

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Agenda
June 5th, 2019

Attendees: Wendy Dyck (L'arche), Bunny Shannon (CV Social Planning), Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society), Hugh Mackinnon (Beaufort Association), Trish Holm (CV Transition Society), Natalie Meredith (John Howard Society of North Vancouver Island), Deb Prain (CV Transition Society), Jordan Mansriber (Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association), Sue Finneron (Dawn to Dawn), Heidi Hartman (BC Housing), Malcolm McNaughton (BC Housing), Kelly Broom (CV Tenants Association), Vickey Brown (Village of Cumberland), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Bob Wells (City of Courtenay), Kristi Schwanicke (United Way Central and North Vancouver Island), Patti Sture (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Grant Shilling (Dawn to Dawn), Julia Doknjas (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Matt Landry (Office of MLA Leonard), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Sarah Sullivan (AVI)

Facilitator: Sarah Sullivan (AVI)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (CV Coalition to End Homelessness)

1. City of Courtenay Mayor Bob Wells

- a. On behalf of the City of Courtenay and CVRD amazing work, feedback has been great – recently met with communities across the country who were interested in our model
- b. We should celebrate the great work done by individual organizations and the Coalition as a whole
- c. Kudos to municipal representatives for being such great allies

2. Year 4 HSS Fund Recommendations were approved by the CVRD Board.

- a. Letters will be sent with funding details to each of the successful organizations
 - i. 15K - CV Transition Society for 4plexes
 - ii. 90k - Dawn to Dawn for purchase of 1-2 condos
 - iii. 60k - Habitat for Humanity towards Lake Trail build
 - iv. 60k - Coalition with Transition Society acting as fiscal host for renovations of a permanent drop-in centre
 - v. 5k- L'arche for pre-construction planning costs

3. Leadership Team Nominations 2019-2020

- a. 2 LT spots available for representatives from member agencies
- b. LT members attend monthly meetings over the lunch hour, emails and quarterly dinner meeting
 - i. Wendy L'arche would like to step up
 - ii. Vicki may carry-on if she is able to find an agency to be a part of
- c. We will postpone the final vote until the September meeting

4. BC Budget 2020 Parliamentary Committee presentation – June 13th 8:45am at the Westerley Hotel

- a. Will be advocating for
 - i. an increase in the \$375 shelter rate for income assistance
 - ii. an increase in income assistance rates across the board
 - iii. increase in HOP/HPP amounts for Wachiay, Transition and D2D
 - iv. re-visiting Housing Income Limits for subsidized housing
 - v. increase in funding for supportive, transitional and other subsidized housing

5. Regional Housing Needs Assessment

- a. CVRD has submitted their grant application to UBCM
- b. Housing Needs will be hosted underneath the Regional Growth Strategy
- c. CVRD will start meeting about this in the next few weeks, and Coalition will be involved in community engagement, and ensuring demographics across the housing continuum are consulted
- d. All 3 municipalities will be participating

6. Comox Update

- a. Annual Affordable Housing Contribution
 - i. Sent a letter to Comox requesting a similar increase to their contribution after CVRD voted to increase the HSS
 - ii. We received a letter back from Mayor Arnott indicating they would continue to fund \$30k annually, but no explanation as to why they wouldn't increase
 - iii. The ask was maybe a little bit late in this year's budget process
 - iv. LT will be having a conversation with staff, and will give a delegation to council
 - v. Comox is looking into potentially having a separate affordable housing fund specifically for the residents of Comox
- b. Comox Cottages – residents survey
 - i. Survey results are almost ready
 - 1. Low-income residents (majority making under 23k a year)
 - 2. Average age 44-65
 - 3. All feel a great sense of community both in Comox itself and with their neighbours
 - 4. Stress levels are high due to the uncertainty of whether/when they will be evicted for the construction of multi-family housing

7. Drop-In Centre Update

- a. Was hoping to be up and running by Sept and was looking at a building, but recently found out it needs over \$200k in renovations, so we are back to square one trying to locate a suitable building
- b. Asking if anyone has any recommendations, suggestions, connections for buildings and opportunities to please let Andrea or Heather know
- c. What about Train Station owned by Island Corridor Foundation? Or old Thai restaurant on Cliffe?
 - i. Both would require expensive renovations

8. Point in Time Count 2020

- a. Andrea attended a 2 day Harmonization Workshop with BC Housing looking at ways to keep all of BCs PiT questions in-line with one another, and as close to the Federal questions as possible
- b. We will find out in the summer if we receive funding from BC Housing for 2020 and will strike up a PiT Planning Team in the Fall

9. Communications Strategy Update

- a. Still working on the Communications Strategy and Key Messages and hope to have a draft for review at the September meeting
- b. Key Messages can be shared with the City of Courtenay etc re; encampments, #s of housing units etc

10. CV Health Network Strategic Planning Event – June 10th 6:30pm at Stan Hagen Theatre - NIC

- a. Coordinating Circle has been working hard on a Strategic Plan
 - i. Housing is a top priority
- b. Coalition is a partner of the CV Health Network working on the housing priority
- c. Andrea will be representing the Coalition at their forum panel

11. HRT Update

- a. Encampments
 - i. Been meeting with City of Courtenay, Village of Cumberland, agencies, Bylaw, Fire, RCMP to talk about encampments and what we can do
 - ii. Fire is a huge risk right now, looked into Provincial Funding for Fire Prevention but no current opportunities
 - iii. Creative Solutions
 - a. Was prepared to place people at Maple Pool
 - b. Lins said up to 15 people would be acceptable
 - c. Funding/shelter rate can not be used for campsites
 - d. Sites ended up being more expensive than potentially being housed
 - iv. Managed camps
 - 1. BC Housing cannot do this as they have a standard of care meaning they are taking on the responsibility for the life/safety of the campers and there are too many variables to control in a campsite as opposed to housing
 - v. In the absence of funding for camping, more money is needed in the Comox Valley for housing subsidies
 - 1. Rent supplements are a great tool and really make a difference

12. Employee Housing Summit Recap

- a. Was a well-attended and informative event
- b. Andrea will post the slides from BC Housing – Housing Hub, CMHC, Whistler Housing Authority and City Scapes up on our website
www.cvhousing.ca/resources

13. Co-op Update

- a. Sarah and Jane attended the BCNPHA Ready Set Build workshop in CR and a co-op tour and found them very helpful
- b. Looking for a co-op mentor
- c. Working on getting a commitment of land (through partnerships, donations, leasing etc) before the BCNPHA grant opportunity can be applied for
- d. Will be organizing a larger co-op meeting and will register as an official co-op
- e. City of Courtenay and BC Federation of Co-ops – will be meeting at some point

14. BC Housing Development Update

- a. Another call for Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund will happen for 2020
 - i. 20% of the units at shelter rate, 50% Rent Geared to Income, and the rest market rates
 - ii. Would like to see more projects North Island (North of Nanaimo)
- b. Working with CVTS to build 8 additional units of housing for single female led families who are transitioning out of LILLI House
 - i. Occupancy is already happening ahead of schedule as the builder was earlier than anticipated
- c. BC Housing looking for a 2nd stage housing facility in the Comox Valley
- d. Recognizes we need even more supportive housing in the community
 - i. We will have good data on those who applied to the Junction and didn't get in and what their needs are
- e. Working on the Cumberland project and framing how that will work

15. Other Updates

- a. **BC Housing met with City of Courtenay**
 - i. Talked about a provincial approach/policy re; encampments through the Poverty Reduction strategy
 - ii. New office of Homeless Coordination will act as a cross between ministry of social development and municipal affairs and housing
 - iii. Community Acceptance toolkit from the BCNPHA coming out this summer
- b. **Bunny and Betty met with Cleo Corbett, Planner for Campbell River** who has extensive experience in planning affordable and social housing and we will plan to have her come speak at the Coalition in the Fall
- c. **LUSH Valley- Closing the Loop – June 13th 6:30pm – 576 England Ave – 2nd floor**
 - i. Presenting results from findings on how to get locally produced food into social housing (supportive, transitional and subsidized)
- d. **Habitat for Humanity- June 12th 10am Key ceremony and BBQ** for 2 new habitat homes on Laketrail
- e. **Inaugural Grand Parade raised \$38,000 for Senior Support and Glacierview Lodge. Congrats!**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 11th, 2019 12-1pm at the Courtenay Library meeting room. Have a great summer! ☺