

Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting Agenda
October 7th, 2020

Attendees: Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Ann (CVAH), Colleen (Salvation Army), Deb Prain (CV Transition Society), Donna May (MSDPR), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay council), Grant Shilling (Dawn to Dawn), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Bunny Shannong (CVSPS), James Taylor (Glacierview Lodge), Jesslyn Bradbury (NIC Nursing), Karen McKinnon (Habitat for Humanity), Krista Smith (CV Family Services), Laurel, Lindsay Monk (M'akola), Maj (NIC Nursing), Mitch, Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Rachel Ducommon (John Howard Society), Roger Kishi (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Shari (Community Action Team), Wendy Dyck (L'arche)

Facilitator: Betty Tate (Coalition Leadership Team)

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

1. Welcome to our newest member agency – Stepping Stones Recovery House

2. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update

a. Motels Update

- i. Rooms from Port Augusta have moved over to the Travelodge
- ii. Travelodge is full
- iii. Temporary fencing installed this week
- iv. Met with hotel, Driftwood Mall owner, City of Courtenay and RCMP to talk about ways to make the motel and surrounding area safer for all. Calls have gone up in this area so responding to that.
- v. Would like to install better lighting and increase security to 12 hours a day
- vi. Focused on being good neighbours and engaging with nearby businesses
- vii. Physician Outreach still happening onsite at TL

b. Housing Proposal

- i. So far we've met with municipal leaders, met with BC Housing
 1. Recommendation was to come up with a specific request
 2. Buying land is an option for BCH currently
- ii. Upcoming meeting later today to talk with City to talk about zoning preferences, BC Housing project selection criteria and in-camera meetings
- iii. Housing Options Discussion/Feedback
 1. One immediate/temporary measure
 - a. Emergency Response Centre to fill the gap in shelter spaces
 2. One permanent
 - a. Ask for 50 units of supportive housing
 - i. We can sort out the demographic fit later

3. Feedback from HRT was similar but more demographically detailed.
 4. Can we purchase a motel?
 5. Old Kona hostel site
 6. Arbutus motel
- iv. Many options. Please provide additional feedback to Andrea by October 16th and the LT will present request at next Coalition meeting.

3. Provincial Election

- a. All candidates meeting Oct 8 6:7-30pm
 - i. <https://web.comoxvalleychamber.com/events/Virtual-All-Candidates-Meeting-613/details>
- b. Briefing Note with local information on homelessness and affordable housing will be distributed to all candidates.

4. Division of Family Practice Update

- a. Webinar was a great success – highlighted the partnerships between local nonprofits and physicians related to COVID and opioid crisis
- b. Primary Care Network Announcement and discussion regarding the role of the Vulnerable Populations Working Group

5. Seniors Housing Update

- a. CVAH has 5 residents in need of housing, the other 11 have found options. Communications to BC Housing has gone out to look at potential solutions
- b. Tenants have until January 31st, 2021 and are currently paying between \$236-\$400/mo for rent
- c. Have reached out to service clubs, Airbnb, and looking for housing exploring all avenues and because of our housing market haven't been able to find anything affordable
- d. Port Augusta had some negative experiences recently with housing but are willing to speak to Ann and meet the tenants to decide if they would be a good fit.
- e. Not having housing secured for the remaining 5 individuals may put their Community Housing Fund application in jeopardy
- f. CVTS reached out to BC Housing to see if there was anything they could do.
- g. Would need funds for 5 people for 20 months
 - i. Can these individuals access SAFER? What other funds are available to help bridge the gap?
 - ii. Town of Comox may be able to help out. Ann to connect with Pat to explore possibilities.
- h. Anyone with any leads on housing or bridge rent funding opportunities

6. Comox Meetings

- a. Will be arranging meeting with Comox BIA to hear concerns and to break stigma
- b. Arranging meeting with CAO to talk about Coalition, what we do, our needs etc

7. HRT Update

- a. Connect/Shower Program
 - i. License to Occupy Extension – discussion will be happening at Courtenay council in the next few weeks
 - ii. Options are either 3 months, 1 year, cancel or whatever the council decides
- b. Where do we go from here discussion for frontline workers was successful and the report will be shared out once written
- c. PiT Count
 - i. Results on hold until election is over.
- d. CAT
 - i. Very busy – lots of peer led projects coming down the pipeline
 - ii. Walk with Me at the Art Gallery

8. PAT Update - Andrea

- a. Jesslyn and Maj from NIC Nursing Program are both working with the Coalition for their 4th Year Leadership Class. They will be working on the following projects
 - i. Social Media Campaign kicking off on World Homelessness Day – Oct 10
 - ii. Street Survival Guide Update

9. Year 6 2020-21 of the 5 Year Plan Updates & EOI Reminder - Andrea

- a. Andrea sending EOI out within a week or so.
 - i. Deadline to submit is Nov 20th
 - ii. 150k total available this year
 - iii. Reminder, must be member agency, can be used towards housing only, or 5k available for pre-planning costs

10. Other Updates

- a. Lot of great webinars through CAEH coming up.
- b. Housing Central Virtual Conference
 - i. Dec 2-4 <https://conference.housingcentral.ca/sites/Conference/>
- c. ESCF Round 2 Funding through Comox Valley Community Foundation

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 12pm via Zoom