

Kelowna Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Minutes

DATE: January 19,2017

Chair: Randy Benson

Minutes Recorder: Mia Burgess, COF

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

P = Present, A = Absent, R = Regrets

	SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE:	NAME:	ORGANIZATION:
P	Chair	Randy Benson	Kelowna Gospel Mission
P	Funder/Vice Chair	Ian Gerbrandt	United Way
-	Rehabilitation	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
P	Housing / Shelter	Liz Talbott	NOW Canada
R	Provincial Government/Youth	David Hentschel	Ministry of Children & Family Development
R	Aboriginal	Sarah Martin	Community Member
R	Aboriginal	Cam Martin	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre
P	Education	Phil Bond	UBC Okanagan
R	Provincial Government/Health	Sandra Robertson	Interior Health Authority
R	Mental Health/Housing	Mike Gawliuk	Canadian Mental Health Association
P	Faith	Don Richmond	Evangel Church
-	Corrections	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
P	Diversity/Community Information/Volunteerism	Ellen Boelcke	Kelowna Community Resources
R	Provincial Government/Housing	Nanette Drobot	BC Housing
P	Front Line Youth	Diane Entwistle	Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
P	Municipal Government	Sue Wheeler	City of Kelowna
Non-Voting Members:			
P	Central Okanagan Foundation	Cheryl Miller	Community Entity/Foundation / Funder
P	Central Okanagan Foundation	Mia Burgess	Community Entity/Foundation / Funder
P	Service Canada	Wayne Ackerman	Federal Government
R	Service Canada	Lisa McHaffie	Federal Government
Guests:			
p	Provincial Government	Alex Vracarevic	Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
P	Municipal Government	Natalie Serl	City of Kamloops
P	Mental Health/Housing	Stephanie Matthews	Canadian Mental Health Association
P	Rehabilitation	Mona Hennenfent	Brain Trust

MINUTES DISTRIBUTION

- CAB-H Members, Steven Fuhr, MP

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1. Welcome and Introductions	Randy

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
2. Approval of November, 2016 minutes and January, 2017 agenda	Randy
Approved	Diane, Phil (seconded)
3. Community Court Project	The Honourable Geoffrey Barrow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff Barrow is a former Prosecutor and Supreme Court Justice, now retired • Has experience with individuals that encounter the justice system • Volunteers with JHS locally and met Ottawa Law student over the summer who wanted to know about previous Community Court initiative (Kelowna 2010-2012) • Prefers to use term “integrated court” rather than Community Court, as it is a more accurate description • Didn’t come into project with pre-conceived notions about Community Court • Began meeting with people in the community to determine if there was support for a renewed Community Court • Learned about what the community does, thought about why it didn’t work and what, if anything, has changed in the community since 2012 <p>Community Court/Integrated Court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People before the court have pleaded guilty; this is not a trial court • Individuals before this court commit less significant offences • Offences before the court are summary offences under the Criminal code of Canada ex: theft under \$5,000, mischief, common assault • Summary conviction offences encompass the most minor offences in the Criminal Code • Hybrid Offences can be proceeded by indictment or summary conviction • Offenders must indicate a desire to address underlying problem that gave rise to offending • Offenders typically have addiction challenges, mental health disorders and are often experiencing homelessness • This court is integrated because it tries to achieve integration on 3 levels • Principals of sentencing: denunciation; deterrence-general and individual; protection of public and rehabilitation • Pre-sentence reports are prepared for the Judge by Probation Officers and take hours to complete • These reports help explain circumstances surrounding offender • Pre-sentence reports are not conducted on all offenders before the court. If no pre-sentence report is provided to the Judge, the court knows less about a person’s life circumstances • Individuals before the court often don’t have the ability to explain the circumstances of their lives • Integrated courts ensure the Judge understands the circumstances of the offender • Community Courts can be overburdened with cases to address high needs • Must be a commitment from the community support workers and health ministries to contribute staff to attend court • Court must be efficient 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Referrals: RCMP can suggest that a person be referred to Community Court in the report to Crown Council ● Ultimately Crown Council makes the decision to send file to Community Court ● Crown Council needs to be on-board and prepared to take a chance/risk ● Don't want the system to get clogged with a Crown Council that doesn't support Community Court and just refers files ● Defence Council can also initiate a referral ● Need to counter the perception that Community Court is a free ride or a waste of time ● Sanctions imposed in Community court are more in-depth than a jail sentence <p>Proposed Kelowna Community (Integrated) Court:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geoff is working on application to the Chief Justice in Vancouver ● There will be no "new money" made available to support initiative ● Proposals are regularly made to the court for all types of alternative court initiatives ● Court would sit on Tuesday afternoons ● Community Courts try to get same crown and Judge, so they develop a form of expertise ● Crown, defence, RCMP, Probation, and a member of the ACT Team, ACSS Team or support worker, meet in the morning to discuss all files to go in-front of the court. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is done because everyone has a perspective view of the client and all individuals will come out of the meeting with an understanding of circumstances surrounding the offender ○ Offender is absent from these discussions ● This court limits the number of times a person must appear in front of the court and limits court demands and procedural process demands ● Bail terms can be set in this court ● A sentenced client can be called in-front of the court formally or informally to address challenges that arise and are identified by the community liaison working with the client ● Informal reviews: occur when nothing has happened that's problematic but the ACT Team has identified a challenges or behaviours that are indicative of a relapse into offending ● The idea is that the Judge can have a discussion with the client as a way to intervene before client re-offends ● Judge can explain consequences of behaviour to client ● The point of this court is to address problems before they spin out of control for the client ● Court integrates court with community services ● Community doesn't always understand constraints of the court-education is important ● ACT Team and ACSS Team are in court 4-5 times/ month already. Community Court will have one designated day per week, so workers know when they are expected in court and are not wasting their time waiting all day ● The implementation of the Vulnerability Assessment Tool is positive for screening clients ● There must be a community commitment before going forward ● Crown Council, Community Corrections, legal services need to agree ● Want to do it properly going forward ● Local administrative Judge is in favour but the Chief Judge in Vancouver makes the decision to approve an integrated court ● Geoff is prepared to strike a committee for procedural operations ● Will utilize co-op law students to assist 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will always be challenges in operating an alternative court <p>Kelowna Community Court (2010-2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Ann Wallace spearheaded this initiative • Court was cancelled in 2012 by the Chief Justice • Consultant report from the court indicated 4 problem areas • Support and resources lacking • Support from Community Corrections and Crown Council was wavering, lack of resources was cited as reason for this • Court was not viewed as efficient • There was only full time paid position: the Court Liaison • Court Liaison was responsible for keeping track of ever changing housing availability • Lack of housing limited ability to house offenders and this is an important component of stabilizing clients so they can address other factors contributing to their offending • Changes in housing landscape could make the proposed new court more successful <p>Community Courts/Alternative Courts in other cities:</p> <p>Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement for offender to be connected to the ACT Team • Operates without an overall coordinator • Victoria court has been in operation for 8+ years <p>Vancouver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A designated building for Drug Court • Receive funding for this court 	
<p>4. Proposed Homeless Service Systems Framework Update</p>	<p>Sue</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue presented to City Council previously and will present an update on January 30th • The City of Kelowna has approved \$125,000 for Budget 2017 • Sue's proposal was based on best practices learned from other cities • Sue applied for a Federal grant to support the project, funding will be announced in February. Project started date is April 1, 2017 • Housing was identified as important in the City of Kelowna Healthy City strategy • There is a need to build capacity and leadership across the homeless serving sector • Using a collective impact framework • 20 partners committed to working with the City on the Homeless Serving Systems Framework • Sue has identified an additional funding grant and may apply, depending on the outcome of the Federal grant the City applied for • Looking at whether the City can advocate for better policy on the provincial and federal level • Governance model: backbone support that reports to a task force is needed-at this point it would be interim support • Need a coordinating body (example St John's) • Implementation plan speaks to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Provincial Government and Municipal commitments • CABs have played a role in all systems planning processes 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be working groups • Engagement with persons with lived experience is necessary • Need to develop an implementation plan • City of Kelowna is working on a housing strategy update <p>What is CABs role in this process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John’s plan speaks to transitioning the CAB roles and leadership in implantation of the plan • Potential support: strategy development, frameworks refinement, governance structure planning • Can the CAB-H recommend/volunteer two members with work with Sue? • The planning process and discussions on framework need to start immediately-CAB-H can’t wait until March meeting to define role in planning process <p>Motion: CAB-H will have representation on the interim strategy planning committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil, Diane seconded • All in favour 	
5. Membership	Ian
<p>Veterans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESDC asking CABs to ensure sector reps are aware of services for Veterans • Not required to add a sector seat if CAB-H determines it isn’t necessary • Wayne: will contact Veterans affairs for information about local services and pass along to CAB-H members • Can CAB-H members bring this information to other community meetings (ex PICC, PHD)? <p>Membership vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Vracarevic approved as the sector representative for the Provincial Government/Income Assistance seat 	
6. Adjournment – Randy	
<p>NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2017 10am-12pm</p>	