

Nanaimo Homeless Coalition

Let's Talk About
Homelessness in Nanaimo



Coalition Meeting 10am - 12pm September 12, 2019 Training Centre, 2133 Bowen Road Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce Minutes

In attendance: Dave LaBerge (CoN), John McCormick (NRJHS), Lisa Bhopalsingh (CoN), Karin Kronstal (CoN), Grace Kerr (Service Canada), Signy Madden (UWCNVI), Shelly Maunula (Haven Society), Dave Sherr (Nanaimo RCMP), Andrew Thornton (JHS), Andrew Ferguson (JHS), Emily Sorensen (UWCNVI), Heidi Hartman (BC Housing), Kim Smythe (Chamber of Commerce), Yvonne Barrows (The Salvation Army), Jeannine Bousquet (MSDPR), Kix Citton (Nanaimo Brain Injury Society), Alexis Petersen (Harewood Neighbourhood House), Norma Winsper (IH), Paul Sibley (Nanaimo Hospice), Gord Fuller (7-10 club), Taryn O'Flanagan (VIMHS), Terra Kaethler (UWCNVI), Nicole Benson (UWCNVI), Jason Harrison (CMHA), Don Bonner (CoN), Violet Hayes (ICCS), Inga Cooper (Tillicum Lelum), Theresa MacDonald (Nanaimo Women's Center)

Co-Chairs: Yvonne Burrows, Salvation Army and Jeannine Bousquet (MSDPR)

1. Confirm minutes of August Coalition meeting. Confirm agenda - Call for new items.
 - o Minutes Confirmed and no new items submitted.
2. Health and Housing Task Force update (Lisa and Coalition members on HHTF)
 - o Lisa Bhopalsingh (CoN) – at the Sept 4, 2019 meeting there were several presentations. Lisa Murphy from Island Health, spoke regarding the roll of her organization and different treatments available. She talked about her current operations, # of psychiatric beds, etc. There was also a BC housing presentation regarding different affordable housing units in Nanaimo, and Signy gave an overview of UW Reaching Home funds. All are welcome to attend next meeting is Sept 18 at 411 Dunsmuir street, the city community services building All docs and meeting minutes are on the website – see there for details.
 - o We discussed what resources are coming into the community to deal with health and housing issues
 - o Brief discussion about membership - and other ways of bringing in other groups through presentations and workshops
 - o Dr. Alina turner will be at the next meeting to discuss how she sees Coordinated

Access in our community. Coordinated Access is just one aspect of a bigger system. She will speak on system planning and asset mapping.

- Signy Madden (UWCNVI) – John McCormick, Jason Harrison and Kim Smythe and I, from the Coalition are on the Health and Housing Task Force and folks can talk to us about any points of clarification or questions.
- Oct 2 – The Homelessness Coordinator for City of Abbotsford will come to talk about how they use an asset mapping process to bring in all the different sectors to address the issue around homelessness and build key strategies.

3. Reaching Home Business (Signy, Grace, Terra)

a) Community Plan 2019-2020

- Signy Madden (UWCNVI) – A reminder that we have 5 years of Federal funding through Reaching Home. We are in the first year of next iteration and our direction from Service Canada was that we should renew the funding of agencies that we have been funding in the past. The only agency that we didn't renew was the Unitarian Shelter as they are getting BC Housing funding now.
- We need to decide before March 31, 2020, what we are going to spend the slippage from Unitarian shelter on, the community plan piece and messaging to the Federal Government to say this is how we want to direct these funds into the community in the coming years. Terra is working on the Community Plan. We need to identify what other funding is coming into the community so we have that info as well. It is a concerted effort on multiple funding levels.
- Grace Kerr (Service Canada) – under Reaching Home it's a Community Plan, but, really it is an investment plan. Communities are asked to submit an investment plan over the next 5 years and one of the requirements is fund matching. The deadline is OCT 2 and needs approval from this table.
- Signy would like to send the Plan out after the meeting and have a vote electronically, as we are waiting on a few pieces of information before we can finalize the plan.
- We will have a place holder for year 2-5 of funding – The Coalition will need to decide how to spend the funds and on the process to shift the funds as needed.
- John McCormick (JHS) – point of clarification – plan by OCT 2 to Grace and the CE drafts the plan – Grace answered yes.
- Then also in terms of the slippage of about \$50,000, what would we be allowed to spend that on? Grace answered any priority for RH – more towards - housing services, client supports, capitol investments, admin – plan is broad priority no specifics – slippage has to be included in the investment plan for Reaching Home.
- Signy – we need a Motion around taking on the Pit Count and allocating funds – and then is it a call for proposal or direct reward to JHS. JHS has gone to provincial training around this and has experience from doing it in the past.
- **Inga Cooper put forth:
Motion to put up to \$25,000 towards PiT count
Gord Fuller second
Motion PASSED**
GORD Fuller proposed that it should go out to the community to see if there is anyone else that wants to do the PiT count. **The CE will send out a Letter of intent with a week timeframe.**
- **Inga Cooper put forth:
Motion that if no other agency comes forward, then it goes to JHS**

Gord Fuller second
MOTION PASSED

- Inga Cooper put forth:
Motion that the Allocations Committee look at our Community Action Plan to see what our needs are and make a recommendation to the Coalition around slippage. This may be assigned to a committee to allocate the slippage quickly.

Shelly Maunula Second
Motion PASSED

- Violet Cooper put forth:
Motion to have Electronic vote around the community plan

Taryn O'Flanagan Second
MOTION PASSED

- b) Update and discussion on funding available for 2019-2020
 - Signy Madden (UWCNVI) - We have \$50,000 slippage that needs to be spent before the end of the fiscal year. \$25,000 at least will be used for PIT count. How else should we spend the funds?
- c) Update on Indigenous funding and future CE for 2020-21
 - Grace Kerr (Service Canada) Besides Designated funding, there is also Indigenous funding. The Community Entity agreement with United Way ends March 31, 2020. We fund the Young Moms and Navigator programs with Tillicum for \$217K. The department will be engaging with the community to look to increase opportunities and potentially a transition to an indigenous agency to be the CE.
 - Wanda Shicura will lead the consultation process.

4. PiT Counts (Signy)

- a) Fall Pit Count – It is not recommended that we proceed at this time with a Fall PiT Count and will therefore only do a Spring count. We can plan for 2 counts in 2022 if we feel it is necessary. This is all funded under the RH funding.
- b) Spring Pit Count – See above motion to direct the CE to put out an RF Letters of Interest from agencies wanting to carry out the count and a draft budget.

5. Coordinated Access Committee update (rep from Committee)

- We have \$60K in funding this year and we have 3 years to do this work to do research and come to community based agreements
 - H&H task force has an urgent need to get CA up and running
- a) Helpseeker
recommendation to approve contract to Helpseeker for \$13,000 for initial data collection and backend analysis.
 - CA committee recommends approving the \$13,000 for this year
 - Jason has been working with Helpseeker– there are 10-12 communities nationwide working with Helpseeker. Jason indicated that the primary work has been done using current data. The \$13,000 contract buys us our annual license to access the back end of the service. It will help us inform building a system for the community and doing gap analysis.
 - The data set is ours so we can use it if we decide to go another way in future years. The service allows us to be iterative, gives agencies the ability to go directly in and update their information and provides a template for our community. Their cost

structure is based on population size. Everyone must commit to providing accurate information. You can learn more at helpseeker.org

- **CE recommended and Taryn O'Flanagan put forth**
- **MOTION to approve contract of \$13,000 to HelpSeeker**
Violet Hayes second
Motion PASSED

- b) Upcoming learning opportunities with HHTF (see #2)
- c) Coordinated Access committee is exploring regional opportunities with the RDN.

6. Coalition communications plan/agenda update (Nicole)

- a) Logo and website are drafted and were shown to Coalition. Currently on the UW site but will move over to its own eventually. Lisa commended Nicole and team for getting this done in a short amount of time. We will also ask agencies to have a link to this site from their home page. Comms is a group effort and needs everyone's input and buy in. Any of the BC housing and Provincial homelessness secretariat can also link to this site.
- b) The Communications strategy is in draft form and will be ready to present to the Coalition at the October meeting. Official launch will be on World Homelessness Day Oct 10.
- c) Glossary of terms is nearly complete and we are aligning with BC Housings Terminology

**Ocean side task force of which Jason, Violet, Heidi sit on, would like to discuss with the Comms Committee a way to formalize and standardize common language around this issue and they do have a website as well. Signy shared that we are working with Courtney Simpson at the RDN on a regional approach. This may include Comms too.

d) **OCT 10 is World Homelessness Day** – 6-7 United Ways will be presenting the video created by Victoria around homelessness. The City is happy to partner with an Agency on that day for an event.

OCT 13-19 BC homeless action week

Nov 22 – National Housing Day

Comms committee will send out an email around participating in events
Potentially an open house event around the agencies

7. Upcoming events (Lisa)

- a) World Homelessness Day on Oct 10th
<http://www.worldhomelessday.org/> And the week of events lower mainland communities
<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/homelessness-action-week.aspx>
- b) HSABC upcoming conference announcement – see attachment

8. Coalition committees and membership (Signy/Terra)

- a) Updated lists– an updated list will be sent out by email
- b) How to join a committee - talk to Terra

9. Agency Roundtable (All)

- John McCormick (JHS) – Kelowna JHS has material on what it is like to be homeless and will share with Comms committee
- Paul Sibley (Nanaimo Hospice) – We launched a 31 ft. motor home to use for grief work and play therapy with children to schools as is necessary. We believe that we need to show up with the marginalized folks to connect and help them with the grief in their life. The label “Grief mobile” has kind of stuck.
- Shelly Maunula (Haven House) – We have been busy transitioning to a new ED. While we are still struggling with housing, there seems to be a bit more availability and things seem to be balancing out a bit with pricing so that is hopeful.
- Lisa Bhopalsingh (CoN) – In 2019-2020 we are seeing increased numbers of projects finishing so other housing is becoming available which we want to see if that moves the dial on affordable housing.
- Gord Fuller (7-10 Club) Addiction issues are skyrocketing in the community. The 7-10 Club may plan something for World Homeless day.
- Kix Citton (NBIS) – Up to 53% of homeless have acquired Brain Injury. The PiT count doesn't have a question on Brain injury so will ask about that.
Regarding Coordinated Access – we are working on looking at best practices in integrated care and are hoping to have preliminary results by November.
- Theresa Macdonald (Women's center) – there are a lot of single elderly women that we are finding it very difficult to house, with nothing available.
- Signy Madden (UWCNVI) Regarding Period Promise – there is a pilot this year across the province around women's hygiene products and The Nanaimo Women's center is distributing these products in our region. We will come back to the Coalition at some point to advocate for additional funding. Regarding BC 10 CE – I talked to secretariat and asked how they will be interacting with local Coalitions to get information. There will be Community integration specialists. Jeannine Bousquet added that they are still doing outreach but going to be more out in the community rather than in offices.
They allocated ministry staff.
****Can we invite them to come and do a short presentation from them – Bill French is the supervisor – Ministry of Social development and poverty reduction**
SPARC BC has some Grant funding available that we will be looking into.
Community Health Centers help people stay out of the hospitals. We are doing work around this that we may be able to approach the province around funding and will want to find out who we would be pushing for these centers to serve – ie: the hardest to house, most marginalized, etc.
- Alexis Petersen (Harewood Neighbourhood House) – Harewood is going through big changes in community transition, development and infrastructure building.
- Inga Cooper (Tillicum Lelum) – Young moms says thanks for funding for young moms for new furniture and painting, etc. Unfortunately, there have been bed bug issues and cockroaches so if anyone has any solutions we would love to hear about it.
Jason Harrison (CMHA) has suggestions.
- Dave Sherr (Nanaimo RCMP) – There are still homelessness people and social disorder. We are seeing new faces to the street daily and it will be interesting to see what happens with the bad weather approaching.
- Jason Harrison (CMHA) – we are actively working with over 200 homeless people that have signed consent for assistance and about as many have declined to give consent

for assistance. We are mapping encampment areas and are currently up to 74 and know that we don't have all of them. We coordinate doing some encampment cleans with bylaws and public works. We did get some more subsidies out of the tent city scenario and we are getting close to using those up. We work with the RCMP and By-laws to do the best that we can.

- Violet Hayes (ICCS) – We have been pretty busy with the new building in Parksville. Building has started up on the building we lost to the fire at NEWCASTLE. The legal date for the law suit for the Newcastle site is coming up as well.
- Kim Smythe (Chamber) – We have conducted 3 field surveys regarding the homeless population. In the last study - Downtown, Old City quarter, Woodgrove, Northtown – the rising crime stats are not necessarily tied to rising homelessness. I have requested an appearance at council next week to release the business communities point of view on this to the city council.
- Signy Madden (UWCNVI) There will be an ALL CANDIDATES meeting - OCT 10 to ask the candidates where they are at and what the level of understanding is around the problems we are facing in our communities.
VITAL SIGNS is typically in OCT but will be NOV 7, right after the election.
- Norma Winsper (IH)– Homelessness is no longer a storm its now climate change – it is the new norm in our community.
- Yvonne Burrows (SA) – Our shelter is now not time restricted as long as the participants are working. Changing tenant support program to housing loss prevention – a lot of change happening.
- Heidi Hartman (BC Housing) – our executive approved St Peters to open November 1st to March 31st and be operate, as they did last year, by the Women's Centre. This is for 40 beds.

8. Next Meeting - October 3rd 10-12pm – at the SARC Building