

COMOX VALLEY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

GENERAL COALITION MEETING AGENCY

MAY 6, 2020

Attendees: Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Krista Smith (CV Family Services), Danielle Davis (CV Transition Society), Leanne Rathje (MLA Ronna Rae Leonard), Ashley Hancock (AVI), Jesse Ketler (Village of Cumberland), Julia Doknjas (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Sue Finneron (Dawn to Dawn), Betty Tate (CVCHN), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United Church), Sheena, Kris Anderson (Better at Home), Julie Keumbekh (CV Health Network), Kristi Schwanicke (United Way), Deb Prain (CVTS), Brooke Thoburn, Maureen Clarke (Division of Family Practice), Shari Dunnet (Community Action Team), Patti Sture (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Donna May (MSDPR), Grant Shilling (Dawn to Dawn), Sam Franey, Sarah Jane, Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Katrina Miron (CV Transition Society), Shira (CVLLU), Tina Rile, Toyin (Immigrant Welcome Society), Susan Auchterlone (CV Community Foundation), Rosanne Lyster, Karin Albert (Village of Cumberland), Andrea Cupelli (CVCEH Coordinator).

Facilitator: Heather Ney (Coalition to End Homelessness Leadership Team, CVTS)

Recorder: Vicki Luckman (Coalition to End Homelessness Leadership Team)

1. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update

a. COVID-19 Coordinated Response Plan for Access to Assessment and Self-Isolation for Unsheltered people

- i. Has been sent out to frontline agencies, if you are an agency and didn't receive it please let Andrea know.
- ii. It is a living document and updates will be sent out as required
- iii. Continuing to meet and talk about COVID-testing for vulnerable folks with Island Health (Public Health, MHSU and Division of Family Practice)

b. Motels Update

- i. Took a tally and there are currently 134 individuals staying at 4 different motels, with many of the rooms occupied by multiple individuals.
 1. Travelodge – 112 adults, 3 children (89 rooms, and best guess is that 50% of hotel guests are marginalized). It appears 10 of these individuals have been placed in a room by Ministry of Social Development.
 2. Port Augusta – 13 individuals (maybe more, but haven't heard back from P.A. manager)
 3. Super 8 – 3 individuals
 4. River Heights – 3 individuals and motel is full with tree planters who will be out by end of May
- ii. Who is putting people in hotels?
 1. Ministry putting people into hotels – appears that some are not attached to an agency or outreach.
 2. IH/MHSU putting people into hotels if symptomatic of COVID – currently 1 individual in a hotel.
 3. Coalition putting people into hotels if symptomatic/sick/ falling through the cracks – community partners can make referral to CVTS during the day and evening through after hours phone number.

- 4. Currently, there is space in motels through IH/MHSU and Coalition
- 5. Individuals booking motels through Craigslist ads etc. for monthly rates
- iii. This motel update has been provided to the City of Courtenay and BC Housing. As well a copy of the map of encampments prepared by City of Courtenay has been shared with BC Housing.

c. City of Courtenay Resolution

- i. Resolution
 - 1. City of Courtenay Council passed the following resolution: “Whereas there continues to be a significant homeless population in the Courtenay area whose presence in unsupported settings and unsanctioned campsites creates risks related to health and safety, including fire, environmental hazards and unhygienic conditions that, according to health officials, increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission; Therefore be it resolved that the City of Courtenay work with the Coalition to End Homelessness to present a proposal to the provincial government for funding to address these risks through the provision of temporary housing and related support services.”
 - ii. Coalition providing an estimate of numbers of people who will need temporary housing, budgets for wrap around supports etc.
 - iii. Letter going out to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and BC Housing
 - iv. Question from the audience: Will Comox and Cumberland have a similar resolution? Uncertain at this time, but a very good question to follow up with the town’s councils.

2. COVID-19 Emergency Funding Update

a. HPS Rural & Remote

- i. applied for \$85,000 worth of emergency funds to be distributed to agencies for rent supplements, motels, living supports, PPE, supplies etc
- ii. Wachiay Friendship Centre was successful in their application for the R&R Indigenous stream of funding. Funds will be used for similar needs as above.

b. Comox Valley Community Foundation

- i. Applied for \$10,000 for the shower program (staffing and supplies)

c. United Way Seniors Response Fund

- i. Anyone applying? 5k and can be used towards motels

3. SPARCBC HRT Coordination Funds

- a. Awarded \$50,000 for the continuation of the HRT
- b. In partnership with City of Courtenay – the partnership with the City and the Coalition has been very successful in many ways.

4. Comox Year 4 & 5 Funds for Habitat for Humanity

- a. Town of Comox approved our request for 30k each for Year 4 & 5 contribution (total 60k) to go towards the Habitat for Humanity Lake Trail build
- b. Appears to be a lack of understanding about the purpose and objectives of the Coalition. The Leadership Team will continue to work with the town to provide opportunities for education and understanding.

5. CVRD HSS Funds for Warming Centre

- a. Request for 10k to be released from the HSS Funds (\$60,000) to pay for retroactive Warming Centre upgrades has been submitted and will be discussed at next CVRD board meeting (May 12)

6. 2020 PiT Count Update

- a. Never got a chance to update! SHOUT OUT to all agencies and volunteers who participated!!!
- b. Was highly successful. Surveyed 175 people, not sure how many will be 'screened in' but anticipate #s will be the same as 2018 if not a bit higher, which says a lot since 46 folks were housed at the Junction.
- c. We had 125+ people come out the Self Care Event
- d. 65 volunteers
- e. Preliminary results being released in June, and will be shared once received.
- f. Extended count never happened as the timeline was right when the pandemic started and most dropsites closed. Can do extended count in 2022

7. CVRD Housing Needs Assessment Update

- a. Received final report draft, reviewing and sending to consultants
- b. On March 10 they had a forum to go over results, we had a lot of feedback for them regarding non market rents, CMHC data, secondary suite rents etc. and it's been incorporated into the report.
- c. Andrea will meet with the consultants early next week to provide feedback on final document.

8. Leadership Team for 2020-21 term

- a. No one is stepping down officially, but Richard is open to if there is someone from the Coalition who would like to join
- b. Andrea will send details about commitment, terms of reference etc if you are interested. Contact her before the June meeting.
- c. Then we vote in new nominees in June and the new term for LT starts September 2020

9. Cumberland Housing Update

- a. Exciting news for Cumberland affordable housing.
- b. Dawn to Dawn and CVTS is being funded by BC Housing for project development costs (\$50,000).
- c. VIHA and BC Housing are working on a land agreement (rezoning) for a mixed family development (#units – not sure yet). Could be modular housing built by Muchalat (exciting as it is a local builder).
- d. Grant acknowledged and appreciated the support from Cumberland Council and staff.

10. Wachiay Elders Housing Update

- a. Wachiay will be receiving CMHC SEED funding for project development and planning for 20-24 units, with a mix of Elders and singles

11. Habitat for Humanity

- a. Final duplex on Lake Trail Road being built.
- b. Online ReStore is working and the community response has been great!
- c. New application for next subdivision is in to the City of Courtenay for 12 homes at 1375 Piercy Road.
- d. Would appreciate letters of support from agencies who wish to support affordable home ownership. Send them to Pat@HabitatNI.com

12. Zoom Call with MLA Ronna Rae Leonard and Scott Fraser May 7th at 10:00 a.m. Link to Zoom call was shared in the chat box– Julie K.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020 12-1pm via Zoom