

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting
Meeting Agenda
December 5th, 2018**

Attendees: Lindsay McGinn (CV Health Network), Jan Hesselning (Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society), Betty Tate (NHPBC), James Taylor (Glacierview Lodge), Wendy Dyck (L'arche Comox Valley), Maurita Prato (LUSH Valley), Julia Doknjas (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Deb Prain (CV Transition Society), Sarah Sullivan (AVI), Vicki Luckman (John Howard Society), Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Stephanie McGowan (Town of Comox), Paul Sture (IWSS/RISE), Ed Patterson (AANA/RISE), Jeremy Boehm (Central Church)

Facilitator: Heather Ney

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

1. **HSS Fund Year 4 Funding Recommendation Decision**
 - a. **D2D \$75k for supportive housing for single families**
 - i. This is contingent on BC Housing EOI funding
 - b. **CVTS \$180k for the purchase of 4plex with supports for single women led families**
 - i. total project cost is 2.5 million not 1.76 million as originally indicated
 - ii. contingent on BC Housing funding
 - c. **Habitat 75k towards phase 2 of the Lake Trail build**
 - d. **Permanent Drop-In - any amount to earmark for future use**
 - i. \$45,000 that we thought was available isn't, so LT added in the recommendation for renovations, equipment
 - e. **L'arche** – Coalition decided we wont fund retroactively, funds must go towards new units
 - f. **Total Available Funds for Year 4: \$150,000 CVRD + \$30,000 Town of Comox = \$180,000.**
 - i. **Total requested amount by agencies: \$330,000**
 - g. **Proposed Option #1: \$60,000 each to CVTS, D2D, and Habitat**
 - h. **Proposed Option #2: \$45,000 each to CVTS, D2D, Habitat and earmarked for permanent drop-in centre**
 - i. **Proposed Option #3: \$90,000 to Habitat and earmarked for Drop-in (since CVTS and D2D proposals are both dependent on being awarded the EOI from BC Housing)**
 - j. **Leadership Team recommendation: Option 2** and if necessary when we have more information re: BC Housing proposals for CVTS and D2D and further planning for Drop in Centre we can ask CVRD to adjust amounts (this needs to be clarified that it can be done although we have a precedent that we did in the first year)

- k. Last year CVTS asked for 160k but received 155k, but the original proposal was for 4 units, but it turned out it was for 5 units
 - i. BC Housing matching funds haven't happened
 - ii. CVTS is clamoring to come up with the deficit
 - iii. they were the recipients of an excellent fundraiser – Corporate Connections 34k
- l. Thanks to Habitat for being so giving, as funds shuffle year over year
- m. We had more than the 180k last year because of the Kensington Island money
- n. Grant-in aid at City of Courtenay is the casino revenue, some of it is earmarked for affordable housing
- o. Comox gives 30k, however there is also the DCC amenable contribution fund
 - i. Can this be allocated out?
 - ii. this particular fund has to be used in Comox
- p. D2D is happy to give up their portion of funds for the drop-in centre if they aren't successful with BC Housing
- q. The CVRD funding won't be available until August
- r. EOI process was helpful this year, should make things a little less onerous going forward

2. **Criteria for letters of support**

- a. Should we have rules for this? LT recently discussed criteria
- b. Individual agencies who are going to councils to request land or funding should inform the Coalition for discussion and to add to the 5YP
 - i. please let Andrea know when you are planning for either
- c. Need to update Terms of Reference or have a document that outlines rules/criteria for EOIs and letters
 - i. Adding this to ToR for January or February
- d. Coalition just wants to be informed so governments see us moving forward as a community with one voice
- e. When we are aware of these projects that fit on the continuum of housing needs we can help to empower agencies to do what they need
 - i. Stronger when you come to council with a letter of ask from Coalition supporting you
- f. Habitat is going to councils in January
 - i. the Hilchey and Lake Trail sites are booming and \$700,000 is needed

3. **8th St. Supportive Housing Site Update**

- a. BC Housing called City of Courtenay, then called Island Health, Island Health told them to call AVI, and BC Housing called AVI saying the contractor would pull out of project because of syringes if they weren't cleaned up by end of week
- b. City pulled together first meeting to discuss how to respond to those who were camping and to clean up needles
- c. In the end it worked out well – AVI contacted City and JHS to advise, City Public Works staff also helped
- d. Grant also received phone calls from Heidi from BC Housing
- e. BC Housing didn't contact anyone from the Coalition directly
- f. Lots of work done by JHSI, AVI, D2D, Care-a-van outreach workers to move the folks camping on 8th st site

- i. Some went to Campbell River, jail, hotel, new sites, family members, garages
 - ii. Everyone was offered options, received names and contacts and will be strongly considered for supportive housing
- g. Salvation Army is open with additional mats under EWR until March 31st, 2019
- h. Excavators are doing their work now
- i. Lots to learn from the process – coordinated response needed
- j. A new tent city popped up behind Thrifty's
- k. Heather did talk to Heidi about HART Homelessness Action Response Team
 - i. Can the Coalition organize a HART response – a collective of outreach agencies and workers
 - ii. Can BC Housing provide funding for Andrea to be full time?
 - 1. Lets put a proposal together on what is needed
 - 2. BC Housing has funding for emergency expenses, so perhaps they can fund some coordination?
 - 3. Maybe City of Courtenay?

4. Drop-in Centre Update

- a. Met with RISE group
 - i. Scouting for new locations, Bridge isn't safe/affordable to utilize
 - ii. Looking for downtown core locations
 - iii. looking for more support/people to join the team
 - 1. Meeting on Mondays at 5:30pm
 - iv. Seeking funds – funding for capital through the CVRD but need funding for the lease and operations
 - v. Been brainstorming of what is going on, and what the Coalition can do to support
 - vi. Permanent drop-in has been on the 5YP since it's inception
- b. Andrea to help RISE with writing a business plan proposal – DCBIA can potentially help
- c. Short term solutions
 - i. municipalities could opening warming centres
 - ii. expanding Unbroken Chain to open up space in the IWSS to allow people to come in and warm up

5. AHERO Outreach Worker Meeting Reminder – Dec 6th 10am-12pm at the Job Shop

- a. Outreach workers only
- b. Meeting minutes will be shared and distributed
- c. Andrea to go to listen, learn and use what she heard to inform a potential coordinated access function/re-establish the HPT

6. Federal Housing Funding Opportunities document

- a. National Habitat for Humanity working with Minister Ducloux
- b. We should be reaching out and making federal connections

7. Co-op Housing Update

- a. Started a name search application to become an official co-op housing organization

- b. Trying to find land and seed funding for co-op housing

8. Affordable Housing Benefits Everyone Community Engagement Report

- a. Report can be downloaded at <http://www.cvhousing.ca/affordable-housing-benefits-everyone-project/>
- b. Will be presenting results to councils
 - i. Comox: Weds Dec 12th 4:14pm
 - ii. Courtenay: Mon Dec 17th 4pm
 - iii. Cumberland: Mon Jan 14 4:30pm
 - iv. CVRD: TBD in January

9. Coalition Internal Evaluation Update

- a. Haven't heard back from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (Homeless Hub) grant we applied for yet (should hear in Dec)
- b. Otherwise we will strike up an internal evaluations team in January and have 2 members interested in being on the team so far
- c. If you are interested in working on this project, please let Andrea know

10. Other Updates

- a. RCMP – will be arranging a meeting with Leadership Team and LT sometime in the new year
- b. Affordable Housing Vancouver Island Society is presenting on Medicine Hat model to end homelessness and Whistler Housing Authority Dec 17th to City of Courtenay Council
 - i. Jan to present to the Coalition in January
- c. First move in day for the John Howard Society - Station youth housing- 4 other youth to move in the next 2 weeks
 - i. 5 more units to occupy before Xmas, meeting with MCFD letting them know, and there is already a waitlist!
- d. Home dedication ceremony on December 14th 10am at the Lake Trail site – families moving in before Xmas
- e. Health Network – Glacierview organizing a meeting Jan 21st on affordable housing needs for seniors
- f. 100 Women Group –
 - i. first meeting of this new group is in January – need to be come a member first, could be an opportunity for non-profits to be awarded \$10,000
- g. Comox old Fire Station land
 - i. Comox council had a tour of the town and discussed CVTS and what they want to do with the land.
 - 1. Mixed housing with potential for a daycare on the bottom
 - ii. We will add this to the 5YP
 - 1. Can CVTS pursue that? put it on 5YP?
 - 2. Mixed housing and daycare on the bottom.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 12-1pm at the Courtenay Public Library

HAPPY HOLIDAYS ☺