

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness
General Coalition Meeting
February 3rd, 2021**

Attendees: Bunny Shannon (CV Social Planning Society), Heather Ney (CV Transition Society), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Bill Webb (Homeless Veterans Committee), Francois Duval (St. Vincent Du Paul Society), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Wendy Morin (City of Courtenay), Sandra Viney (DCBIA), Ally Reeder (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Brooke, Betty Tate (CV Early Years Collaborative), Wendy Dyck (L'arche), Jesse Ketler (Village of Cumberland), Shari Dunnet (Community Action Team), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United Church), Leah Read (Mental Health & Substance Use), Colleen Holden (Salvation Army), Patti Sture (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Brent Hobden (Salvation Army), Carrera Teal (CV Chamber of Commerce), Leanne R. C. Mann, iPhone

Facilitator: Heather Ney

Recorder: Andrea Cupelli (Coalition Coordinator)

- 1. Presentation: Veteran's Homelessness: Sgt, Bill Webb, (ret) CD Branch 17 Service Officer, BC/Yukon Command Homeless Veterans Committee**
 - a. Identified 14 homeless vets in the Comox Valley
 - b. Need to work to get folks registered with Veterans Affairs and to connect them to community resources
 - i. Majority of homeless veterans won't self-identify /have a hard time reaching out
 - ii. Questions on Homeless Counts make it challenging to self-identify – advocating to make changes
 - c. Currently no provincial housing geared to homeless veterans so advocating for opportunities
 - d. Working with VIU on identifying veterans experiencing homelessness on the Island
 - e. Question: Can the Courtenay Legion provide housing/build housing on top?
 - i. Funding is a challenge
 - ii. Legion can help veterans with 1st/last month payments of rent, groceries, gas and living supports
 - f. Question: Does Military Family Resource Centre only serve those in active service?
 - i. Yes, and their families. They do work with those who are being released out of service back into civilian life and assist families with that transition.

- 2. CVRD Service Review Bylaw Update**
 - a. Consultants presented their recommendations including the following highlights
 - i. Increase tax requisition for the HSS Fund:
 - 1. Option A: a requisition of \$10 per \$100,000 of taxable property value = approximately \$1.3 million**

2. Option B: a requisition of \$3.20 per \$100,000 of taxable property value = approximately **\$423,000**
 3. Option C: the maximum requisition under the current bylaw, a requisition of \$2.00 per \$100,000 of taxable property value = **\$264,000.**
 - ii. Explore whether the Town of Comox may be interested in participating
 - iii. Include Affordable Housing Reserve Fund Contributions to HSS
 - iv. Promo materials to raise the profile and transparency of the HSS
 - v. Fund Coalition coordination of up to the greater of \$30,000 per year or 5% of the value of the HSS
 - vi. Coordinated Access/By-Name List (homelessness needs assessment)
 - vii. Prioritize HSS funding for projects that address chronic and episodic homelessness
 - viii. CVRD and Coalition talk collaboratively with funders (CVCF, United Way etc)
 - ix. Increase HSS pre-development planning costs to \$10,000.
 - x. Create a more formal evaluation framework to score and prioritize EOI applications
 - xi. Establish annual EOI evaluation committee
 - xii. Develop mechanisms for participation of individuals with a lived/living experience of through advisory committee or similar body and revise eligibility criteria for membership in the Coalition and participation in the Leadership Team or in an evaluation committee.
 - xiii. Allocate funding to support the participation of individuals with a lived/living experience of homelessness
 - b. Board has asked staff to prepare a report on recommendations
3. **CVRD Year 6 (2021-22) HSS Fund Budget presentation – February 9th**
 - a. This year, Alana will be asking the board to consider maxing out our HSS fund allocation for this year
 - b. Andrea to present our funding recommendations and give an update on what the Coalition has been up
 4. **Town of Comox Annual Contribution for 2021 Update**
 - a. Our request to increase annual contribution from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and to have this year's funds go towards D2D was received
 - b. Will be discussed at their budget/strategic planning meeting
 5. **EWR Overflow Shelter Update**
 - a. Mostly everything is in place, but we are looking to fill casual staff positions at Connect to be able to operate the EWR Shelter. Can't run the shelter unless we fill these roles
 - b. Shelter would run until March 31st only
 - c. Once we know if it is able to operate we will provide all of the details
 6. **Housing Proposal Letter Update**
 - a. All 4 municipalities endorsed this letter and it was sent to BC Housing, Ministries, MPs, MLAs

- b. Was able to meet with Gord Johns to discuss this proposal and he will advocate on his end to the Province

7. CVRD Restart Fund Grant due Feb 5

- a. One-time funding opportunity through CVRD EOC for community restart programs, operations, services and needs for nonprofits
- b. Coalition is putting forward an application for the continued operation of Connect (staffing)

8. Poverty Reduction Strategy Update

- a. Survey is open until Feb 15
https://connectcvr.ca/povertyreduction/survey_tools/community-survey
- b. Community Engagement Opportunities upcoming in Feb/March
 - i. Small Group Sharing Circles (virtual)
 - 1. focus group-like sessions where participants, identified through various service providers in the region, will be asked to share their experiences with poverty. An honoraria will be provided for those who honour us with their stories.
 - ii. Self-guided Conversation Toolkit
 - 1. Food vouchers will be provide for up to 10 community groups to gather virtually to discuss poverty experiences, issues and opportunities, and share ideas and solutions to addressing key community issues.

9. HRT Update

- a. Motel has been extremely busy and is full and waitlisted.
- b. Connect>Showers have also been busy, lots of new faces and everyone is very hungry. Been offering hot dinners, physician outreach program and onsite 'free store' of warm clothing, tents, sleeping bags etc
- c. CAT Update
 - i. Drug testing strips being utilized, Brave app also being utilized as well as toll free phone number. Awaiting contract for 2021 operations
- d. Unbroken Chain has been busy offering peer outreach, women's sharing circle, harm reduction, elder support and drug testing strips

10. Other Updates

- a. **Coldest Night of the Year**
 - i. Starting Feb 18th. Walk wherever you want, socially distanced.
 - ii. Fundraising goal of \$121,000 – currently #8 in Canada at \$56k!
- b. **Habitat for Humanity**
 - i. 1375 Piercy Rd has been approved! Accessible housing for families in the 30-60k income level (based on BC Housing Income Limits).
 - 1. Contact Karen at karenm@habitatnorthisland.com to submit an application
 - ii. Won the Chamber of Commerce Non Profit of the Year award! Congrats!

c. Wachiay Friendship Centre

- i. Rezoning application for the plans for elders housing have been submitted
- ii. Will be looking for support during Public Hearing
- iii. Submitted application to the BC Housing Community Housing Fund

d. Cumberland Tall Tree Place

- i. Rezoning application and development permit submitted
- ii. Modular housing to be built by Muchulat

e. CVTS 2nd Stage Housing

- i. 40 units – also modular built
- ii. Heading into 3rd reading with City of Courtenay

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12pm via Zoom