

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Agenda
November 4th, 2020**

Attendees: Mitch, Betty Tate (CVCHN), Francois Duvel (St. Vincent de Paul), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Bunny Shannon (CVSPS), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United), Karen MacKinnon (Habitat for Humanity), Callum Maguire (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Katie Barker (Division of Family Practice), Patti Alvarado (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Krista Smith (CV Family Services), Louise Howe (CV Head Injury Society), Brooke (VIVRS), Angie Prescott (John Howard), Jordan Brietzke (Wiser Projects), Sue Finneron (Dawn to Dawn), Wendy Dyck (L'arche), Lindsay Monk (M'akola), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity/Town of Comox), Jesse Kettler (CVRD/Village of Cumberland), Steve, Collen Holden (Salvation Army), Shari Dunnet (Community Action Team), Roger Kishi (Wachiay), Carrera, Ann (CVAH)

Facilitator: Richard Clarke (Coalition Leadership Team)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

1. December Meeting

- a. BCNPHA Housing Central is happening, and we need to meet in December to make recommendations on HSS Funds, so suggest we move December Coalition to the following week, December 9th

2. LT Member Recruitment

- a. Need to fill 2 spots on the Leadership Team
- b. LT members must be reps of member agencies
- c. Term ends September 2021
- d. Current time commitment is 1-hour virtual meeting per week, plus emails
- e. Please let Andrea know ASAP if interested in serving on the LT this year

3. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update

a. Motels Update

- i. This response comes with challenges and needs
 - 1. 25% of residents are destructive and have severe behavioral challenges – this creates challenges for other residents who want to be there and have a successful stay
- ii. Need a controlled entrance to the building, a physical barrier, smaller properties/buildings, more security. Needs to be a safe space.
- iii. On-site physician visits have made a huge difference
- iv. Some residents have moved from the Travelodge to the Junction
 - 1. CVTS staff are doing assessments onsite, building relationships with residents
- v. We need a managed alcohol program in our community

b. Pandemic Rent Support Funds Available

- i. Transition Society has HPS (Federal) funds that can be used towards emergency rent top-ups/payment, damage deposits, cleaning fees etc
- ii. Wachiay Friendship Centre also has the Indigenous funding stream available for the same thing (rent supplements etc)
- iii. Normally this funding has requirements and you must be either: a person feeling domestic violence, Indigenous, youth, returning from an institution to access – but the pandemic emergency stream is separate and doesn't have those parameters and is for anyone who needs it (one time top ups)
- iv. WorkBC is noticing that housing affordability, maintaining housing, job loss etc is a huge issue

c. Housing Proposal Update

- i. Aligning opportunity if possible, to Rapid Housing Initiative. If we miss out on this opportunity another indication that we need projects/ideas to be shovel ready
- ii. Thanks for feedback at last meeting. The need is so high across all populations. Decided to focus our proposal onto requesting 100 additional units of supporting housing, and perhaps an ERC.
- iii. Letter will be written this week once we know about Rapid Housing Initiative plans, to BC Housing requesting this and will be sent to City of Courtenay for their endorsement and possibly CVRD for endorsement as well

4. Federal Rapid Housing Initiative

a. Basic overview of funding <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/nhs/rapid-housing-initiative>

- i. Two funding streams: Major Cities (\$500 million) and Projects Stream (\$500 million)
- ii. Provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, as well as non-profit organizations are eligible
- iii. Applications accepted until December 3, reviewed by January 31, funds distributed by March 31.
- iv. Lots needed to apply – basically need to be 'shovel ready'
 - 1. High Need people experiencing or at risk of homelessness or living in temporary shelters because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 2. Affordability maintained for 20 years
 - 3. cost sharing/support from another level of government; expediency; land status
 - 4. Exceed energy efficiency standards
 - 5. Exceed accessibility requirements of local jurisdictions
 - 6. Confirmed other funding/supports/subsidies
- v. Property Type and Size Requirements:
 - 1. Standard rental, transitional, permanent supportive housing, single room occupancy and seniors housing (that requires light to no care)
 - a. Must have a minimum of five units or beds

- b. Minimum contribution request of \$1M
 - c. Primary use is residential, Permanent housing (long-term tenancy, 3 months or more)
 - vi. This opportunity does NOT come with operating funds
- b. **Community Housing Transformation Centre Development Consultant Funds** can provide up to \$ 50,000 in financial assistance to organizations that can reasonably demonstrate that they have a chance to secure CMHC funding This assistance could allow them to hire a resource dedicated to developing their business plan and applying to CMHC requirements. Must contact CHTC directly as there is no formalized grant process
- c. **Any Coalition agencies applying?**
 - i. CVTS has engaged with a development consultant and has been brainstorming options and looking at property options
 - ii. Could it be used to purchase another SeaCan for D2D?
 - 1. No, needs to be viable for at least 20 year and an environmental analysis needs to be conducted and Maple Pool is on flood plain
 - iii. If anyone is interested in collaborating please connect with Heather Ney director@cvts.ca

5. ESCF Grants Update

- a. United Way
 - i. Put forward one application for 40k the community to support agencies doing frontline outreach, with Connect acting as the hub, as well as for Indigenous Peer Advocacy/Outreach. Funds can be used for outreach supplies and we can distribute funding directly to agencies. Also some funding for the HRT
- b. CVCF
 - i. Applied for 15k towards a hot meal dinner program at Connect

6. CVRD Poverty Reduction Strategy Update

- a. Coalition is listed as a partner for this strategy and is helping to advise on Community Engagement including the potential for a People with Lived/Living Expertise of Homelessness Advisory. Stay tuned for updates on these opportunities.
- b. Looking at a Collective Impact Framework

7. Year 6 EOI for HSS and Comox Funds and 5 Year Plan updates due Nov 20

- a. 150k total available this year through HSS, usually 30k through Comox
- b. Must be member agency, can be used towards housing only, or 5k available for pre-planning costs
- c. Coalition to make consensus decisions at December meeting
- d. 5 Year Plan is being updated so please send any housing plans, dreams in the works over the next 5 years to Andrea by due date. CVRD board will review this in January or February.

8. Seniors Housing Update

- a. CV Affordable Housing
 - i. Proposal is on hold until after the provincial election is officially called

- ii. 4 tenants remain to be housed and have been assured rooms at the Port Augusta motel
 - 1. Need funding for these rooms for 18 months – will push BC Housing to help bridge the gap
 - 2. Tenants have received payout packages
- b. Glacierview Lodge - James

9. HRT Update

- a. Connect Update
 - i. Dani is recovering well and keeping her spirits up
 - ii. 1 Year License to Occupy was approved by the City of Courtenay Council – thank you!
 - iii. Shower program is still operating
 - iv. Lots of new faces showing up at Connect
- b. Caring for Ourselves Workshops running every Monday 2:30-4pm for 4 weeks with workshops and healing circles for frontline outreach workers
- c. CAT Update
 - i. BRAVE BeSafe app is being piloted. It is a more peer supported version of Lifeguard app – a loved one is contacted, not 9-11
 - ii. Peer advisor programs are rolling out, including drug testing strips
 - iii. Unbroken Chain will have peer advisors conducting outreach
 - iv. Reminder that the OPS is open
 - v. Walk with Me is still running until November 21
- d. SPARCBC is providing 50 cell phones to our community free of charge for those experiencing homelessness
- e. NIC Nursing Students will be running a Coat/Warm Gear drive

10. Other Updates

- a. City of Courtenay OCP Neighbourhood Walks are happening online and in-person and a good opportunity to bring up issues of affordable housing in Courtenay
- b. Church land
 - i. Suggested that the Coalition reach out to local churches to discuss land opportunities as several churches are looking into building affordable housing
 - 1. Four Square Church
 - 2. Presbyterian Church
 - 3. United Church in Cumberland
 - ii. Leadership Team will discuss this at their next meeting
- c. Habitat for Humanity will be looking for letters of support on their Piercy build which is going to public hearing soon
- d. D2D/CVTS will be holding an open housing on the Cumberland Tall Tree Place project

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th 12pm via Zoom