

Kelowna Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Minutes

DATE: July 25th, 2019

Chair: Ellen Boelcke

Minutes Recorder: Kody Woodmass, KCR Community Resources

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

P = Present, A = Absent, R = Regrets

	SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE:	NAME:	ORGANIZATION:
P	Chair	Ellen Boelcke	KCR – Community Resources
P	Vice Chair	Randy Benson	Kelowna’s Gospel Mission
P	Funder	Jude Brunt	United Way-Southern Interior BC
A	Rehabilitation	Mia Burgess	Brain Trust Canada
P	Housing / Shelter	Liz Talbott	NOW Canada
-	Provincial Government/Youth	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
P	Aboriginal	Tina Larouche	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
P	Education	Phil Bond	UBC Okanagan
A	Provincial Government/Health	Sandra Robertson	Interior Health Authority
P	Mental Health/Housing	Mike Gawliuk	Canadian Mental Health Association
P	Faith	Don Richmond	Evangel Church
-	Corrections	<i>vacant</i>	<i>vacant</i>
A	Provincial Government/Housing	Nanette Drobot	BC Housing
A	Front Line Youth	Diane Entwistle	Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
P	Municipal Government	Sue Wheeler	City of Kelowna
-	Provincial Government/Income Assistance	<i>vacant</i>	Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
P	Backbone and Coordination	Gaelene Askeland	Central Okanagan Journey Home Society
Non-Voting Members:			
P	Central Okanagan Foundation	Cheryl Miller	Community Entity/Foundation / Funder
P	Service Canada	Wayne Ackerman	Service Canada/Federal Government
A	Service Canada	Lisa McHaffie	Service Canada/Federal Government
Alternates:			
P	Indigenous	Malcom Evans	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Guests:			

MINUTES DISTRIBUTION

- CAB-H Members, Steven Fuhr, MP

Meeting called to order at am

AGENDA ITEM

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1. Welcome to New Members, Guests, Introductions – Ellen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting started at 10:04 am, July 25th, 2019 • Tina welcomed us to the unceded territory of the Sylix Nation and introduced Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society's (KFS) new Team Lead: Malcom Evans
2. Approval of July 25, 2019 Agenda and April 18, 2019 Minutes – Ellen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve of July 25, 2019 agenda: Randy; Seconded: Tina • Motion to approve April 18, 2019 minutes: Phil; Seconded: Jude
3. Central Okanagan Journey Home Society update – Gaelene
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaelene explained how the Central Okanagan Journey Home Society (COJHS) applied for and accepted to be the campaign director for Built for Zero (BFZ). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On March 6th, 2019, 20,000 homes relaunched as BFZ ○ BFZ is an ambitious national change effort helping core group-leading communities end chronic homelessness – A first step on the path to eliminating all homelessness in Canada. ○ BFZ structured, supportive and data-driven approach focuses on creating a sense of urgency, optimizing local homeless systems, accelerating the adoption of proven practices and driving continuous improvement. ○ Kelowna as a Designated Community is eligible to participate in this BFZ data tracking exercise from the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. As our By Name List is managed by BC Housing, we asked them, and they are willing to be a part of it. This is one of those pieces as part of the Journey Home Strategy that we knew would come. ○ Gaelene explains how the BFZ is a heavy project and requests for help with the backend side of the project • COJHS expectation is then in the Fall that they will be doing real-time updates on a regular basis regarding homelessness in the community • Only 38 communities currently participating in BFZ, so COJHS is very fortunate to be a part of BFZ <p>Question: Jude – What is the cost of to sign up for BFZ? Do they waive it?</p> <p>Response: Gaelene – \$2,500; no, they do not waive it</p>
4. Call for Concept for new Designated Communities – Wayne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal Government is adding up to 6 new Designated Communities (DC) under Reaching Home • The Call for Concepts to apply to become a DC is a two-step process – the first step closed March 8, 2020 • Communities must be over 25,000 in population • 13 applications were received in the Western Territory (MB to BC) - 9 from BC and 4 from Alberta; 7 communities were shortlisted • The 7 shortlisted communities have been asked to submit a full proposals under Step 2 of the Call for Concepts which is due September 2nd • The goal is to have agreements in place with the selected new DCs by winter 2020

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- Jude advised that Penticton was invited to submit under Step 2 and that the deadline has been extended to September 20

5. Community Entity Update – Cheryl 14min

- Cheryl mentioned that Gaelene will be listed on every agenda to give them an update
- Community plan – had to cancel the meeting due to attendance; have another one for August 6th
- Community Entity Coordinator position has not been filled
 - Asked for referrals of applicants
- Cheryl attended the Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness
 - Talked about the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB-H)
 - Talked about the roles and responsibilities of CAB-H and Terms of Reference
 - The Lived Experience Circle will meet later and decide who is going to participate on the CAB-H

Question: Randy – what process is in place for hiring the Community Entity Coordinator position?

Response: Ellen – Personal headhunting is in the process.

- Word of mouth
- Through educational institutions
- References
- Currently a couple of really good candidates

Action item: Mia – Terms of Reference and the membership piece

- Had two meetings
- Have recommendations for the updated Terms of Reference to put forward
- Acceptance of the updated Terms of Reference needs to be done at the next CAB-H meeting

Question: Randy – What is happening for BC 10?

Response: Cheryl has been sitting on the calls, new CE will join Cheryl when the position is filled

- Mia was chairing
- John from the CE in Victoria has taken over
- The BC collectively advocated for trilateral meetings to be held with the province, ESDC and the BC CE's. The first in-person meeting has already taken place and ESDC is committed to continuing to host trilateral meetings.
- The BC10 advocated for BC communities to receive CCI funding
- A really good foundation has been created for the BC 10
- BC Housing meets with the BC 10 on a quarterly basis

Additional Mention: Ellen – Central Okanagan Foundation has found a new Executive Director (ED), Laurence East

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6. Distribution of CCI Funds – Ellen/Cheryl/Wayne

- Cheryl explains how there is \$84,575 to go towards a coordinated access system with the Community Capacity and Innovation (CCI) funds
- Mia explains the CCI funds:
 - Support communities to hire a project manager to oversee global implementation coordinated access
 - Implement Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability
 - There will need to be a way to measure the agency's work on their coordinated access
 - To get the CCI funds, there are directives and initiatives that you must follow (clear lines where the money must be put)
 - Once decided, there is an agreement that must be done
 - Have until March 31.2020 to spend the \$84,575
- Cheryl recommends the COJHS be given a direct award for the CCI funds
 - They are doing the work
 - COJHS was established to be the umbrella organization for addressing homelessness in the city of Kelowna

Question: Cheryl – When is COJHS going to become a registered charity?

Response: Gaelene – It won't be any time soon

Question: Ellen – Will there be \$25,000.00 limit when contracting above which an open competitive process is required?

Response: Wayne– This does not apply to sub-project funds under CE projects

Cheryl explains that the Central Okanagan Foundation must adhere to Canada Revenue Agency criteria, for example a foundation in Canada may only fund registered charities. Cheryl will meet with the city to discuss the appropriate steps to move forward. Cheryl will work on creating a Sub-Project Agreement for the CCI funds and determine who the Sub-Project will be.

- Liz explains how she wants to make sure that the money goes to COJHS
- Phil explains that with the rationales, (work that has been going on with COJHS in the last 1.5 years) it only makes good sense to direct the CCI funds to COJHS
- Sue reminds everyone that there was a motion done in past that CAB-H will support the COJHS
- **Motion:** Phil – makes the motion the CAB-H would like the COJHS to receive the CCI funds of \$86,575.00 to continue to support our local work following the Reaching Home/ Community Capacity and Innovation directives

Seconded: Tina

Discussion

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- Phil explains how it is putting money where the mouths at (support the work of COJHS and here is our chance)
- Ellen Explains the rationale as:
 - CAB H formally supported COJHS
 - Central and common direction
 - JH is doing the work already
 - It will further the initiative

Cheryl added COJHS's strategy was created as the umbrella to carry our plan; it assists the CAB-H with alignment of the COJHS

- **Vote on the motion to support COJHS with the \$86,575 in CCI funds: Motion Passed** (Gaelene abstained from the vote and was out of the room)

Action item: Cheryl will meet with the city and tentatively Service Canada to discuss how to move forward with the CCI funds for COJHS.

7. Closing Remarks/ Updates in the community - Ellen

- Liz explains how NOW Canada is going to be building a 40-unit supportive housing on the intersection of Cawston Ave and Gordon Drive
 - Should be starting in September
 - Currently having a discussion with BC Housing regarding start date
- Liz explains how they are also building 28 townhouses in a community centre with a couple of apartments; located in Glenmore
 - Going to development permit with the city in the next few months
- NOW Canada will also be doing some slight changes to the shelter (possibly build)
 - Had discussions with BC Housing and 3 local builders who are interested in helping them

Question: Ellen – Liz, what will be your priority for housing?

Response: Liz – It is through BC Housing Community Fund, so it has to be 3 levels of income: Income assistant rate, rate good to income, and just below market value rate

- The number of calls they get from healthy dads that don't have affordable housing has been very high
 - This site will be focused towards dads with children, as well as women, children, seniors, and couples
 - Income assistance rates just below market rates
- Tina explains how KFS broke ground with a new 49-unit building in Black Mountain (behind the Esso) that should be completed by October 2020.
 - It is subsidized

Question: Ellen – What will be your primary residents?

Response: Tina – It will be strictly indigenous (families, elders, singles, and disability units)

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- Will bring the plans next meeting
- Townhomes and apartments
- Very cultural with the plants and artwork (atmosphere)
- Mike details how there was a small fire at The Foundry
 - Maintenance related – the element for the stove was accidentally turned on a toaster was sitting on top which caused part of the wall to melt
 - Because it is a health care facility, it must be properly cleaned and sterilized to meet standards
 - The Foundry is currently operating out of Central School
 - Received confirmation that they will be back and fully operational in the next couple of weeks
 - The school district stepped up and offered a number of different properties to take on
- Mike talks about their new project: Foundry Mobile
 - It will be a clinic on wheels
 - Focuses on outlier areas
 - It is used as a proof of concept for the province
 - The Foundry Initiative initially provincially just got endorsement
 - The mental health fund was released, so there will be 8 more sites across BC, bringing the total up to 20 (some might be global in nature)
 - Working with a company out of Lower Mainland who project manages the building of these projects (Two mobile sites in the IH region, one in Calgary, and one in Grand Prairie)
 - Will be a different model to meet
 - The goal is to have it up and running at the end of year, or early 2020
 - It will be a mix of existing foundry: primary care, mental health commissions, and peer support will be a part of the program
- McCurdy Road:
 - Problems have occurred due to the disputes with the Rutland McCurdy property in the media (concerns have arisen about the significant portrayal about homelessness from the media). McCurdy is being labeled as addict housing from the local media
 - Negative comments from the media and the community such as a letter to the editor that read we should deal with the homeless by euthanizing and relocating them like we did with our feral rabbits a few years back
 - Extreme lack of compassion and humanity around this problem
 - Mike has been talking with City Councillors
 - Lots of work must be done to reduce the stigma in the community
- Liz mentioned that they have only had a few (3 or 4) negative comments with their buildings.
 - One had very negative views, but the other 3 were able to bring down their negativity by showing them the building and what they are doing.
 - What can we do with the media, so they are not sensationalizing every negative thing that happens?
 - Do we have to have a meeting with media?
 -

Question: Ellen – Gaelene, do you have anything to add?

Response: Gaelene – working with the city, BC Housing, and Interior Health on a broad and comprehensive

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communication strategy (working on key messages) to address the current situation

- Will launch in the fall

Tina had to leave at 10:44am

Question: Ellen – Can some of the service providers be put into the loop to get on the same page to reinforce that common message

Response: Gaelene – That will be part of the plan (design in late August)

- Phil explains how we can counter the mainstream media, but it is difficult to do so with negativity in social media regarding homelessness in our community
- Sue explains how they are responding to social media too (so much information that it is scary)
- Gaelene explains the need for consistent messaging

Question: Liz – How should we deal with negative comments with this communication strategy?

Response: Gaelene – Direct them to communication plan's team unless it is at your own properties. They can also provide key messages

Response: Mike – the perception the community is being reaffirmed by the stereotypes due to bylaws dealing with the public and expressing their own opinions to the community.

- Community issue
- Also, it is up to larger groups on the ground such as the city and the RCMP (training is required)
- **Sue is working with bylaw, training their staff**
- Phil explains how this problem with media is sensualizing the community to get more clicks and views
- Jude asked if we could focus on good, positive messaging instead of focusing on negative messaging.
- There are many positive views and wonders how we can get them out to the community
- Sue explains one of the things they are working on with lots of partners is a model that introduces supportive housing in an integrated way
 - Developing a community integration team to focus on: public safety lens, enforcement lens, operators of supportive housing, and health
 - Come together for a 5-way process so there is an assessment done in the neighborhood
 - Strategies are in place in the community after the location is picked that will help with community engagement, community safety, neighborhood building to work as one team overall working on all supportive housing (with an individual focus on each new upcoming housing)
 - City met with BC Housing (they are supportive)
 - Will bring together all the players and start to fine tune what the model will look like
 - It could have implications for rolling out across BC if they do a good job
 - Will be bringing in specific organizations in the future

Motion to adjourn: Liz

Second - Mike

Meeting adjourned at 11:06am

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**NEXT MEETING
TBA**