



Nanaimo  
Homeless  
Coalition

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**NHC Meeting**  
**10am - 12pm, July 2, 2020**

In attendance:

Jason Harrison (CMHS), Yvonne Borrows (Salvation Army), Lisa Bhopalsingh (CoN), Karin Kronstal (CoN), Signy Madden (UWCNVI), Dave LaBerge (CoN), Dave Steward (CoN), Grace Kerr (Service Canada), Andrew Thornton (JHS), John McCormick (JHS), Nadia Boukhouali (MSDPR), Karly Fennell (IH), Terra Kaethler (UWCNVI), Nicole Benson (UWCNVI), Emily Sorensen (UWCNVI), Shelley Johnstone (UWCNVI), Violet Hayes (ICCS), Inga Cooper (Tillicum Lelum), Kix Citton (NBIS), Isha Matous-Gibbs (Unitarian Shelter), Paul Sibley (Nanaimo Hospice), Chantale Roelens (SEIA), Don Bonner (City Councilor), Erin Hemmens (City Councilor), Shelley Maunula (Haven), Rana Van Tuyl (Celebrate our Differences), Kim Smythe (Chamber of Commerce), Theo Boere (The Men's Centre), E. Jane Osborne (Public Health), Amanda Lemon (Island Health), Andrew Ferguson (JHS), Dennis Creighton and Alexis Petersen (Harewood Neighbourhood House), Jill Smith (AVI), Taryn O'Flanagan (VIMHS), Keith Wilson (NYSA), Deirdre O'Beirne-Rosaeg (MP assistant), Horst Backe (Presenter), Jane Vinet, Corrie Corfield (ICCS), Deborah Hollins (NFLA), Taryn O'Flanagan (VIMHS), Guy Beaulieu (Mid Island Metis Nation), Lisa Murphy, Annemarie tosh (JHS)

**Chair: Jason Harrison (CMHA) and Yvonne Burrows (Salvation Army)**

**Minutes:**

1. Welcome/Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Confirm minutes of May 7, 2020 NHC meeting  
**MOTION to accept the Minutes**  
Moved by Signy Madden      Seconded by Kix Citton      **PASSED**

NOTE: from Andrew Thornton regarding the PiT count info from May 7, 2020 minutes:  
It was stated that there were only 5 PiT counts, however, there were a number of provincial counts completed as well.

3. Confirm agenda  
**MOTION to accept the Agenda**

4. Presentation by Horst Backe (LOVE CRN) on 2SLGBTQ youth, adults and seniors who are homeless or experiencing housing challenges.
  - Presentation will be shared by Horst
  - United Way will share with other Coalitions in Campbell River, Comox and Cowichan
  - Horst will have a conversation with Yvonne around doing some staff training
  - Jane Osborne - BC Community Response networks would also be happy to work with Horst on training in the Community
  - Deborah Hollins just hired a trans outreach worker 15 hrs a week around counselling and housing and would like to connect Horst with this worker
  - Horst added that recognizing and acknowledging peoples' challenges and needs is a good step to getting folks into a more living and supportive housing environment
  
5. Rent Bank (David Stewart, CoN)
  - The City has been talking to Rent Bank on how to get this going in Nanaimo
  - This is a tool that provides low or interest free loans to help people keep their housing
  - There was an initial discussion with potential operators before COVID
  - During COVID there has been a moratorium on evictions
  - A call was put out for Financial support and in-kind support for Rent Bank
  - JHS and SEIA have shown interest and have experience in this area
  - BC Rent bank is asking for the lead applicant to apply and the deadline is tomorrow
  - The 2 applicants left the call while there was a discussion held
  - The City will have a further conversation regarding the Coalition supporting the Rent Bank long-term
  - Majority vote to support the lead applicant

**MOTION to email CAB membership following this meeting with the 2 received proposals, for a vote for the best applicant to lead the Nanaimo Rent Bank**

Moved by Yvonne Borrows    Seconded by Signy Madden    **PASSED**

6. Winter Shelter Operator Opportunity (Heidi)
  - POSTPONED as Heidi was unavailable

**Updates:**

7. NHC Governance Committee Update (Jason)
  - Shelter operators along with UWCNVI and Service Canada met 3 times a week for first 6 weeks of COVID
  - We are now moving to NHC Governance discussions on our standing Wednesday meetings
  - The Coalition is being looked to for numerous ideas, statements, support on various things, rent back, HHTF, Coordinated Access, etc.
  - We will need feedback from the membership and need a process for getting peoples input
  - Folks are welcome to join the Governance committee if you would like
  - We are looking at how we communicate and provide information to keep people informed
  - There was a draft shared with you as part of this meeting package as an oversight document and engagement practices. It was a first attempt at framing the Terms of Reference. What we are looking at is not fully opening up the process, but a review of key portions of the TOR and then allow the membership to weigh in on our purpose and vision. We are looking at taking a lot of the detail and putting it in a second procedure document.

- We would like to engage in a more meaningful way and get clear on what we are working towards as a Coalition; clarity on committees; membership (voting and non-voting) and if it will be majority based voting or consensus based model
- All recommendations are welcome to inform this process
- Signy Madden added that the recommendations that come out of HHTF and clarification from the City on their role, will help define further the role of the Coalition in conjunction with BC Housing and Island health.

#### 8. COVID-19 Updates – City/HHTF update (Karin, CoN)

- We are still having the Vulnerable Population meetings every 2 weeks with shelter providers.
- The Food Security working group meetings regularly as well– next meeting July 9
- HHTF had its last meeting last week and discussed integrated Coordinated Access. We are getting to the point to bring forward some recommendations. There was information about this, sent as an attachment for this meeting.
- Please feel free to watch the recorded HHTF meeting and send any questions or comments
- Dr. Turner will be presenting again at next meeting July 8 as well as presentations from other communities that have implemented CA
- Signy asked about the Nanaimo integrated needs assessment document, and when are we sharing this with the Coalition as it is great information. Karin said that they are in the process of getting more information.  
We had DR. Turner do a deep dive into what investments are coming into our community and what resources are available, to identify gaps and that is what this document is. If you go to the City website, and click on Council meetings to get to Committees and look at past HHTF meetings and you can see all the videos and power points. We will share out some of Dr. Turners presentations from the last few meetings. Very interesting information about how much money to invest into housing provincially and federally.

#### 9. RH update (Signy/Terra, UWCNVI)

- Update on RH COVID funding
  - We received an additional amount of funding, back in May, of almost \$400,000. We had a vote go to the CAB to open up a call for proposal for \$150,000 for Designated funding applications and \$150,000 for Indigenous funding applications, which closed June 15. The Allocations committee met twice last week to review the 7 applications and there was a higher ask than available funds. We recommended 5 applications and voted by e-vote earlier this week to accept those applications. Also in May, we had \$20,000 in Designated and \$20,000 in Indigenous funding for immediate needs and have provided emergency funding to SEIA, Unitarian Shelter, and Literacy Central. There is still funding available in both of these funding streams for future use.
  - Signy thanked the United Way staff for all of their hard work in getting funding out to the community.
- Update from VIMHS on Staff Training contract (Taryn)
  - There was a training contract put out before COVID hit
  - There have since been considerable challenges around booking venues, as they aren't open, so we will be offering some online options. There will be some training set up in August and September.
  - The face to face training will be a challenge, however we are still on it and still coordinating it and will use some creative ways to make that happen.
  - We will send out a proposed training schedule soon.
- Update on Turner Strategies initiative/Helpseeker (Karin, CoN)

- SEE #8 ABOVE from Karin
10. BC Housing funds available for affordable and supportive housing (MLA Sheila Malcolmson TBC)
    - POSTPONED as Sheila Malcolmson was unavailable
  11. Business update (Kim, Chamber)
    - POSTPONED as Kim Smythe was unavailable
  12. Communications update (Nicole, UWCNVI)
    - Thank you to everyone who has been providing content for interviews and blogs
    - Newsletter will be coming out soon
    - There will be Social meetings, and Virtual events coming up
    - Marketing is on the go for the Helpseeker platform and information on the PiT Count
    - Please keep sharing information so that we can share it out
    - Jason sent out a big thank you to UW staff for all of their hard work
  13. Pit Count update (Andrew, NJHS)
    - Andrew has finished his report and is in the final stages and will present to HHTF and then to Council this summer
    - The final number was around 425 people, but we know this is a low number and doesn't include modular housing people, as well as there are definitely other that were not counted that day
    - We were one of the only communities that got a count in before COVID shut downs
  14. Round table: Service provider updates as time permits (or on open line after meeting)
    - Salvation Army has a new transitional housing unit for 4 men opening in August. It is a shared accommodations and is dry, sober housing. It could be all female if no males apply. The house is on Robart street.

Meeting adjourned 12:02pm

**Next Meeting: TBD - mid to end august**