

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Minutes
June 3rd, 2020**

Participants: Sam Franey, James Taylor (GlacierView Lodge), Bunny Shannon, Andrea Cupelli (CVCEH), Tori Cliffe (RCMP), Patti (IWSS,CAT), Shari Dunnet (CAT) Sheena, Julie Keumbehdjian (CV Health Network), Betty Tate (CVCEH), Doug Hillian (Courtenay Council) Leanne Rathje (MLA Ronna Rae Leonard), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Deb Prain (CVTS), Julia Doknjas (Wachiay), CVHISI, Joyce Wilson (United Church), Kristi Schwanicke (CRDCEH), Ashley Hancock (AVI), Colleen Holden (Salvation Army), Dani (CVTS), Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

Chair: Richard Clarke
Minutes: Vicki Luckman

1. 2020-21 Leadership Nomination

Vicki Luckman will be stepping down from the Leadership Team effective September 2020. Brent Hobden from Salvation Army has submitted his name to stand for nomination; voting for the Leadership Team members will occur in September.

2. General Coalition Summer Meetings

Typically summer General Coalition meetings do not occur. The opportunity to meet during the summer months was presented to the membership of the Coalition and an electronic vote occurred, with 76% voting for meetings in July and August; 24% voting for a July meeting only.

ACTION: Meetings will occur in July and August, on the first Wednesday of the month at noon via Zoom.

3. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update

a. Vulnerable populations self-isolation update

Funding for hotel rooms through BC Housing and Island Health is in place for 9 rooms until June 30th. Currently there are no individuals in these hotel rooms. Advocacy is happening for those who are medically fragile to have access to the rooms if they are not being used to isolate individuals with COVID.

b. City of Courtenay Resolution Update

The Coalition and the City have partnered to write to the province requesting funding for additional supports and physical space for those who are living rough and in need of housing, including long term solutions. A couple of approvals of the letter are needed by the city prior to them being sent to the province.

c. Funding Opportunities

Proposals have been or are in the process of being submitted to the following funders:

- i. CV Community Foundation (Federal Emergency Funds) - proposal for \$20,000 to provide funds to staff the Connect program.
- ii. CV Community Foundation Local COVID Emergency Fund - proposal to the local COVID emergency funds to provide supplies for Connect.
- iii. United Way Emergency Fund - a request for funds to support HRT COVID coordination.
- iv. HPS Rural and Remote Emergency COVID Federal Funding for expenses such as rent, living supports, nursing staffing

d. CVRD Renewal Framework

CVRD recently approved a Response and Renewal Framework as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on CVRD services, including financial consequences. As the board began to look at services with a focus on realignment and redistribution, there was a recognition of community agencies and networks being experts in the community. The board values these services and wishes to expand upon their current relationships and partnerships. The COVID Action Team (CAT) is currently reaching out to consult with non-profit agencies.

See <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/renewal> for more information.

4. BC Housing Community Housing Fund RFPs

a. Organizations are invited to submit project proposals to BC Housing beginning on May 27, 2020. The RFP will remain open until mid-January 2021.

b. Organizations that have “Construction-Ready Projects” are encouraged to apply early by September 4th 2020.

c. Project proposals must reflecting the following mix of rents and incomes with a single building:

- i. 30% affordable housing (moderate income)
- ii. 50% rent geared to income (housing income limit)
- iii. 20% deep subsidy

ACTION: Please send a note to Andrea if your agency is applying. Gathering this information is important to include in our Five Year Plan.

5. CVRD Housing Needs Assessment Update

a. CVCEH and Community Health Network met with consultants and gave additional feedback. Much of it was incorporated into the report.

b. Consultants have shared results from the community engagement as well as the housing survey they conducted; we can share once final report has been released to community

c. The final report should be presented virtually to the community in July. Presentation to the municipalities will be happening in June.

6. Co-op Housing Update

a. City of Courtenay is inviting Tom Armstrong from BC Cooperative Housing Federation to look at city-owned land.

b. Citizens group on co-op housing going to start up again after a hiatus due to the pandemic

7. Seniors Housing Update - James Taylor

a. Final reports from students have been submitted – one focusing solely on seniors housing, the others on a more mixed housing, multi-generational model.

b. Condensing information to report out at GVL’s AGM on June 25th and to share with those who were part of the consultation processes, including the City of Courtenay. Will then be posted on the website.

8. Homelessness Response Team Update

a. Connect/Showers Update – Dani

i. Connect is providing service through a three tier approach:

- Outreach to motels and encampments providing information, support and resources.

- Shower program (until June) at Lewis Centre provides towels, toiletries and snacks and information, and runs Monday to Friday (9:00 a.m.-noon). In April, 104 individuals used the shower program, and in May there were approximately 80.

- Warming (Cooling in summer months) Centre is operating seven days a week from 10:30 to 5:30 p.m. and has been averaging 25 people per day.

ii. Connect has formed a wonderful partnership with Island Health, with Eva Hemmerich attending Connect twice a week, Monday to Friday.

iii. Other connections - Donna May, MSD and an offer to other community agencies that if they need a meeting place, they can approach Dani.

b. Outreach & Partnerships - Andrea

i. There has been a silver lining to the pandemic and that is that there appears to be greater cohesion and partnership with outreach workers/teams (Island Health, MHSUS and ICM team) not seen to the level that is happening now. Appreciation as well to Public Works and City ByLaw for preparing a map of encampments which is used as a tool to provide resources, etc.

ii. A shared folder will soon be available and will include outreach schedules, contact information and locations they serve.

iii. Thank you to the HRT for the great connections and coordination as we work together.

9. Other Updates

a. BCNPHA R.E.N.T. Virtual Conference - June 16

R.E.N.T. - Regional-Educational-Networking Trade Show will be held virtually on June 16. The day will consist of plenary sessions, concurrent break out sessions on Zoom.

b. Parliamentary Budget 2021 Coalition Presentation - June 16

Wachiy will be presenting, as will CVCEH (on June 16th)

c. BC Housing Building Knowledge and Capacity for Affordable Housing in B.C. Communities - virtual webinar scheduled for June 23

d. Primary Care Outreach - Betty Tate

Coalition Leadership Team has been working with Division of Family Practice and other agencies around COVID. The benefits have been great as the community now has three GP's who have received funding to do primary care outreach to motels, Connect and to those living unhoused and without a physician.

e. Poverty Reduction Plan - Andrea

Consultation in the coming months will be occurring to develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy. Consultation will include CVCEH and CVCommunity Health Network as housing is a priority.

f. Habitat for Humanity -Pat McKenna

Congratulations to Habitat for winning another award at the National Conference for efficiency (including energy) and growth.

Habitat will not be building in the traditional way. We have hired contractors to build our homes, as we are unable to use as many volunteers as we have done in the past.

ReStore is opened in both Courtenay and Campbell River. Most staff have returned and we are in need of volunteers to greet and assist with our prevention measures.

We currently are short \$400,000 of needed revenue!

g. Local CAT - Shari Dunnet

Peers (people with lived or living experience) are now members of the local CAT. Island Health and CAT are working together, and bringing CAT on in an advisory role.

h. The Junction - Roger

The three vacancies at The Junction have now been filled.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 8th at 12:00 noon via Zoom.