

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
Meeting Agenda
December 7th, 2016
12-1pm
Courtenay Public Library

Facilitators: Betty Tate, Richard Clarke

Attendees: Hugh MacKinnon (Town of Comox), Lindsay McGinn (United Way CNVI), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), R E Scales (BC Lions Club), Cynthia Zirkwitz (Comox Valley Seventh-Day Adventist), Pauline Lawrence (Comox Valley Seventh-Day Adventist), Kelly Broom (CVFPE), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Betty Tatte (CVARNBC), Sarah Sullivan (AIDS Vancouver Island), Colleen Nelson (VIRL – Courtenay Library)

Regrets: Emma Payton, Vicki Luckman, Roger Kishi

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coordinator)

1. Current Year CVRD Recommendation Update and Consensus Decision

- a. Comox Valley Recovery Centre withdrew from receiving funds from the CVRD and Town of Comox this year as they were unable to reach their fundraising goal for their portion of the project.
- b. We have to re-allocate \$70,000 of funding from CVRD and \$30,000 of funding from Town of Comox to another project listed in the 5 Year Plan.
- c. Leadership Team reviewed 5-year plan to look for another project that would be appropriate for immediate funding.
 - i. Important to show community that the CVRD and Comox funds being well utilized and housing stock increased in first year of funding.
- d. Comox Valley Transition Society fourplex project was recommended.
 - i. Four 2 bedroom units of additional affordable housing operated by CVTS (also funded through BC Housing)
 - ii. The CVRD and Town of Comox funds will go towards paying down the mortgage of this fourplex.
- e. Timelines were very tight as both the CVRD Board and the Town of Comox had to make decisions on the reallocation at their meetings (Nov 29/Dec 7th), so LT recommended this reallocation to them on behalf of the Coalition.
- f. In total there will be 6 units of additional housing in 2017 (including 2 units of additional transitional housing at Amethyst House as originally recommended in 5 Year Plan). All 6 of these units will be ready for occupancy in January 2017!

2. 5 Year Plan - Year 2 Spending Recommendation and Consensus Decision

- a. Total available CVRD/Town of Comox funding is \$180,000 for Year 2
- b. Suggested allocation:
 - i. Braidwood: \$60,000
 - ii. Dawn to Dawn 1-bedroom condo - \$30,000 from Town of Comox and \$40,000 from CVRD
 - 1. Doesn't add new housing to the pool, but it secures a unit of affordable housing through subsidized rent
 - 2. Scattered housing model
 - iii. Maple Pool Tiny Homes – 2 homes at \$50,000 total
 - 1. Homes must be on wheels/able to move, but will have full hookups
 - 2. Located at Maple Pool
 - 3. Dawn to Dawn will be the front agency.
 - 4. We will make the construction of the homes a community project
 - 5. Demonstrate that people can happily live in tiny homes
 - 6. If successful, ideally, we secure land that we could put 4-5 tiny homes on
- c. Other projects originally listed in Year 2 have been moved to Year 3 (Lions Club housing for seniors, CVRC, John Howard etc)
- d. **Consensus decision reached by Coalition members at meeting. Year 2 funding will be secured as proposed!**

3. Other BC Housing Updates

- a. 500 million more dollars to be released in March for the next fiscal year
- b. The first launch of funding was for projects that were ready to go (ie: CVTS fourplex)
- c. D'Esterre (BC Lions Club) applied for 2 million dollars through BC Housing. They have been told they need to find land before anything can proceed.
 - i. Also been asked to make changes to their constitution and bylaws before any grant funds can be released
- d. D2D also received a letter, so could be part of the second launch of funding
- e. Habitat for Humanity (as a whole) signed an MOU for 2 million dollars
 - i. \$250,000 has been earmarked for either Lake Trail in Courtenay or for their property in Campbell River
 - ii. Hope to build 21 new units over the next few years

4. Other Housing Opportunities

- a. Is co-op housing an option in the Comox Valley?
 - i. Federal government is supposed to come out with a new housing strategy with support for cooperative housing
 - ii. The Coalition can advocate for it once details are released

- b. Thrifty's property downtown Courtenay
 - i. The property owners are philanthropic
 - ii. Is there a possibility for mixed use here? Retail and housing?
 - iii. Pat McKenna from Habitat for Humanity will start a conversation with the property owners
- c. Current downtown BIA group is younger and more interested in mixed housing. Would be great to have support from them.

5. Media Release

- a. Can we submit a media release to inform the public of what's been achieved this year/or since the referendum and how we have been securing new sources of housing?
 - i. Christmas is a good time to highlight this!
 - ii. Pippa Ingram and Kate from Habitat were recommended for writers
- b. LT has written a letter to the editor at the Record, thanking BC Housing and City of Courtenay for Braidwood, but also mentioning how there is a lot more to be done.
- c. We will film a Positive News Promo in the New Year

6. Coalition Team Lunch Meeting - update and recommendations from meeting

- a. Great discussions. Lots of projects/activities for teams were identified.
- b. Identified and clarified each teams Terms of Reference, and found some overlap, some lack of clarity
- c. Communications protocols between teams, Leadership and Coalition as a whole were addressed and explored.
 - i. All teams to bring ideas/projects etc to Leadership Team, then LT brings to Coalition as a whole for decision making
 - ii. Will add this to the Operating Principles in all Terms of Reference
 - iii. We will create a flowchart/visual representation of this
- d. Recommended that we host an 'all-teams' meeting a few times per year to discuss projects, overlap, work together etc.
- e. Updates will be reviewed and decided upon when we review our Terms of Reference in February 2017.

7. Us & Them Documentary Reminder: Dec 7th 7-9pm at Stan Hagen Theatre by donation

- a. World Community and Immigrant Welcome Centre are hosting
- b. Coalition members Heather New (CVTS) and Sarah Sullivan (AVI) will be part of a panel after the film. Coalition will have a booth set up with information and will be handing out the results from the PiT Count to audience.

8. “Where We All Belong” TV Series

- a. Shaw TV series about the continuum of substance use services in the Comox Valley. Each week a new episode will be added.
 - i. Channel 4 on Shaw or you can access the playlist on Youtube here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL20EhecUEwZvtnf0wYYTMC42ezvZqErjr&feature=em-share_playlist_user
- b. Sponsored by City of Courtenay through the Drug Strategy Committee
- c. Lots of volunteer time and in-kind support from community agencies to make this series

9. Crown Isle – Holiday Resort Walk

- a. <http://www.crownisle.com/holiday-resort-walk/>
- b. Admission by donation - food or cash
- c. Funds raised go to CVTS, D2D and Boys and Girls Club
- d. 5-9pm – meet right in front of the Club House,
- e. They are still looking for volunteers

10. Coldest Night of the Year

- a. <https://canada.cnoy.org/location/comoxvalley>
- b. Saturday, Feb 25th
- c. Will be starting at Native Sons Hall this year

11. Holiday donations

- a. People can donate directly to the regional homelessness services and it will go into the pot
- b. Tax receipts from CVRD available
- c. Coalition has been referring people to donate to our member organizations as well
- d. We will post a holiday giving/end of tax year post on where/how people can donate
- e. Canada Helps – if your agency isn’t registered to receive donations it can be helpful to do so (they do take a percentage fee 3-4%)

12. Library Drop-In and Connect Program Update

- a. Been running for 4 weeks now.
- b. Attendance has been high - 18-22 people per session
- c. Sundays are a recreation drop-in; Wednesdays are more educational
- d. Would love for agencies to drop-in and deliver programs on Wednesdays
- e. Program suggestions welcome
- f. Snacks and coffee and would like to do warm food on Sunday
- g. Coalition will do a Positive News Promo on this program and will advertise poster in the New Year

13. Printing

- a. Courtenay Little Theatre has printing services available at 40% cheaper than local printing businesses.
- b. Terry Penney is the contact
- c. Must be contacted well in advance (no last minute jobs)

14. Team Updates

a. Public Awareness Team

- i. Will resume in the New Year.
- ii. Updating presentation materials including new brochures
 1. including info from Vitals Signs, our PiT, vacancy rate, stats from Pidcock
- iii. More presentations – updates to councils
- iv. Will film 2 positive news promos (library drop-in and new housing)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8cfqiOD40Qkxgl8xUsLW7A>
- v. Open to any other project ideas, suggestions

b. Homelessness Prevention Team

- i. Members were interviewed by CBC for the radio and for this article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/comox-valley-outreach-workers-make-plea-for-affordable-housing-1.3845392>

15. VIHA Community Wellness Grants due Dec 14th

- a. Coalition will apply for the library Drop-In and Connect program

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 4th 12-1pm at the Courtenay Public Library

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!