:30pm Lewis Centre Lobby**
- iv. **Thurs, Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – 9-11am Comox Rec Centre Lobby**

#### **6. Homelessness Awareness Week Oct 14-21<sup>st</sup>**

- a. Public Awareness Team putting on this social media campaign for the last 3 years
- b. We have 2 4<sup>th</sup> Year Nursing Students leading the project
- c. Will be posting articles and issues around homelessness and housing affordability over the week – please share widely with your networks
- d. **Donation Drive**
  - i. Kicking off the week with a donation drive for tents, rain gear, warm clothes for outreach workers to distribute and will educate public on what is useful to donate
  - ii. Will accept donations from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>
  - iii. Some can be distributed at Resource Fair Free table, as well as Connect program
  - iv. Dawn to Dawn Togue toss at Glacier Kings happening Oct 27
  - v. Library looking for warm items for clients who access the library outside of drop-in hours



**e. Resource Fair**

- i. Coalition will be sharing a table with the Health Network to encourage people to vote/hand out information, as well as encourage people to use the Ideas Wall and leave comments
- f. Had an idea for an 'Umbrella Event' to raise awareness around hidden homelessness and the many different types of people who need safe, secure shelter
  - i. Courthouse have people attend with umbrellas, some written with stats etc on it
  - ii. Tabled the idea for the future as there isn't enough time

**7. Internal Evaluations Team**

- a. We are still looking for a group of people who are interested in developing an internal evaluation process
- b. Coalition applied for an evaluation grant through the Homelessness Hub where an expert will lead the process
  - i. Will find out if we were successful with this in November
- c. Was hoping to do the evaluation in January, but are okay with postponing it so long as the process happens in Year 4 of our 5 Year Plan

**8. Co-op Housing/re-energizing of HDT**

- a. A lot of interest in co-op housing and possibilities
- b. We will wait for the final report from the Affordable Housing Benefits Everyone community engagement as there will be lots of feedback from the community as to what types of housing they want to develop
  - i. So far, co-op housing has come up often both in Comox and Courtenay

**9. Permanent Drop-In Centre**

- a. Permanent drop-in centre plans are identified in our 5 Year Plan and it is time to start working on that
- b. Newly formed Addicts & Allies group has been meeting to fast track a drop-in centre that would operate 8am-5pm
  - i. They are looking for partnerships and advice
  - ii. Have been looking at what funding is available
  - iii. Ideally wanting to get something done this year
  - iv. Have investigated places that may be viable (space across the Atlas Café is willing to build the interior to suit and rent would be \$1200/month)
  - v. Would need for staff
    - 1. Hoping to utilize NIC students doing their practicum
    - 2. Would still need one paid staff member
- c. Coalition will start a special Drop-In Centre working group and will join forces with the Addicts & Allies organization
  - i. Andrea to send an email to Coalition to ask who would like to be involved and we can start meeting asap



- ii. Andrea to also reach out to Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association to have a member join the team as we need the involvement of downtown businesses
- d. Bridge Night Club is city owned. Could this be a potential site for a drop-in?
  - i. Safety issues with the property and would need money to fix it up (maybe CVRD HSS funds if applicable)
  - ii. Site is not wheelchair accessible
  - iii. Leadership Team, Bob Wells and Doug Hillian to contact City of Courtenay planning department to inquire about this property
    - a. LT was going to contact planning department at Courtenay

## 10. Other Updates

- a. **2018 Comox Valley Vital Signs Report**
  - i. Launch happened yesterday – reports (including raw data) can be found at <https://cvcfoundation.org/vital-signs/vital-signs-2018-2/>
  - ii. Good source of data for funding proposals etc
  - iii. Wachiay gives thanks for the acknowledgement on Braidwood collaboration
- b. **BC Housing EOIs**
  - i. **Community Housing fund EOI has closed**
  - ii. **Supportive Housing Round 2 EOI due Oct 30**
    - 1. CVTS applied proposing that the province buys Amethyst House and then provide 24/7 supports
    - 2. CVTS submitting an additional EOI for more 4plexes
    - 3. D2D is waiting to hear back re: Cumberland VIHA land and may submit an EOI for supportive housing in Cumberland
  - iii. **Second Stage Housing for women and children EOI has closed**
    - 1. CVTS submitted an EOI
    - 2. BC Housing is discussing Island responses this week
    - 3. CVTS also wrote to BC Housing regarding other potential land opportunities in Comox, SD71, Glacierview etc
  - iv. **Aboriginal Housing EOI closes Oct 5<sup>th</sup>**
    - 1. Wachiay looking at redeveloping the land they've purchased not prepared right now to put in a proposal as land needs to be rezoned etc
    - 2. Has funding to build childcare centre - \$600,000 renovation
    - 3. Been trying to get provincial funding for capital and supports, and have been talking with the Minister of Housing and Minister of Social Development
      - a. Poverty Reduction legislature was introduced yesterday and won't be finalized until the spring
  - v. All these EOIs are predicated on finding land except for Second Stage Housing so we need to be shovel ready with identified land
  - vi. Please let Andrea know if you are intending to apply for any of the remaining open EOIs
- c. **Salvation Army**
  - i. Happy to host a BBQ to kick off Homelessness Awareness Week



**d. John Howard Society**

- i. Major renovations at The Station have been completed
  - 1. MCFD staff coming for a tour and learning about what the guidelines will be for living at the station
    - a. Applications will start next week and will be a slow move in process (not having all 10 youth move in at once) end of October move in
    - b. 10 units downstairs, 1 suite upstairs – maybe for a young mom with baby
      - i. 2 units don't have a shower/bathtub & will want to install those in the future (there is a communal bathroom with shower etc)
    - c. MCFD social workers will have the first chance to submit applications for up to 5 units, and then will open up to other agencies
      - i. there will be a screening process/committee
  - 2. Carly Ferguson is the house coordinator
    - a. connecting with local agency coordinators and building relationships in the community
    - b. Upcoming program with LUSH Valley to teach foodskills
    - c. House will be open to other agencies who are supporting the youth, and will have a space available for meetings
    - d. If you want to come and see the space connect with Carly
  - 3. Open House happening soon and would like to invite the Abbeyfield board to come tour

**e. Habitat for Humanity**

- i. 5 weeks away from the 2 homes being ready, others are in lock up
- ii. Habitat (the entire BC chapter) has received 3 years of funding - 750k per year and 250k earmarked for Courtenay
- iii. Great response from community, lots of volunteer support
  - 1. show up to the site at 8:30am to build
- iv. Acquired 3 new excellent board members
- v. Won non profit of year and social enterprise of year in Campbell River

**f. PiT Final Report not ready yet**

**g. Public Health Nursing**

- i. Focusing on getting the flu vaccine to young families and pregnant moms and reaching out to community school venues in Cumberland, Hornby and Denman
  - 1. Adults encouraged to access at flu shot at pharmacies and medical clinics
- ii. National Breastfeeding week
  - 1. looking for businesses willing to put up a sticker of support

**h. Seniors Affordable Housing**

- i. Female seniors have the highest rate of poverty in Canada



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- ii. Any groups specifically focused on housing for seniors?
  - 1. Not specifically, but reach out to CV Senior Support, Lions Club, D'esterre House, CV Seniors Housing Society
    - a. Hugh Mackinnon to see if he can find more info
  - 2. Opportunity for an agency to step into this role
  - 3. Friendship Centre housing would be for elders
  - 4. Waiting to hear back from Glacierview on their plans
  - 5. St Joseph's has many different types of housing in their plans
    - a. Coalition to connect with them
    - b. This will be a big on the radar for newly elected Comox council
- i. **Thank you to Lindsay McGinn for her service on the Leadership Team!**  
She is now the new facilitator for the Comox Valley Community Health Network.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm Courtenay Library**



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