

Kelowna Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Minutes

DATE: September 21st, 2023

Chair: Sonyia-Taggart Mint

Minutes Recorder: Anna-Lyn Albers

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

P = Present, A = Absent, R = Regrets, G = Guest

	SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE:	NAME:	ORGANIZATION:
P	Chair	Sonyia Taggart-Mint	Stepped Care Solutions
P	Vice Chair	Naomi Woodland	United Way British Columbia Southern Interior
-	<i>Education</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
-	<i>Rehabilitation</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
P	Housing / Shelter	Liz Talbott	NOW Canada
P	Provincial Government/Youth	Tracey Martin	Ministry of Children and Family Development
-	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
P	Indigenous Homelessness CAB-H representative	Darrin Fiddler	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
P	Diversity/Community Information/Volunteerism	Ellen Boelcke	KCR – Community Resources
P	Mental Health	Mike Gawliuk	Canadian Mental Health Association
P	Faith	Don Richmond	Evangel Church
P	Coordinated Access	Mitch DeCock	Central Okanagan Journey Home Society
-	<i>Corrections</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
P	Provincial Government/Housing	Janet Bertrand	BC Housing
-	Lived Experience	<i>vacant</i>	Lived Experience Circle on Homelessness (LECoH)
P	Front Line Youth	Sarah Mackinnon	Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
A	Municipal Government	Colleen Cornock	City of Kelowna
-	<i>Provincial Government/Income Assist</i>	<i>vacant</i>	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
-	<i>Provincial Government / Rehabilitation</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
P	Seniors	Ian Gerbrandt	Seniors Outreach Society
-	<i>Metis Community</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
-	<i>BC Landlords Association</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
-	<i>Business Sector</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
-	<i>Indigenous Housing</i>	<i>vacant</i>	-
P	LGBTQIA2S+	Wilbur Turner	Advocacy Canada: LGBT
Non-Voting Members:			
P	Central Okanagan Foundation	Cheryl Miller	Community Entity/Foundation / Funder
A	Central Okanagan Foundation	Anna-Lyn Albers	Community Entity/Foundation / Funder
P	Service Canada	Karen D'Souza and Karen Olson	Service Canada/Federal Government
Alternates:			

AGENDA ITEM
1. Land Acknowledgement
Wilbur offers a land acknowledgement that recognizes that we are situated on the unceded, stolen and ancestral territory of the syilx (Okanagan) peoples and that we are privileged to work, live and gather together today on their lands.
2. Welcome and Introductions
Sonya initiates the meeting at 10:05am. Sonya welcomes the CAB-H membership and invites Karen Dsouza to share an announcement. Karen Dsouza shares that she will be take maternity leave and introduces Karen Olson as the Community Entity’s new EPO. Ian Gerbrandt is also present for his first meeting and is welcomed to introduce himself. Ian will be acting as the seniors sector representative.
3. Approval of June 22nd, 2023 minutes
Sonya asks if there are any additions/edits or comments/concerns regarding the June 22 nd , 2023 minutes. No additions/edits. Sonya makes a motion to approve the June 22nd, 2023 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seconded: Wilbur.
4. Approval of September 21st, 2023 Agenda
Sonya asks if there are any additions/edits or comments/concerns to the September 21 st , 2023 Agenda. No additions/edits. Sonya presents a motion to approve the September 21st, 2023 Agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to accept: Ellen
5. Terms of Reference Update
Sonya shares her screen for CAB-H members to view the Terms of Reference with new edits. These are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sonya explains that the previous edits included an additional paragraph which outlined that the CAB-H seeks to work outside of the Reaching Home program, as a group the TOR sub-committee decided that the previous paragraph already addresses that the CAB-H is not limited to Reaching Home and altered the language to better express the continuous learning and adaptation that the CAB-H can take on • Activities section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some points shortened to provide conciseness and/or flexibility • Sector Representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintained previous TOR subcommittee edits indicating that the CAB-H composition is expected to be reflective of the homeless population groups within the community ○ Provided examples of “other relevant sectors” to create clarity • Member Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No changes to be previous TOR sub-committee edit suggestions already reviewed by the CAB-H • Structure and Governance Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion from the previous TOR sub-committee to add terms of service excluded as it did not have consensus from the board in pervious discussions ○ Amended point on evaluation tool to be optional to allow flexibility. Functionality of this tool was agreed upon by the sub-committee to be for the purpose of giving each sector representative an opportunity to talk about their contributions and to address how the board as a whole is operating

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(Strengths and opportunities). If this edit is approved Sonyia will draft up an annual evaluation tool to be approved.

- **Agenda Format**
 - Upon overview, Cheryl requests that Community Sector Update be added.
- **Roles and Responsibilities of the Community Entity**
 - Altering the language of “Stakeholder” as it is no longer appropriate.
- **Roles and Responsibilities of Infrastructure Canada (INFC)**
 - Need to confirm that “Terms and Conditions” is correct language in second point

No other changes were made to previous edits brought forward by most recent TOR sub-committee.

Sonyia makes a motion to accept the September 2023 Terms of Reference working draft and approve it to be the CAB-H’s active Terms of Reference document.

Seconded: Liz; All in favour: Carried.

As of September 21st, the 2023 Terms of Reference Draft has been accepted.

6. Community Entity Update

Anna-Lyn is absent due to losing power and Cheryl offers to step in for the Community Entity Update. Cheryl first invites Karen Dsouza to offer her update.

Karen expresses that the current Reaching Home agreement that Canada has with CE’s will end in March 2024. Karen provides the context that when the Reaching Home Strategy was created in 2019, it was created as a 9-year strategy. From 2019-2024 we have covered the first five years of the strategy. Now we are looking at the next four years, 2024-2028. As mentioned previously, it is INFC’s intention to extend the current agreement that they have with each CE beyond March 2024, with full renewal until 2028. That being said, the program is conducting an evaluation of all CE’s across the country. In the case of CE’s are having challenges in meeting some of their program requirements the recommendation will be that CE’s will receive a shorter duration of 2 years instead of the full four years. Unfortunately, all of the designated communities CE’s in BC have been identified with this challenge. That is due to not being able to meet the March 2023 deadline of HIFIS implementation. It is a possibility that all CE’s in BC may receive 2 year agreements depending on further progress with Coordinated Access and HIFIS implementation. INFC recognized that there has been barriers for DC CE’s in BC specifically to implement this because of HIFIS and BC Housing. INFC will be working with BC Housing and CE’s to facilitate a smooth installation of HIFIS in each of the communities. Over the next few weeks, INFC will continue to monitor the progress of each community with the intention that when the recommendations are made to the Minister’s office regarding the length of the agreement that all BC CE’s will be in a good position to obtain the four years.

Karen shares thanks the CAB-H members for all the work and time they put towards the community and the board and shares thanks to the CE.

Cheryl shares the following information as an update:

- Infrastructure Canada has confirmed that there will be a Point in Time count in the fall of 2024. There are some concerns across Canada regarding every community doing this.

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- The Community Entity received a formal denial in response to our HIFIS (Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System) License application on August 29th. In their response they highlighted the preference towards a fully integrated approach, such that all service providers in a given community use the same HIFIS. They expressed that they believe that the objectives of the Reaching Home program can be best achieved by onboarding to the BC Housing HIFIS license.
- Given the denial, the CE will begin their regular (monthly) meetings to support Coordinated Access implementation.
- The CE Planners have received the following privacy agreements from BC Housing since our last meeting: Integrated Program Agreement, Client Consent Form, Data Sharing Agreement. We have also received access rights templates. The CE's in BC are still in conversation regarding these document as there are some concerns with their formatting.
- Given the last TOR sub-committee brought forward a Veterans seat and the draft was just approved, we will assume this new seat. In reflection on possible other gaps, we thought a sector representative with knowledge in the disability sector would be of benefit as well.
 - Sonyia asks if there are any thoughts on the addition of a disability seat. Sonyia expresses that she feels it's a good idea, having worked in the sector, given that the needs can be so varied for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Having that knowledge on the board could be extremely beneficial.
 - Janet agrees that it is a great idea and thinks the voice and perspective would be an important lens when you are considering homelessness. Don concurs. Liz agrees it makes absolute sense.
 - Sonyia asks if there are any concerns. None spoken to.

Sonyia makes a motion to accept the addition of a disability sector representative seat to the CAB-H.

- Seconded: Don; All in favour: Carried.

Cheryl takes the opportunity to introduce Mitch, as the new Coordinated Access sector representative from Journey Home.

7. Community Sector Update

Sonyia invites the opportunity for CAB-H members to share any updates from their organization around the changes in the homelessness sector in Kelowna.

- **Liz announces that NOW Canada has knocked down the AG House and have relocated.** They have been given an 18-month timeline for building, so probably 18 months to 2 years. When they rebuild it will be a 20-bed shelter plus an additional 24 suites of transitional housing for women. NOW is incredibly happy with the progress and will keep the CAB-H updated. If anyone is wishing to view the temporary shelter, feel free to reach out to Liz via email.
- **Mitch expresses that up until this point when they were looking for at October last to October the year before, we had a 100 person year over year increase and Kelowna is on track to significantly exceed that level of growth in visible homelessness this year.** He has been in touch with the City of Kelowna and the CE as well regarding this matter. We also had some data analysis featured in the Housing Needs

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Assessment, and you can look at that through a link on the City’s website but feel free to reach out to Mitch if you have any specific inquiries about homelessness and he can see if he can accommodate the request through the survey data.

- **Sarah shares that BGCO are fortunate enough this year that Upstream is expanding to a third school, we are working with the school district to determine which school they will be expanding to and adding to their service sites which is very exciting for them on the prevention side of things.** The third school will likely have a grade 9 cohort, so they will likely do a spring implementation assessment because the school will hold onto the students for the following year.

11. Final Summary – Close

Sonyia announces that Naomi will be stepping down as the Vice Chair on the CAB-H and expresses thanks for Naomi’s time on the board.

Sonyia thanked everyone for their attendance, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

Next meeting date: December 18th, 2023. Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting.