

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Agenda
July 8th, 2020

Present: Brooke (Worksafe BC), Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society), Tori Cliffe (RCMP), Roger Kishi (Wachiay), Jason Price (Komoks First Nation), Andrea Cupelli (CVCEH), Heather Ney (CVTS), Jesse Ketler (Cumberland Council), Toin (Immigrant Welcome Society), Katie (CVTS), Brent Hobden (Salvation Army), Colleen (Salvation Army), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Shari Dunnett (CAT), Kristy (CRCEH), Katie Barker (Division of Family Practice), Deb Prain (CVTS), Joyce Wilson (United Church), Doug Hillian (Courtenay Council), Patricia Alvarado (IWSS), Wendy Dyck (L'Arche), Betty Tate (CVCEH), Sue Finneron (Dawn to Dawn), Ashley Hancock (AVI)

Facilitator: Heather Ney, CVTS and CVCEH Leadership Team

Minutes: Vicki Luckman, CVCEH Leadership Team

1. Reassignment of HSS funds of \$45,000:

The Leadership Team is supporting and recommending a request to have \$45,000 originally assigned to CV Transition Society for housing for moms and children reassigned to the affordable housing project between CVTS and Dawn to Dawn in Cumberland. This money is required as additional equity towards the project.

A vote of the member agencies supported taking the request to CVRD for consideration and decision of the reassignment of funds.

2. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update - Heather Ney

a. Motels Update

Heather Ney reports that BC Housing will be taking to its executive a proposal to financially support 32 motel rooms at Travel Lodge until the end of December 2020, and 10 motel rooms at Port Augusta until end of September, with three of the Port Augusta rooms assigned to Island Health for individuals who are symptomatic or COVID positive. A motel/shelter agreement outlining behaviour expectations is to be signed by the residents.

Since May, BC Housing has been funding CVTS to provide housing supports, and BC Housing is also taking a funding proposal for additional support to its Executive. These outreach supports also provide services to encampments, and assist with finding individuals more permanent housing. The progress with BC Housing has been positive!

Along with the local municipalities, the Coalition will be looking at other solutions to our housing and homelessness concerns, particularly a more permanent solution.

b. Cowichan Tenting Sites Model

Thinking about options for the Comox Valley, the LT met with John Horn, Executive Director of Cowichan Housing Association to discuss their tenting site model. Their model consists of six campsites (12 people per campsite) with security, meals and outreach provided. As well as the campsites, Cowichan has 41 supported hotel rooms. Cowichan's model was funded in part through BC Housing and a \$200,000 from the Victoria Foundation. They are in the process of request ongoing funding to support their model which costs approximately \$300,000/month

c. Meeting with Municipal Leaders

LT will be meeting with municipal leaders next week to discuss short term and long term approaches to housing vulnerable folks.

d. Funding Update

Received \$20,000 from CV Community Foundation through the Federal Emergency Community Fund to go towards staffing at Connect

Received \$6500 from CV Community Foundation to go towards supplies for Connect (chairs, tents, tarps, underwear, whatever is needed)

3. 2020 PiT Preliminary Results - Andrea Cupelli

The initial results have been received by BC Housing, with 132 people counted, which is an increase from 2018 (117). In 2019, when The Junction opened and was able to house 46 individuals, the hope was that numbers would have decreased, Sadly this has not happened. Numbers are in line with what we have been seeing with the pandemic response in #s of people who have been accessing motels etc.

BC Housing will send preliminary results of the PiT count to municipal leaders, with the final results coming in the fall.

4. City of Courtenay OCP Stakeholder Engagement - Heather

City invited Coalition to participate in the OCP as a stakeholder and we accepted. LT recommends Andrea will represent, with Betty as backup. As well, the city requested we send invitations to Coalition member agencies, which has been done, and we are awaiting responses

The first round of engagement will be with all interested stakeholders and member agencies; and the second round will be with targeted stakeholders digging deeper into feedback. Andrea will be happy to bring forward ideas and loop Coalition into the process

5. Seniors Housing Update - Andrea

On June 25th, Glacier View's Annual Meeting was held at which time the concept (Seniors and Multi-generational housing) was presented to the Board and members.

Concept Report is up on our website <http://www.cvhousing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GVL-Concepts-Summary-Report-for-public.pdf>

A sub-committee has been formed and they will be reaching out to stakeholders for participation into the continuation of this project.

6. Connect/Showers Extension - Andrea

a. City Council extended license to occupy Connect until September 30th
Staff will be compiling a report (with data from Connect) to present to council on the request to extend the license for a year

Council was very supportive of Connect and mentioned local businesses have been as well. Lots of positive feedback. <https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/courtenay-council-praises-warming-centre-for-service/>

City has agreed to provide shower access at Lewis Centre on month-by-month basis with 30 days notice if they need the space back. Due to limited financial resources, an adjustment to the schedule has been made - showers will be accessible Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

7. HRT Update - Andrea

Andrea gave accolades to the team for working together on the streets and in encampments, and bringing Dr. Eva, Dr. Katie and Dr. Jack alongside.

Dr Katie appreciated everyone for all the work they are doing to support our vulnerable population. She is hopeful funding will continue past September 30th, and she will be a Division of Family Practice representative on the Coalition.

Julia (Wachiay) will be replaced by Callum as the new Homelessness Outreach worker. Julia is taking on the vacant FASD Key Worker.

8. Division of Family Practice Update - Andrea

During the pandemic, the Coalition has been represented on the Division of Family Practice Vulnerable Population Working Group. One of the benefits coming from this group was funding and service to our vulnerable population through the provision of weekly primary care, and includes having Dr. Eva, Dr. Katie and/or Dr. Jack attend Connect twice a week. Individuals have commented on feeling safe, no judgment, and appreciating accessible service. This will continue to the end of September, with hopes for continued funding to provide this much needed service.

9. Anti-Racism Statement - Andrea

Racism is inherently tied into issues of homelessness and poverty – important to examine our own biases and take a stand. Andrea is composing a statement on behalf of the Coalition, borrowing from the good work of CVCHN and other organizations, and will share with the Coalition for consideration and approval once completed.

10. Poverty Reduction Plan Update - Andrea

The CVRD has been awarded \$100,000 to create a Poverty Reduction Strategy. A consultant will be hired through a RFP process (which should be out by the end of July). Alana from CVRD has reached out and met with CVCEH, Comox Valley Community Health Network and Comox Valley Social Planning Society to discuss what the next steps will be. One of the agreements is that an advisory group, including people with lived experience, will be formed.

11. OPS and CAT Updates - Shari Dunnett, Patti Alvarado, Ashley Hancock

Lifeguard app is up and running.

The CAT will be working on Safer Supply dialogues recognizing the increased toxic drug supply, and in future there will be updates about projects they are planning.

There has been a 93% increase in fatal overdoses for Indigenous people, and it is linked to the pandemic and the increased isolation that has occurred. IWSS and Unbroken Chain have been responding to and supporting those impacted by the overdoses, including attending residents at motels.

Ashley shared a BIG Shout Out to the CAT team and Shari for the good work they are doing!

OPS will continue to be at AVI until August 31st and then will transfer to Island Health effective September 1st (hours will be Monday - Friday, 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.). Island Health rep has been providing transitional support at AVI. AVI is approaching IH to have a community event for those who are using OPS, or using substances to offer feedback about OPS, particularly with a focus of what might be useful for them.

Next Meeting Decision

A vote was taken about our next meeting date. Next meeting date will be August 5th, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Other Updates

[Women's Homelessness Webinar](#) – July 14th 10-11:30am -Andrea will include the link.

CR Coalition to End Homelessness

It has been a good month!

BC Housing purchased a restaurant to provide bridge housing. This is a stop gap - CR Council and BC Housing have a MOU in place to provide supportive housing in Campbell River. A motel was purchased by BC Housing to provide living accommodation for tenants displaced by recent fire.

Pat McKenna, Habitat for Humanity feeling very disheartened by the federal Wage Subsidy Program. Habitat does not qualify for it as it only is behind by 24.5% revenue rather than 30%, which leaves a gap of approximately \$50,000. He has sent his comments to Member of Parliament, Rachel Blaney for followup but is feeling very disheartened.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 5th, 2020 12-1pm via Zoom