

**Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness**  
**General Coalition Meeting**  
**April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Attendees:** Genoa Horsthuis (NIC Nursing) , Hannah Spencer (NIC Nursing), Merisa Lesperence (NIC Nursing), Sandra Viney (DCBIA), Brooke (WorkBC), Pat McKenna (Habitat for Humanity), Francois Clavel (St. Vincent de Paul Society), Shari Dunnet (Community Action Team), Sam Franey (Unhoused Society), Richard Clarke (Dawn to Dawn), Joyce Wilson (St. George's United Church), Laura B, Lindsay McGinn (CV Community Health Network), Edwin Grieve (CVRD), Chris Bate (Pride Society), Stephanie Hendrickson (CR Coalition to End Homelessness), Ally Reeder (Indigenous Women's Sharing Society), Nicole Minions (Town of Comox), Wendy Dyck (L'arche Comox Valley), Jesse Ketter (Village of Cumberland), Steve Theissen, Mackenzie (NIC Nursing), Doug Hillian (City of Courtenay), Katie Barker (CV Division of Family Practice), Carrera Teal (Chamber of Commerce), Mel McCollum (City of Courtenay), Louise Howes (CV Head Injury Society), Colleen Holden (Salvation Army Family Services), Julia Djoknas (Wachiay Friendship Centre), Destanee (CV Transition Society), Donna May (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Lindsay Monk (M'akola Development), Arzeena Hamir (CVRD)

**Facilitator:** Betty Tate (CV Early Years Collaborative)/Coalition Leadership Team

**Recorder:** Andrea Cupelli (Coalition)

**1. Best Practices for Creating a Lived/Living Experience Advisory Team Presentation**

- a. Presented by Genoa Horsthuis, Hannah Spencer, Merisa Lesperence (NIC Nursing Students) 15 min + Q&A
- b. Questions/Discussion
  - i. How to include PWLLE in local government?
    1. Look to Kelowna for examples
    2. Opportunities through community engagement/being inclusive and equitable when looking for feedback
    3. Funding and staff support is challenging – look to discretionary dollars to be able to provide honorariums for participation
  - ii. Use PWLLE acronym (People with Lived and Living Experience)
  - iii. Careful not to engage in tokenism
  - iv. Coalition envisions our PWLLE team to be able to make decisions like a member agency would
    1. We don't want to 'prescribe' how the team will work and once we have people gathered it will be up to the team to decide how they want to be included within the Coalition and to what degree
  - v. Questions about how the Coalition will proceed will be covered in Terms of Reference discussion

## **2. Terms of Reference Update Part 2 – Betty/Andrea**

- a. LT had discussion about Coalition membership, advisory, PWLE including the following recommendations

### **i. Members**

1. Removed health agencies – Island Health is a govt entity therefore Advisory – added them into Advisory, nonprofit agencies such as AVI fall under community groups
2. Removed private sector
3. Removed private housing developers – have tried to engage in the past, but at this point we are focused on nonprofit housing developers – private can be consulted with as needed
4. Chamber of Commerce and BIA – lots of discussion around this, used to be advisory
  - a. Suggested they become members if interested(falling under community groups), otherwise considered advisory
5. Individuals
  - a. Discussion about whether individuals can become members – for now suggested that they cannot, but they can continue to participate in teams such as HRT, PWLE Team who bring recommendations forward

### **ii. Advisory Members**

1. Mostly government related – any group where it would be a conflict of interest to make decisions/vote on Coalition matters
2. Individuals are already considered as part of advisory members – can discuss, bring items forward for consideration but cannot vote

### **iii. Leadership Team**

1. Discussion around who can participate in LT
2. Decided to keep membership requirements the same for now – must be the representative of a member agency

### **iv. People with Lived/Living Experience Team**

1. LT recommends we support the creation of this team
2. Incorporate recommendations given during the presentation
3. Current Description is a placeholder and will be re-assessed during the creation of the team, as we will be asking team how they want to engage with the Coalition and to what level
4. Could potentially have linkages with Homelessness Response Team/opportunities for mentorship

### **v. Discussion/Questions/Consensus Vote**

1. 91% of member agencies voted with whole-hearted agreement (level 5) and 9% voted with level 4 (agree with minor concerns) meaning the recommended changes have been approved by consensus!

- vi. Next up will be ToR reviews for each individual team to make sure they are in alignment with overall General Coalition ToR

- vii. Updated ToR will be emailed out to member agencies and will be posted on our website

### **3. Connect Shelter Update – Heather or Andrea**

- a. Current location is only available until October 2021, viewed a wonderful potential new site on Puntledge beside TGTBT thrift available May 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Have informed the City of our interest and asked about zoning and other considerations
    - 1. Zoned appropriately for day-use of Connect
    - 2. Not zoned for shelter – working with City staff on whether it could be temporarily zoned during the pandemic
    - 3. Building code would have to be met as well
- b. Shelter is at capacity every night and having to turn people away
  - i. Asked City of Courtenay to extend the License to operate the shelter until the end of April and this was approved!
  - ii. BC Housing has committed funds until April 15<sup>th</sup> to keep it operational and is reviewing both shelters to see if they can fund a temporary shelter throughout pandemic
  - iii. Connect Shelter is operational nightly from 8:30pm-8:30am

### **4. UBCM Strengthening Communities Grant Update - Andrea**

- a. Coalition working with CVTS, CVRD, City of Courtenay planning staff on grant.
- b. 1.25 million dollars to go towards operation of Connect and temporary shelter, expanded outreach services to reach rural areas and islands, peer-led neighbourhood clean-up initiatives, community and neighbourhood engagement where shelter, Connect and motels are located, increased funding for bylaw for clean-up and other services, training for municipal staff (bylaw, parks, recreation etc) as well as nonprofit volunteers/staff (cultural competency, trauma informed care etc)
- c. Staff Report and resolution going to CVRD on the 13<sup>th</sup> – CVRD is main applicant and grant is due April 16th

### **5. HRT Update**

- a. Connect/Showers Update
  - i. Connect/Showers were closed this week during the day so staff could be trained to do their VATS (Vulnerability Assessment Test) for supportive housing
- b. Motel Update
  - i. Motel remains busy, waitlisted
  - ii. Motel contract with BC Housing has been extended until Dec 31, 2021
  - iii. Looking to hire a 2<sup>nd</sup> security guard
  - iv. Motel is not a long-term solution – we need all of these folks to go into supportive housing (need another building of 50 units)
- c. CAT Update – Shari
  - i. Funding has been renewed for another year
  - ii. Working with peer outreach, drug testing other projects

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 12pm via Zoom**