

**CV Coalition to End Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
September 7th, 2016
Courtenay Public Library
12-1pm**

Facilitators: Betty Tate (CV ARNBC), Sarah Sullivan (AIDS Vancouver Island)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

Attendees: Bob Scales (Lions Club), Bunny Shannon (LUSH Valley & CV Social Planning Society), Sarah Sullivan (AVI), Vicki Luckman (John Howard Society), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Lindsay McGinn (United Way CNVI), Pauline Lawrence (CV Seventh-Day Adventist Church), Cynthia Zivkurtz (CV Seventh-Day Adventist Church), Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Jonathan Kerr (Division of Family Practice), Jean-Luc Kokol (concerned citizen), Kelly Bloom (advocate), Bob Wells (City of Courtney), Tim Walton (RCMP)

Regrets: Roger Kishi (Village of Cumberland), Chris Newell-Bate (Eureka Support Society), Brent Hobden (Salvation Army), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli

1. PiT Count Report

- a. Executive Summary was emailed to Coalition
- b. Full Report will be available on the website shortly
 - i. The full report includes data from 24-hour count and the week long count
 - ii. We acknowledge this is the first year for the count, and it is underfunded, but we have created a base to work from and have learned a lot. The count will be conducted again in 2 years
 - iii. The data collected has been extremely helpful – especially for the 5-year plan, Vital Signs and United Way.
 - iv. Will be asking survey questions about what homeless people want/need again at the upcoming Resource Fair
 - v. Coalition Feedback:
 1. Concern with mixing absolute homelessness with hidden homelessness data. It is important to separate the data and clarify.
 2. Hidden homelessness and at-risk of homelessness are also very important to highlight as there are many people who extremely vulnerable to becoming homeless (couch-surfers etc)
 3. "Where are you staying tonight?" question - concern about people stating they were staying in jail. Leadership Team will re-assess the question data.

2. PiT Count Press Release & Infographic

- a. Press Release has been drafted in conjunction with the United Way and will be published once PiT Report is finalized

- b. Infographic is being drafted. It is a great visual tool to highlight the big issues without people having to read a report. Will be published with the Press Release

3. BC Rural & Remote Funding

- a. Federal funding program administered through The Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment & Training Association
- b. The Coalition applied for funding to top off the Library Drop-In Centre program and for funds for the continued Coordinator position for the Coalition
- c. Comox Valley Recovery Centre also submitted an application to top up the funding needed for 4 transitional housing units

4. BC Housing EOIs

- a. BC Housing Webinar Info meeting was collectively attended by Coalition members interested in applying,
- b. 5 EOIs were submitted by Coalition members (BC Lions Club, Dawn to Dawn, Transition Society, Wachiay Friendship Centre, and the Comox Valley Recovery Centre)

5. 5 Year Plan Updates

- a. Incorporated PiT Count results
- b. Re-organized to reflect the Calendar Year for easier planning since we have multiple funders and timelines to follow
- c. Updates have to be submitted to the CVRD by October 20th
- d. Any agency updates that need to be incorporated into the updated plan, please email Andrea comoxvalleyhousing@gmail.com
- e. Updated 5 Year Plan will be discussed at the next Coalition meeting
- f. Updated 5 Year Plan to be presented to the CVRD on Nov 15th and the CVRD board will make decisions on November 29th

6. New BC Housing Tenancy Support Worker

- a. BC Housing has hired an experienced temporary tenancy support worker (James) from Vancouver. He is here every 2-3 weeks for a few days
- b. Sarah Sullivan to get his contact info to be added to the Coalition mailing list and to invite him to speak at a Coalition meeting
- c. Onsite manager at Washington Inn has also been replaced

7. Agency Updates

a. Wachiay Friendship Centre:

- i. Lost legal advocacy support service
 - 1. 200 open files at Wachiay right now mostly regarding landlords acting with impunity towards tenants
 - 2. Many homeless have been evicted due to inappropriate evictions where they could have had legal recourse

b. Dawn to Dawn:

- i. Maple Pool United Soccer Team winding down for the summer
- ii. Bowling will start again in October
- iii. AGM - Tuesday September 20th at 6:30pm at Courtenay Public Library

- iv. Submitted an EOI to BC Housing to fund an 8-plex for single mothers with children fleeing family violence
 - v. Rental market is extremely tight right now. People who are employed and able to afford rent are contacting them because nothing is available
- c. City of Courtenay**
- i. Strong focus on seniors housing at the moment.
 - ii. Many projects and ideas but nothing concrete
 - 1. Ideas welcome on how to execute and incentivize successful housing projects
 - a. Suggested that every new development be required to set aside 10% for affordable housing.
 - 2. Limitations with DCCs
 - iii. Revitalize Downtown momentum – has just been approved by council, can affordable housing be dovetailed into this project?
 - iv. Strategic Planning starting in November/December
 - 1. Coalition interested in participating in development of Affordable Housing Policy in Courtenay
- d. Town of Comox**
- i. Has a fund for affordable housing. Funds need to be used and they are looking for ideas for an appropriate and community supported project
- e. Village of Cumberland:**
- i. Holding an “Affordable Housing Open House” on Wednesday, September 21st, 2016 from 6-8pm at the Cumberland Council Chambers as part of the Village’s Affordable Housing & Homelessness Committee’s development plan
- f. United Way CNVI:**
- i. Having their annual kickoff at end of month
 - ii. R&D team is looking for people to come speak
 - iii. Can Coalition present the PiT and talk about issues surrounding homelessness?
- g. CV Seventh-Day Adventist Church:**
- i. New young pastor and wife
- h. RCMP:**
- i. Trying to dispel myths and rumours about the ‘downtown crew’ who receives complaints – they aren’t actually homeless
 - ii. City of Courtenay Bylaw cleaned up LUSH’s Community garden and moved out the homeless folks who were camping there.
 - iii. Substandard accommodations in town need to be addressed.
- i. Kelly Bloom:**
- i. Expressed concern that there’s no programs for vulnerable people who don’t fit into specific program requirements and she is particularly concerned about what is happening for youth
- j. Comox Valley Social Planning Society:**
- i. Inter-agency update meeting Tuesday, Oct 11th 12-1:30 at the Courtenay Public Library.
 - ii. Normally CVSPS meets at the library on first Tues of the month 12-1pm

- iii. Vital Signs launch event on October 4th at 1pm at the Comox Recreation Centre
 1. This was completed by CVSPS, Comox Valley Community Foundation and United Way CNVI
 2. Vital Signs is a mini quality of life report, includes some data provided by the Coalition

k. BC Lions Club

- i. Housing on Dingwall – announcement coming soon!!
- ii. Submitted an EOI to BC Housing for 20 new units of seniors housing on Balmoral to replace the outdated 15 units there now.

l. John Howard Society:

- i. Didn't submit an EOI to BC Housing for this year, but are still planning on building a 5-plex housing unit for youth.

m. ARNBC:

- i. Nurses Action Team looking at advocating for senior's health services – in particular the number of seniors in St Joseph's hospital at the wrong level of care while waiting for residential care beds and accessible and appropriate primary health care resources in community.

8. Coalition Team Updates

a. Homelessness Prevention Team

- i. Working on GAP Analysis for homelessness prevention strategies
 1. Andrea to send a survey to Coalition members asking about current needs
 2. Once gaps are identified HPT will bring findings to Coalition to look at solutions to put forward for the 5 Year Plan
- ii. Hidden homelessness is a huge issue in the Comox Valley and there are many people who are unable to access programs because they do not meet program criteria
- iii. Looking to write an article about Supportive Housing for Homelessness Action Week in mid-October

a) Public Awareness Team

- i. Had an info table at the Comox Valley Farmers Market July 16th
- ii. Gave a presentation to the Comox Rotary Club Aug 4th
- iii. Will be presenting to more service clubs throughout the year
- iv. Will be updating all Coalition marketing materials to reflect PiT data
- v. Will be starting a social media campaign for Homelessness Action Week with a focus on local stories
- vi. Please submit relevant articles, interviews etc to Andrea
- vii. PAT is open to new members and meets monthly

b. Housing Development Team:

- i. Met with all 4 municipalities in the Spring to talk about zoning provisions and obtain info
- ii. Will follow up with SD71 about excess properties
- iii. HDT is open to new members and meets monthly

c. Leadership Team:

- i. Busy summer writing PiT Report, updating 5 Year Plan, writing EOIs and applying for funding

- ii. In 5 year plan the Fundraising Team responsibilities will be absorbed by the LT

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 5th, 12-1pm at the Courtenay Public Library