

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 6th, 2019**

Present: Heather Colman (CVTS); Wendy Dyck (L'Arche CV); Trish Holm (CVTS); Bunny Shannon (CVSPS); James Taylor (GVL); Julie Keumbehdjian (CHN; Chamber of Commerce); Roger Kishi (Wachiay) ; Toyin Kareem (Immigrant Welcome Centre); Jesse Ketler (Cumberland/CVRD); Sabrina Acheson (Comox Bay Care Society/ Care-A-Van); Julia Doknjas (Wachiay) Rachel Ducommun (John Howard Society of North Island); Joyce Wilson (St Georges United Church); Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn); Krista Smith (CVFS); Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society); Roseanne Lyster (Island Health); Greg Gulas (VIRL); Ellen Strong Klassen (Comox Valley Advocates Association); Donna Man (MSDPR; Nancy Gothard (City of Courtenay); Christopher Bate (Eureka Support Society and CV Co-op Housing Working Group); Tats Setta (City of Courtenay); Matt Landry (MLA Ronna Rae Leonard office); Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity/ Town of Comox); Stephanie McGowan (Town of Comox); Sam Franey (unhoused); Patti Sture(IWSS); Curtis Lyon; Melanie McCollum (City of Courtenay); Dan Duerden (NIC student)

Regrets: Andrea Cupelli; Heather Ney

1. PRESENTATION: Small lot neighbourhoods and housing for the 'missing middle' - Cleo Corbett, Senior Planner for the City of Campbell River

Cleo challenged us to stop continuing to build single family houses that are not affordable for a large proportion of the population and to support initiatives that encourage densification and smaller lot duplexes, fourplexes that are more affordable and fill the "missing middle" of the housing market. She showed us a case study of a project in Vernon. These types of developments also encourage walkability, relationships and healthy options for people.

2. PRESENTATION: Comox Valley Advocates Association – Ellen Strong Klassen

CV Advocates Organization has just been formed and they are in a developmental phase. The idea is to train volunteers who can offer support and help people get to appointments, fill in forms to access supports, have coffee and conversations, pick up cheques etc. They have created a referral process that Ellen explained and are in the process of developing a training program for advocates and will be providing training in November. The timeline they are looking at is to get advocates trained; support for advocates in place and start providing supports to people by late Januaryish! People asked questions particularly about sharing information and confidentiality of referral process and security of records. Ellen acknowledged that these are all things that they are still working on and welcomed input from people. People did feel this service would fill a gap in the community!

3. Warming Centre/Drop-In Centre Update

Courtenay Council asked staff to look for a space for a Warming Centre and they are working on it. Although there is no set timeframe the City does understand the urgency and we are hoping a space will be found very soon. Connect continues at the library twice a week and many other organizations are offering lunches at times during the week.

4. HRT Update

- a. Survival Drive Tent Event Weds, Nov 13th 12-4pm Simms Park

- b. Donations of tents, tarps, sleeping bags, etc can be dropped off at ReStore until the 12th, or bring them to the event on the 13th
- c. Volunteers will be setting up tents to test them, live music, and a chance to connect with local outreach workers

5. PiT Count 2020 Update

- a. James and Dustin from Homelessness Services Association BC (HSABC) will present an update regarding the PIT Count 20120 to the Coalition at our December meeting
- b. Andrea is forming a planning committee this month, if interested in participating please contact Andrea asap

6. Seniors Housing Needs Update

- a. Survey is now live and approximately 570 have been completed – please share link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cvseniorshousingsurvey> or help people fill in the survey
- b. If you require hard copies of survey contact Andrea
- c. Upcoming Community Engagement and Stakeholder meeting is coming up so watch for an invitation.
- d. Working with VIU students Masters students who will have produced a report by April 2020

7. Year 5 EOI Form and 5YP Updates – due by Nov 20th!

- a. The Expression of Interest for Homelessness Support Service funding is now available on the website and is due November 20 – please get into Andrea by then
- b. Andrea and LT beginning work on 5 Year Plan from 2020-2025 – please get any information of housing plans that can be added to plan into Andrea as soon as possible.

8. CVRD Housing Needs Assessment Update

- a. Consultants have been hired and Andrea met with them
- b. Starting with some focus group work with Connect participants
- c. Will be arranging focus group with Coalition members and CVCHN Coordinating Circle – watch for an invite! It is likely going to be combined with the GVL housing consultation so there will only be one meeting to attend!

9. Comox Council Delegation

- a. Put in a request for Nov 27th. If not, it will be sometime in December – we will be updating Comox on the Comox Cottage survey results and asking Comox to increase their contribution to housing as CVRD did,

10. Co-op Housing Update

- a. They have had 2 meetings and continue to move forward to form a non-profit and are going to join the Coalition as an agency – Chris Bate will be their representative.
- b. There continues to be some momentum from local government also and this group will be able to provide an advisory capacity from people interested in living in co-op housing as plans develop.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Dec 4th, 2019 12-1pm at the Courtenay Library in the meeting room