

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**12-1pm**  
**Courtenay Public Library**

**Attendees:** Joyce Wilson (St. Georges United Church), Jasmine Garrett (NIC Nursing Student), Kyle Inglis (NIC Nursing Student), Lindsay McGinn (United Way), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Betty Tate (CVARNBC), Bunny Shannon (CVSPS & LUSH Valley), Nancy Carlson (Salvation Army), Colleen Nelson (VIRL), Bev Miller (BC Housing), Pauline Lawrence (CV Seventh Day Adventist Church), Cynthia Zirkwitz (CV Seventh Day Adventist), Sarah Sullivan (AVI), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Jesse Ketler (Village of Cumberland)

**Regrets:** Jenny Deters (Downtown Courtenay BIA), Will Cole-Hamilton (Downtown Courtenay BIA), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn)

**Recorder:** Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

**1. Abbeyfield House Update**

- a. Coalition wrote a letter to Abbeyfield board asking them to save the housing (either for seniors or to go to affordable not for profit housing), and offered to support however we can
- b. They have interested parties and proposals in the works, and want to keep it as affordable housing
- c. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 12:30pm at the Courthouse: Rally to save Abbeyfield, started by the save Abbeyfield group who want to save it as the Abbeyfield model of housing
- d. The City of Courtenay owns an empty lot beside Abbeyfield but it is earmarked to be used as a Public Works yard.
  - i. Worthwhile to inquire about this land

**2. Provincial Funding Update**

- a. Provincial government announced funding under the ‘Rapid Response to Homelessness’ to fund 2000 modular housing units with supports for communities and another 1400 units of affordable housing.
- b. Coalition is trying to figure out how to get some of this money for the Comox Valley
- c. The LT is meeting with Ronna-Rae’s office tomorrow to discuss and to remind her that there are zero units of supportive housing in our community and a great need
- d. Finding land is going to be the biggest challenge, we have agencies who can provide supports and Muchalat Construction in Cumberland who builds modular homes
- e. Village of Cumberland is making some inquiries
  - i. Talked to BC Housing and municipalities need to provide land
  - ii. Talking with School District and VIHA regarding some Cumberland land that could potentially be used for supportive housing

- 3. Homeless Awareness Week November 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - a. Kyle & Jasmine are 4<sup>th</sup> Year Nursing Students who are on the Public Awareness Team, and they will film eight different 1-2-minute-long clips capturing the work of the Coalition, the PiT Count, the Drop-in Program, Housing Built, Municipal Partnerships, Outreach Workers, need for Supportive Housing and BC211
  - b. Videos will be posted on Facebook, our website and partner websites
  - c. They will be contacting people for interviews shortly
  - d. Councilor Ketler from the Village of Cumberland could be interviewed for the Municipalities video
  
- 4. BC211**
  - a. Now live! Text or call 24 hours a day, and you will reach a person to help find services in their community
  - b. United Way is collecting data on what people are calling about, and where the gaps in services are
  - c. UW is updating the directory once a year, and making sure info is up to date on popular services
  - d. So far, the #1 call across North Island is to find local counsellors
  
- 5. AHERO Resource Fair – Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 10-2 @ Lewis Centre**
  - a. Frontline service agencies will be there to promote their services
  - b. Free chili lunch sponsored by the Job Shop, free table for attendees
  - c. UW, CVCF and Coalition will share a table together
  - d. Agencies can register through Job Shop for a table
    - i. Registration 'fee' is four 10-dollar grocery store gift cards - given out to attendees
  - e. CVTS is taking donations for the free table
  
- 6. Agency Tour Update**
  - a. Members from DBCIA are verbally expressing interest in a tour, but Spring would work better for DCBIA and Coalition
  - b. Will tour agencies that operate in the DT business area to show them what they do and how they contribute to downtown
  
- 7. PiT Planning Committee to start Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:15am at Eureka**
  - a. The count will probably happen in February to capture as many people as we can in shelters
  - b. Want to run the count when there are other programs running (such as the Drop-In and Care-a-Van) to capture as many people as we can
  - c. Received \$1000 of funding from United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island to go towards the count
  
- 8. Upcoming Meetings**
  - a. Ronna-Rae Constituency Assistant Oct 5/Ronna Rae Oct 27
  - b. John Bowman Oct 10
  - c. Scott Fraser's Constituency Assistant, Andrea is available to meet at their office in Cumberland on Thursdays
  - d. Community Health Network – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9-3 at Native Sons Hall
    - i. Other networks from the Island will also be in attendance

- ii. Have been presenting on the Network and inviting municipalities

#### **9. Courtenay Land Acquisition Update**

- a. Received a letter from David Love. Project won't be complete until November
- b. Project will look at diverse lands (ex: dead ends, Courtenay Airpark etc)
- c. Note that the City still must pay development costs when they give lands, so there is a hit to the tax payer, and cost involved
- d. Affordable Housing fund could that be used to offset development costs, they've paid L'Arche and Habitat for their projects through this fund
  - i. They've also been sending grants in lieu of taxes from the fund, it is being utilized, but would be nice to make a bigger impact
  - ii. Nice to know that these funds are being used – good message to get out to the public

#### **10. HPS Funding Application for 2018-19**

- a. We will be applying for \$40,000 in rental top ups/emergency funds this year for drop-in participants (in addition to Drop-In funding and Coalition support)
- b. The 3 agency outreach workers will be able to access this additional funding
- c. No system in place to make sure people aren't 'double dipping'

#### **11. Comox Valley Foundation Community Grants**

- a. due Oct 31st

#### **12. Other updates**

- a. Braidwood
  - i. Waiting on final financials from BC Housing
  - ii. Hoping to have it built by Sept 2018
- b. Salvation Army
  - i. Getting ready for Emergency Weather Response at the shelter
  - ii. Renos are coming along and some of the transitional beds will be ready 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct
- c. Wildfires meeting
  - i. Local government and First Nations group met
    - 1. Brent Hobden talked about the work S.A. did this summer, providing food and ministry for evacuees
  - ii. Amazing aid support and initiative, community partnership
  - iii. Noted that people from Islands hit by hurricanes etc are starting to arrive in our community
  - iv. Brent Hobden could talk to Coalition about is as guest speaker
    - 1. (CV Head Injury could present to Coalition – guest speaker idea)
- d. Ryan Hill, Mental Health & Substance Use units at Washington Apartments
  - i. 13 units of supportive Transitional Housing
  - ii. 2-year program, for residents to learn the skills to live independently, and then move on to independent living
  - iii. Program almost full
- e. Washington Apartments
  - i. Things are going well and better every day

- ii. Working on setting up an onsite clinic, hopefully ready by December
- f. Looking for facilitators for AHERO meeting tomorrow (Oct 5) at 10am

### **13. Housing Development Team Update**

- a. Tiny Homes are at a standstill because of the BC Building Code
- b. Modular homes are too expensive
  - i. Need to have meeting with Muchalat to see what they could build
- c. Would be helpful to have property developers on this team
  - i. Peter Garretsin has expressed interest in small homes

### **14. 5 Year Plan Year 2018-2021 review and brainstorming**

#### **a. Strategy 1:**

- i. Micro-housing → move to following year
- ii. Add CVRC back, as they are ready to move forward
- iii. Check in with D2D on 8plex
- iv. Check in with Lions Club re: Seniors Housing
- v. Amethyst could use 2 more transitional units
- vi. CV Head Injury Society is talking with BC Housing, but probably won't have anything until the following year
- vii. Habitat for Humanity
- viii. Will add in provincial funding into the plan
- ix. Should we consider replacing units at Maple Pool?

#### **b. Strategy 2:**

- i. Homelessness Persons Engagement Strategy
  - 1. Drop-In, a place to engage
  - 2. Formalized research study happening at University of Alberta on engagement strategies
    - a. Can we look into this?
    - b. Could be a great partnership with Human Services students at NIC
  - 3. Open to other suggestions

#### **c. Strategy 3:**

- i. DCBIA Action Plan is a Homelessness Prevention Strategy
  - 1. Work on Social Enterprise idea
- ii. Rental top-ups at Drop-in
- iii. Permanent Drop-in Business Plan
- iv. Looking for other strategies and ways to engage with homeless and at-risk people
- v. Public Awareness

### **15. Nominations for Ministry Advisory Committee on Poverty Reduction, Provincial Table**

- a. Would be great to have a rep from Comox Valley
- b. Communities work collectively to nominate someone
  - i. Nominations due Oct 13<sup>th</sup>
- c. Andrea to send out info to Coalition
  - i. Coalition can support a nominee and so can Village of Cumberland

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm at the Courtenay Library**