

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Agenda
February 5th, 2020

Attendees: Trish Holm (CV Transition Society), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Deb Prain (CV Transition Society), James Taylor (Glacierview Lodge), Wendy Dyck (L'arche Comox Valley), Krista Smith (CV Family Services Association), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Julie Keumbehdjian (CV Chamber of Commerce), Kristi Schwanicke (United Way), Bunny Shannon (CV Social Planning Society), Patti (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Linsay Jamieson Powell (CV Head Injury Society), Lindsay Monk (M'akola Development Services), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Matt Landry (MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Donna May (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction)

Facilitator: Richard Clark (Dawn to Dawn)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

1. Warming Centre Update

- a. Opened January 13th
- b. Working out kinks between policy and practice, ownership from participants in caring for the space
- c. A job posting went out for a 3rd staff person
 - i. 25 hours a week – preference for a male to balance staffing out
 - ii. Combination of experience and education – HSW certificate or equivalent in training and experience
- d. Building positive relationship with RCMP
- e. Great support from the City
- f. Security camera has been installed
- g. We had a successful Open House
- h. A few minor concerns from neighbours
- i. Delegation to City in March to update them on success of the space and to recommend it as a permanent space
- j. Averaging 40-50 people a day
- k. Dani is the Program Coordinator – being supported by volunteers and practicum students – highly responsive staff
- l. Donations are rolling in, there is a request for guitars
- m. People who use substances can absolutely be at the warming centre
 - i. A few rules of engagement
 1. no using onsite
 2. no trafficking
 3. no violence
- n. Concern about the sign-in sheet
 - i. this is strictly for data collection – having data is important, the list is not being shown to RCMP
 - ii. will do away with the sign in sheet and just conduct a simple head count
- o. Sometimes people are asked to leave due to behavior, but they are welcome back once they are acting appropriately
- p. Warming Centre is still not going eliminate problems on the street
 - i. experiencing a lot of psychosis issues lately with meth

2. March 11th Point in Time Count Update

- a. 4 weeks to go!
- b. Still looking for volunteers. Ideally have 50-60 volunteers – at 20 so far, please sign up asap if you are interested
- c. General Volunteer Training Feb 26th 5:30pm - mandatory for anyone conducting surveys
- d. If your agency wants to fill surveys onsite, at least one staff member must attend the volunteer training, even if they've attended one in the past as some of the questions and methods have changed
- e. Agency training at 9:30am Feb 26th at Warming Centre
- f. Self-care Day Magnet Event
 - i. Chiropractors, RMTs, acupuncture, naturopath
 - ii. Looking for hairdressers, barber, manicurists
 - iii. Looking for donations of shower tickets, dry shampoo, razors, deodorant things above, beyond the standard hygiene pack
 - iv. Gift cards in small denominations
- g. Hidden Homelessness
 - i. Call-in survey option this year
- h. Youth Engagement
 - i. Looking for ways to engage and survey youth

3. Homelessness Response Team Update

- a. Eye exams are needed
 - i. Glasses are being collected by Rotary, perhaps we can do a local drive
 - ii. Too Good to Be Threw could collect glasses as well
 - iii. Some eye doctors do exams for 45 dollars (normally \$100-\$135)
- b. Hotels we can work with for reliable rates
- c. AVI OPS Closure – March 31st
 - i. Island Health is coming up with a plan, not likely to be what was happening at AVI
 - ii. 4-6 people a day use OPS in Courtenay
 - iii. Patti is the new CAT Coordinator
 - iv. ODs can increase-ambulance calls are very high in this community
 - v. What can we do to show support and the need to keep an OPS
 - vi. Island Health says they are open to community directed feedback

4. Coalition Internal Evaluation Scorecard Results

- a. 26 responses
- b. Report Card is at a B
- c. Working on building capacity and more opportunities to learn from one another (forums etc)
- d. Will be analyzing results and disseminating information for our April meeting

5. 5 Year Plan Update

- a. Year 5 Funding Requisition changed to 150k due to 15k going to CVRD Service Fund Review
 - i. Need to decide on funding options less 15k
- b. We could present requisition options for **165k and 195k** as board might make decision on the spot and not refer to staff for a report
- c. **Currently we have made recommendations for 165k**

- i. 100k D2D
- ii. 60k Housing Hub
- iii. 50k CVTS
- iv. 10k Habitat (plus 30k from Comox)
- v. 5k Wachiay

d. Recommendations for 150k

- i. 90kD2D
- ii. 10k Habitat
- iii. 45k CVTS
- iv. 5k Wachiay

e. Recommendations for 195k

- i. 100k D2d
- ii. 10k Habitat +60k Comox (Year 4 & 5)
- iii. 5k Wachiay
- iv. 50k CVTS
- v. Cumberland project 30k – CVTS & D2D partnership
 - 1. target group is single parent led families
 - 2. 12-18 units are being projected
 - 3. Community Housing Fund model

vi. Consensus achieved on the 150k and 195k recommendations

- f. Andrea to present these options at the CVRD Board Meeting Feb 11 at 4pm

6. Housing Needs Assessment Update

- a. Data Party 10-12 Feb 10 – location TBD
 - i. Sense-making of the community data that has been gathered throughout the Housing Needs Assessment project process.
 - ii. They want to involve local stakeholders to help interpret data collected in order to support understanding of the draft findings of the Housing Needs Assessment and provide input into final conclusions and recommendations.

7. Seniors Housing Update

- a. Open House and Design Charette were successful
- b. 135 people at the open house, 45 people at charette
- c. Students are working on plans for the site based on this feedback and will hopefully have final reports in March
- d. Thanks for the municipalities working together

8. Co-op Housing Update

- a. Co-op housing working group planning day happened on Feb 15 with Co-op Housing Federation of BC, Community Land Trust, BC Housing Housing Hub and municipal reps and community groups to talk co-op housing potential in the Comox Valley
- b. Small window of time to get things funded.
- c. Lots of information on the why and the how, lots of examples given of what works in other communities
- d. Councils are bringing a motion to commit support to finding land and to work together to secure funding.
- e. There will be another meeting or perhaps a working group through Coalition once we hear back from councils

- f. Meeting with CMHC on Thursday
- g. BC CHF may look at the Glacierview Lodge land

9. Community Housing Transformation Centre Grant

- a. CMHC has formed the CHF Centre
- b. Federal funding initiatives – 2 streams
 - i. Tenant Based (150k max)
 - 1. Things like tenant rights and responsibilities, tenant participation, equity/inclusion, governance etc
 - 2. No construction, fees, accessing housing etc – new activities and transformative
 - ii. Sector Transformation (no limit!) Local and Sectoral impact
 - 1. no limit on funding
 - 2. Environmental impact
 - 3. Encouragement of indigenous housing
 - 4. Consolidation of sector partnerships
 - 5. Reinforce sector resilience
 - 6. Fill sector gaps
 - 7. Engage community
 - iii. Ongoing application no deadline, first come, first served
- c. Andrea to send webinar and grant details
- d. Should we apply to fund the continued work of the Coalition through Sector Transformation fund?

10. Other Updates

- a. **PUSH at World Community Film Festival**
 - i. Will be screening this again for free with CVRD in the Spring
- b. **Coldest Night of the Year- Feb 22**
 - i. D2D and CVTS
 - ii. 5th year - this year we are aiming for \$100,000 and we are 25% there
 - iii. Join a team - \$150 fundraiser or \$25 registration fee
 - iv. Some of the money going to go towards the Warming Centre
- c. **BC Housing - Housing Hub Announcement housing for middle income earners \$48-75k**
 - i. Income eligibility
 - ii. 30% is in the press release
 - iii. Matt will try to get some clarity with a re-release
 - iv. Edit – it is not affordable housing
- d. **Nanaimo RENT Conference Apr 16**
 - i. Andrea to be on a panel with Aboriginal Coalition, Victoria Coalition and Nanaimo Coalition to talk about relationship building and breaking stigma in community
- e. **Comox delegation on 685 Aspen development 5pm tonight**
 - i. Chamber asking for support- facing backlash from community

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Mar 4th, 2020 12-1pm at the Courtenay Library in the meeting room