

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

Attendees:

Facilitator: Betty Tate

Recorder: Wendy Dyck

1. Community Transformation Centre

- Possible funding source for Coordinated Access approach. Leadership Team may start working on application.
- CTC also funds tenant-led initiatives
- Contact Andrea if interested in information session

2. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update

a. Motels/Outreach Update

- People are frustrated with situation and also themselves, use of drugs increasing, corresponding decline in health, concern about security/break-ins, hotels were full, working out the bugs in the food and security delivery, four people moved to Junction
- back wing of Travel Lodge almost full, possible move of clients from Port Augusta to Travel Lodge to minimize outreach logistics for time and travel
- BC Housing funding of rooms; challenge is that very few rooms are now available because of summer high season tourism demand
- Security at Travel Lodge, currently at four days/week, under review by Travel Lodge and BCH, hope for improvements

b. Motels & Encampments Webinar – August 6th 10:30am

i. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5cxYfrCcQk6uS_GwqJwHRw

ii. BC Housing's Malcom McNaughton and Heidi Hartman are on the panel to talk about BCH's COVID-19 encampment and motel response

c. Housing Stakeholder Discussion with NDP Housing Critic MP Jenny Kwan

d. United Way ESCF Funding Update

- i.** \$18,000 for an outreach van to support the motel and outreach response
- ii.** \$18,000 towards Connect

- Shout-out to Transition Society for pivot funding from CVTS to Connect

3. CVRD Housing Needs Assessment Forum – August 12th 7pm

a. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tlApdOmpqz8sGtOYWbV42u9cCzF-4z4EQGp>

b. Results will be presented and discussed during this virtual forum

- Registration required, capped at 100 participants
- Encouraged to participate
- Consultants were very responsive to what they heard in terms of feedback given back in March. Alana Mullaly has been instrumental in carrying this forward

4. Anti-racism statement update

- a. http://communitywise.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AROC-Resources-and-Tools_web.pdf
 - i. Anti-racism resources and tools for nonprofits
 - b. Coalition has been working on a statement and is also looking into working with other community organizations to bring on an anti-racism facilitator to walk us through a statement and how to make it actionable
- Province announced funding for anti-racism work, CV Justice Centre awarded funds

5. City of Courtenay OCP Feedback

- Betty from Leadership Team attended land-use and housing sessions
- Theme of conflict between building affordable housing vs. expense of building to higher energy codes
- Goal is to have something for council for 2021

6. Seniors Housing Update

- a. Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society is our newest Coalition member.
 - i. Putting forward a proposal to build 54 units of affordable seniors housing (replacing the current 16 units and building an additional 38)
 - b. Glacierview Lodge
 - i. Hoping to have a meeting with the planning department mid-August
- Comox Council's perspective: challenge in CVAH application in that the building is large, applying for only 19 many parking spots. No decks, no outside space. There is a good plan for relocation. Look for robust discussion at Council meeting.

7. HRT Update

- a. Connect/Shower Program
 - i. Between both programs 4000 visits since March/Covid-19 started
 - ii. April 2019-Mar 2020 (pre-COVID) just under 4000 visits
- Connect is moving along, five days/week. Showers are available 3 days/week
- 4,000 visits from April - end of July between the two points of contact. This number does not include folks contacted by the HRT in other locations
- Referrals for ICM, housing applications
- Very thankful to City
- Looking forward to opening doors more; currently only five people at a time allowed into Connect
 - b. CAT/OPS
- New OPS will be up by September
- Three prongs: OPS site operated by Mental Health & Substance Use, Episodic OPS (witnessed consumption) at specific nonprofit sites, and Lifeguard app
- Andrea added that August 14, 9am Norma from Island Health will speak to this new approach at the HRT meeting. Anyone welcome to attend. Just contact Andrea

- International Overdose Day on August 31. Event at Art Gallery plaza. More info to come as details confirmed
- May/June highest recorded overdose fatality number. Covid has negatively impacted this number.
- Call for decriminalization from Premier, Bonnie Henry, police
- Cowichan Valley pilot project for supply of safe opioids, through wellness and recovery centre. Safe supply gaining traction. Hoping for safe supply dialogue in community.

8. Division of Family Practice Update

- Vulnerable Populations working group started at beginning of Covid, meeting every two weeks
- Asked to do webinar about innovative model of relationship between health authority, division of Family Practice, primary care outreach team and service providers
- Discussion about working group becoming part of Primary Care Network
- Name change from 'Vulnerable populations' to ??
- Sabina Acheson: Importance that a population can name itself

8. Poverty Reduction Strategy Update

- a. Coalition and CV Health Network gave feedback on the Scope of Work proposal that will be going out. Outlining what the consultant will do/scope of the project
- Priority of connecting with people who have lived experience
- Could the person hired for this role be someone with lived experience?
- City of Victoria doing anti-stigma work - could the Coalition support this? Related to Sam Franey's work (below)

9. Other Updates

- Sam Franey passionate about sharing his experience of homelessness
- The Unhoused Project - waiting for approval to become a not-for-profit, would build a tiny house, has donated trailer, access to tools and a place to build it.
- Looking for letters of support from Coalition members
- Link in Chat for concept paper
- Will take request for letter of support to Leadership Team

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020 12-1pm via Zoom