



**NHC Meeting**  
**10am - 12pm, October 1, 2020**

**In attendance:**

Jason Harrison (CMHS), Yvonne Borrows (Salvation Army), Karin Kronstal (CoN), Signy Madden (UWCNVI), Dave LaBerge (CoN), Dave Stewart (CoN), Grace Kerr (Service Canada), Andrew Thornton (JHS), John McCormick (JHS), Andrew Ferguson (JHS) Nadia Boukhouali (MSDPR), Karly Fennell (IH), Terra Kaethler (UWCNVI), Nicole Benson (UWCNVI), Emily Sorensen (UWCNVI), Shelley Johnstone (UWCNVI), Sara Couper (UWCNVI), Violet Hayes (ICCS), Isha Matous-Gibbs (Unitarian Shelter), E. Jane Osborne (Public Health), Amanda Lemon (Island Health), Jill Smith (AVI), Taryn O'Flanagan (VIMHS), Jane Vinet (NCHN), Corrie Corfield (ICCS), Deborah Hollins (NFLA), Guy Beaulieu (Mid Island Metis Nation) Annemarie Tosh (JHS), David Lamire (OHWN OCEANSIDE), Josh McDuffy (Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre), Ilan Goldenblatt (MP office), Delaney Gunn (Literacy Central), Kirsten Brooker, Kayla Lilledahl, William Singh (Men's Centre), Leah (MSDPR), Carolyn Sampson (VI Community Corrections)

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

**Minutes:**

1. Welcome/Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Confirm minutes of July 2, 2020 NHC meeting.  
**MOTION to accept the Minutes**  
Moved: John McCormick Second: Deborah Hollins **PASSED**
3. Confirm agenda  
**MOTION to accept the Agenda PASSED**

**Updates:**

4. NHC Governance Committee Update (Jason)
  - Survey results and Discussion:
    - Jason walked through the Survey results and discussed findings.
    - Overall, people agree with the direction, vision, values of the Coalition, but learned that some tweaks are needed to ensure all voices are heard.
    - The Coalition needs to do better engagement and have better

- involvement/representation from people with lived experience.
  - There is a need to clarify processes and communicate that out to all members.
  - We need to define the message that we are putting out to the community and the asks of what our community needs on a Provincial and Federal level.
  - We need to have a connection to the Community Health Network which is in the early phases of development.
  - There are significant issues with not enough low barrier services for the specific needs on the street and many people are not getting the support that they need and ending up on the street
  - There is still much work to be done. Please be patient with us as we do this work off the side of our desks but believe it to be very important work.
- **Revised Meeting Schedule (proposed: Oct 1, Dec 1, Feb 1, etc.)**

#### 5. City of Nanaimo update (Dave/Karin, CoN)

- Nanaimo was selected as a host city to receive a Navigation Centre, which will be a 24/7 supportive shelter. The RFP will go out in the next few months for a location. Please contact the City if this is of interest to you. This is a pilot program and may become a template for other communities. There will be one in Vancouver and one in Nanaimo and these are the first in Canada. The goal is to have it up and running in the spring. It will be similar to the Salvation Army and Samaritan House but may provide various other supports that are in the works.
- The Emergency Resource Centre is on track for a mid-October opening.
- HHTF process
  - There is a HHTF meeting today, which will include an update from Dr. Turner regarding work on governance issues and the Emergency Food Strategy in Nanaimo. The Task Force has been extended to the end of November.
- Turner Strategies initiative/Helpseeker
  - Helpseeker platform: We are investing in mapping the services in Nanaimo. If anyone has had experience using this platform, please feel free to provide feedback to Karin or Terra. It is an important tool to tell the story of supply and demand and also for collecting the back information for Coordinated Access to supply info to BC211 and Surviving Nanaimo.
  - The Helpseeker team is doing work in the background to promote traffic and creating a community page for Nanaimo that specifically showcases our organizations.
  - It was discussed that a webinar around Helpseeker at the next Coalition meeting (Dec. 1) would be useful.
- Rapid Re-Housing Application
  - There was a Federal Government announcement with more details to come. Signy, John and Jason were active with an ask from Adam Vaughn regarding needs in our communities, a few months ago and sent in some information that helped us get some funding for Capital purchases and programming.
  - John McCormick added that we really need to think about how we prepare people for a co-living situation.
  - We continue to work on the announcement for the 5 new BC Housing supportive housing sites and are starting early development conversations.

## 6. RH update (Terra, UWCNVI)

- Update on RH COVID funding - Round 2
- New announcement: Additional Federal funding coming of \$236.7M across Canada through RH for COVID response. Amounts for Nanaimo not announced as of yet. The timeframe is quick - it needs to be spent by March 31, 2021.
  
- Update on RH funding 2020-2021:
  - COVID Round 1 funding: \$157M in Federal RH funding went out previously this year across Canada for COVID response. We received about \$400k for Nanaimo, approximately \$200,000 of that in Nanaimo Designated (ND) stream and \$200,000 in the Nanaimo Indigenous (NI) stream.
    - Of this total amount, 5 projects were funded in August (SEIA, AVI, Salvation Army, Snuneymuwx FN and Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre) for their efforts to respond to COVID.
    - The CAB also allocated \$20,000 towards Emergency Funds from each stream (for a total of \$40,000) to be granted out by the United Way at \$2000 maximum for Emergency response related to acute basic needs. 5 projects have been funded through the ND stream, and 1 through the NI stream. There is still a balance for these funds, and all are encouraged to apply.
  
  - RH base funding: Overall RH 2020-21 budget, most has been allocated for this year.
  - Housing sub-contracts (SEIA Tenant Support, JHS Housing First and JHS Support Services) are in place until March 31, 2021. Everyone has been affected by COVID, so the first quarter reports show agencies struggling as many had to close or reduce services. Q2 reports are due October 30<sup>th</sup>, but agencies are beginning to re-open with proper PPE in place, shift programs to online and otherwise move forward with their projects.
  - VIMHS staff trainings have moved to online training sessions and Taryn has some space in the next session. Please register at [vimhs.org](http://vimhs.org). for "Support our clients to maintain better tenancy". End of October there will be 2 Safe Talk courses which is an intro to conversations around suicide. There is still space available. Mental health first aid online as of November. This is 1 full day training to get certified and there will be 4 trainings between November and February.
  
  - Coordinated Access contracts are all on track. Turner Strategies Design Labs shifted to online or smaller format. Communications work and Helpseeker going.
  - Call for Proposal for a Coordinated Access lead. It will be a November-March contract. The remaining balance of funds recommended to go towards Helpseeker for systems mapping platform renewal for next year.
  
- Next step is to review projects for 2021-2022.

## 7. Business/Community update (Kim, Chamber, RCMP/by-laws - TBC)

- Moved to next agenda –not available

## 8. Communications update (Nicole, UWCNVI)

- The New website launched and is an easier platform for everyone to be using.

- It will focus on the education side of things, with a social media campaigns called “get the facts”. We are always looking for more feedback.
- There will also be a monthly Campaign called “Did you know”, around dispelling myths. Last month featured different types of housing and next month will be the cost of homelessness. You can download these resources as well so that they can be shared out through your social media.
- The Newsletter has been a great success. Please forward any relevant info to us and we will be happy to share it out.
- Karin had the idea of getting into the schools to talk about homelessness and prevention. We will connect and see what we can offer. Perhaps a video or a poster rather than in person.
- Homelessness action week Oct 11-16, with a news release and a letter to the editor. We are putting together some knowledge sessions with experts in homelessness – Isha, Andrew, plus others. Next year perhaps a panel of people with lived experience. This is an opportunity to offer agencies or organizations access to these experts for a session or discussion.
- Pit Count Report (Nicole, UWCNVI/Andrew, NJHS)
  - PiT count – Signy, Andrew, John presented to City Council on Monday and have had media interviews in the past few days and sharing out the information through news releases. Feel free to share any of the information and graphics.
  - Andrew thanked the Comms team for all their work on the PiT Count and video.
  - We have a significant amount of homeless people compared to other communities across the country, living on the street without any shelter at all.
  - Please share your organizations news and events so we can share out.
  - Carolyn added that Marina would love to have a voice at the table for the nations to ensure that all of the information is captured for PiT counts.

9. Round table: Service provider updates as time permits (or on open line after meeting)

- Josh McDuffy, Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, and Delaney (Literacy Central) brought up concerns re: Wesley Street
  - Discussion ensued around concerns on Wesley St.
  - NAC and Literacy Central have been working on developing a new Youth Outreach Program for street entrenched youth. They have noticed the lack of access to water on Wesley street is a growing concern. It was shared that we are losing the narrative around homelessness in our City and that many people experiencing homelessness can't or won't access programs and services but have the basic human right to access water and sanitation. These are chronically and systemically forgotten needs.
  - Jason (CMHA) – Agreed people do need access to water and sanitation and that we must find solutions to provide services to individuals in need. We need a plan as to how we provide services on the street. Mentioned there are services at the end of the street and people that live there.
  - Dave Stewart added that there never was water access on Wesley Street. There are 3 water fountains available downtown and the City added portable washrooms to Wesley Street and 2 other locations.
  - Josh is looking for documentation on the sanitation frequency. Dave understands that it is daily and can follow up to provide the information.
  - Jason to meet with City and Coalition members about how we are responding to Wesley street and what we can do going forward to find some solutions.

- Yvonne – Salvation Army has 2 empty beds in their men’s sober housing – so please send along any referrals.
- Amanda Lemon – Island Health as a COVID related project funded for 9 weeks that is entirely outreach based, with 2 nurses, 4 physicians and 2 peers. We are learning how to provide the service in the best way possible. We go to the shower programs on Mondays for primary care needs, as well as both of the modular sites. Tuesday downtown parking lot location as well. We are trying to capture some data for outreach primary care within the city to be able to expand the program. Will share the flyer as to where we are located and when.

**MOTION to adjourn meeting – PASSED**  
**Next Meeting Dec 1, 10-12am TBD**