

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness  
General Coalition Meeting Agenda  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**Participants:** Shari Dunnet (CAT), Sam Franey (CV Unhoused Society), Roger Kishi (Wachiay), Lindsay McGinn (CVCHN), Rachel Ducommun (JHSNI), Callum (Wachiay), Toyin Kareem (Immigrant Welcome Centre), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Ellen Strong Klassen (Strong Centre); Doug Hillian (Courtenay Council), Colleen (Salvation Army), Julie K. (Chamber of Commerce), Andrea Cupelli (CVCEH), Wendy Dyck (L'arche), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Brent Hobden (Salvation Army), Operations Misa, Joyce Wilson (United Church), James Taylor (Glacierview Lodge), Anneke Janssen (CVAH), Angie Prescott (JHSNI), Howe, Ashley Irwin (AVI), Sabina Acheson (Care-A-Van), Katie Barker (IslandHealth), Kristi Schwanicke (United Way)

**Facilitator: Richard Clarke**

**Recorder: Vicki Luckman**

**1. Leadership Team Update**

- a. Richard thanked Wendy Dyck and Vicki Luckman for completing their terms on the Leadership Team.
- b. Welcome to Brent Hobden as our new Leadership Team member.

**2. Update on HRT and Coalition member**

- a. Dani (Danille Davis) has been in a serious accident and is undergoing multiple surgeries for many injuries. She is reporting that she is eager to return to the community, and with some time back to work.
- b. GoFundMe link to raise funds for Dani: <https://gf.me/u/yvaqiu>

**3. Drug Strategy Committee Coalition Representative**

- a. Lindsay McGinn from CV Health Network, and representing the Community Drug Strategy Committee (CDSC) is requesting a volunteer from the Coalition membership to join the CDSC (if you are not already on the Committee) to represent the Coalition and be a reporting link between the CDSC and the Coalition.
- b. Currently the CDSC is in the process of creating an action plan for substance use in the Comox Valley.
- c. Please contact Andrea or Lindsay if you are interested in joining the Committee as a representative of the Coalition

**4. Coalition COVID-19 Response Update**

**a. Motels**

- i. All 42 beds are occupied except the COVID emergency/isolation beds managed by MHSU.
- ii. There have been some bugs with security at the motels but security is being provided 12 hours/day for 7 days a week.

- iii. Housing connections are being made for those living in the motel, and the outreach team and outreach doctors are making some very promising changes with individuals.
- iv. BC Housing is making a request that funding for these rooms continue until the end of March 2021.

**b. Housing Proposal**

- i. Working on a proposal for supportive housing and looking at other permanent housing solutions.
- ii. There has been encouraging news about permanent solutions to address homelessness from BC Housing and other communities in the province. These communities have taken a proactive approach to creating a plan and presenting to BC Housing.
- iii. The LT is working on a plan for supportive housing and looking at other permanent housing solutions.
  - 1. Will be sent to all local leaders and will be scheduling a meeting in the next weeks to discuss

**c. HSABC Pandemic Response Debrief Discussion**

- i. HSABC is requesting feedback about the accuracy of the PIT count numbers. The HRT supports that 132 people counted in the last PIT count in Comox Valley reflects the absolute homeless, but there are many more hidden homeless, and precariously housed.
- ii. HSABC looking for ways to help advocate for reducing homelessness in our community. Support needs to come from provincial level, and that EMBC has not been familiar with setting up plans to address working with our vulnerable community. There is some anxiety about the future - 2nd wave of COVID 19, unemployment, ending of CERB. Interesting to hear how other communities have been affected by the pandemic, and there have been differences.

**5. Community Transformation Centre Grant Update**

- a. The Centre is providing funding opportunities to create transformational system change in the area of supporting homelessness. There are three possible pots of money (Local Projects, Regional Projects and Tenant Initiative Projects).
- b. The LT has met with the Centre staff and will be setting up another meeting for Coalition members to attend. LT is thinking Coordinated Access may be a possibility as the funding is provided with a focus on processes rather than capital expenditures.

**6. CV Community Foundation Community Enrichment Grant due Sept 24**

- a. Coalition will be applying for support for Coordination
- b. This year CVCF heard community feedback and due to the challenges of the pandemic is allowing organizations to apply for funds to cover operational costs

**7. Anti-racism statement update**

- a. Met with Justice Centre, CV Health Network and Immigrant Welcome Centre to discuss the potential of having a facilitated conversation to work through actionable anti-racism statement

- b. Justice Centre did receive some funding to do this work, but not enough to cover what we are looking for. CVCHN to look into options
- c. Coalition will still work on a statement for now, and keep it to a simple statement for the time being.

#### **8. Division of Family Practice Update**

- a. During the pandemic, great connections and relationships have been built between local healthcare and community agencies, and as a result there have been great accomplishments.
- b. As a result, we have been asked to participate in an upcoming webinar panel to share our learnings about this collaborative effort.
- c. Webinar is scheduled for Sept. 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Upcoming webinar panel highlighting the partnership between local healthcare and community agencies in Comox Valley that occurred during the pandemic
  - i. <https://bcpsqc.ca/event/covid-19-through-a-quality-lens-collaboration-of-health-and-community-resources-during-the-pandemic-and-opioid-crisis-in-the-comox-valley/>

#### **9. Tall Tree Place – Cumberland Housing Update**

- a. Tall Tree Place is a new housing development in Cumberland - 23 units of single parent housing. It has received some seed funding through CMHC, and recently had a neighbourhood meeting which was positive and provided some positive observations and input. Currently the development is in the rezoning stage, and a public hearing is expected to occur mid-October.

#### **10. But Enough Art! Eat! Event – Sept 23**

- a. Andrea has been invited to moderate an event at But Enough Art, Eat! on September 23rd The event is a cooking demonstration where Chef Sloan (Atlas Cafe) will cook with food one would get from the Food Bank, and using a hot plate and microwave prepare a meal that the participants will be able to enjoy.
- b. Those invited to “Break Bread” together will be those with lived/living experience of homelessness, RCMP, elected leaders, and the Downtown Business Improvement Association. The event will include the cooking demonstration, sharing a meal together and opportunities for conversation on the issues that those living with homelessness are faced with.

#### **11. Seniors Housing Update**

- a. Comox Valley Affordable Housing will be able to offer 36 additional units to the community once their 52-unit senior complex is completed. This will replace the 51-year-old, 16-unit building on Balmoral. The projected completion date is March 2022. CVAH has 6 residents in need of housing, the other 10 have found options. Communications to BC Housing have gone out to look at potential solutions
- b. Glacierview is still in the early stages of deciding on the direction of the development. They will be meeting with City of Courtenay planner talk about the proposals

## **12. HRT Update**

- a. Connect/Shower Program continues to be open daily from 10:00-4:00 p.m. CVTS is in the process of hiring for the program and at times the doors may not open till later to allow for staff to operate the shower program.
- b. "Where do we go from here?" discussion for frontline workers will be happening September 18th. This is an initiative of the Community Health Network and focuses on the impacts of the health pandemic on front line workers who are often overwhelmed but continue to put their client needs ahead of their own. The process of "Where do we go from here" focuses on self-reflection and care for self and one another. Other front-line workers who are not a part of the HRT are welcome to join - contact Andrea.
- c. CAT/OPS
  - i. The CV Overdose Awareness Event held on August 31st was wonderful with speakers from government, community agencies, the Hedican's and several Indigenous performers. A sobering fact about the OD deaths in our province is the increasing numbers - a 136% increase from last July, with 175 people losing their lives from fatal overdoses
  - ii. As of September 1st, OPS site has moved to Mental Health & Substance Use services on England Avenue. It is operating 7 days a week from 10:00-2:00p.m. As well the Lifeguard App is in place.
  - iii. Lifeguard App Webinar Sept 10 – 12pm  
[https://phsa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YJPG27InTwuHgv78TAtffQ](https://phsa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YJPG27InTwuHgv78TAtffQ)

## **13. StrongCentre Update**

- a. Ellen Strong Klassen reminded us that their volunteer organization is able to help those living in the community who may need some additional support, including front line workers. StrongCentre has 35 volunteers waiting to be of service
- b. Contact info: Strongcentre.org and info@strongcentre.org

## **14. Immigrant Welcome Centre Update**

- a. The centre is in the process of completing a survey on current services available for newcomers and what other services are needed. Surveys are open to the end of September.
- b. <https://immigrantwelcome.ca/blog/welcoming-communities-coalition-survey>

## **15. Year 6 2020-21 of the 5 Year Plan Updates & EOI Reminder**

- a. Andrea will be sending out EOI application to member agencies. The funding opportunity through the Homelessness Support Services is for capital expenditures toward the creation of new housing and as well pre-construction planning costs (\$5,000).
- b. If your agency has any housing projects being planned in the next few years, please let her know so she can include in the 5 Year Plan.

**16. Other Updates - Andrea**

- a. HSABC Virtual Conference – Sept 24 & 25
  - i. <https://conference.hsa-bc.ca/conference-program.html>
- b. 19 Wing Comox Furniture Available for Nonprofits
  - i. <https://www.gcsurplus.ca/mn-eng.cfm?snc=wfsav&vndsld=0>
- c. CV Unhoused Society is now officially registered as a society. This society will provide housing and assistance to those unhoused, and it has been created by people living on the street, and living with mental health and/or substance use issues.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 12pm via Zoom**