

**.0. Reaching Home: Community Advisory Board on Homelessness Minutes**

DATE: March 20, 2025

Acting Co-Chairs: Sandra Robertson & Wilbur Turner

Staff: Niveria Oliveira

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

P = Present, A = Absent, R = Regrets, O = Observer

<b>SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b>		<b>NAME:</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION:</b>
R	Chair	Sonya Taggart-Mint	Stepped Care Solutions
R	Lived Experience	John T.	LECOH
P	Funder	Naomi Woodland	United Way British Columbia – Southern Interior
P	Acting Co-Chair -Provincial Government/Health	Sandra Robertson	Interior Health Authority
R	Housing / Shelter	Liz Talbott	NOW Canada
P	Provincial Government/Youth	Tracey Martin	Ministry of Children and Family Development
P until 11 AM	Indigenous Homelessness CAB-H representative	Jim Boysis	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
R	Mental Health	Mike Gawliuk	Canadian Mental Health Association
P until 11 AM	Provincial Government/Housing	Janet Bertrand	BC Housing
R	Front Line Youth	Sarah Mackinnon	Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
R	Municipal Government	Colleen Cornock	City of Kelowna
R	Seniors	Ian Gerbrandt	Seniors Outreach Society
P	Acting Co-Chair, LGBTQIA2S+	Wilbur Turner	Advocacy Canada: LGBT
<b>Non-Voting Members:</b>			
P	Funder	Kristine Bugayong	Community Entity/Central Okanagan Foundation
P	Funder	Niveria Oliveira	Community Entity/Central Okanagan Foundation
P	Funder	Jim Boysis	Indigenous Community Entity/Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
P	Funder	Karen Olson	Housing Infrastructure Communities Canada
<b>Alternates:</b>			
P	Mental Health	Candace Giesbrecht	Canadian Mental Health Association
p	Front Line Youth	Alicia Curry	Boys and Girls Club of the Okanagan
P	Municipal Government	Stephanie Martin	City of Kelowna

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**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Wilbur offers a land acknowledgement that recognizes that we are situated on the unceded, stolen and ancestral territory of the Syilx people and Okanagan Nation who have inhabited these lands for many generations prior to the colonization of this country, of Turtle Island. He acknowledges the knowledge, and the knowledge keepers of the land, of the Indigenous culture, and knowledge that we benefit from today, and how systemic colonization

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practices have put barriers up to that knowledge being available. Wilbur refers to the Two Eyed Seeing workshop, hosted by Len Pierre, in Kelowna earlier in the week and asks the CAB to consider how we can bring this way of being and doing into our own work, our meetings and our processes. He then shares the definition of Two Eyed Seeing: *"Two-Eyed Seeing refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western ways of knowing and to using both of these eyes together"* ([Bartlett, Marshall, & Marshall, 2012](#), p. 335). He shares examples that show up in corporate world and how these differ from Indigenous ways and how bringing both together can support psychological safety, being trauma informed and reconciliation. He emphasizes the practice of measuring time by minutes in Western ways while in Indigenous ways time is measured by moments.

## 2. Welcome and Introduction

Wilbur welcomed everyone. He shares that two Alternates will be joining the Board meeting once their membership has been considered. Alicia Curry, she/her, from BGCO for Sarah MacKinnon and Candace Giesbrecht, she/her, from CHMA for Mike Gawliuk. Wilbur shares that Don Richmond, he/him, from Evangel Church, has retired and he served on the CAB for over a decade. The DC-CE will be sending Don a token of appreciation. A new CAB member, Kaitlin Mitchell, she/her, of Kelowna Community Resources will be considered, for full membership, by the CAB today.

## 3. Approval of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 agenda

Wilbur asks if there are any amendments to the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, agenda, as presented.

None noted.

Wilbur requests a motion to accept the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, agenda.

- Motion to accept: Ian; Seconded: Sandra; Carried.

## 4. Approval of January 16, 2025 minutes

Wilbur asks if there are any additions/edits or comments/concerns to the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes.

No additions/edits.

Wilbur requests a motion to approve the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes.

- Motion to accept: Naomi; Seconded: Janet; Carried.

## 5. Approval of Alternate Members and New Member

Wilbur introduces the Alternates for Mike Gawliuk and Sarah Mackinnon – Candace Giesbrecht and Alicia Curry, respectively.

Wilbur requests a motion to approve Alternates.

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- Motion to accept: Tracey; Seconded: Sandra; Carried.

Wilbur introduces the new Member – Kaitlin Mitchell

Wilbur requests a motion to approve the new Member.

- Motion to accept: Ian; Seconded: Janet; Carried.

Niveria invites the two Alternates into the CAB meeting at 10:09 and announces the entry of Jim Boysis into the meeting at this same time.

## 6. HICC Presentation on Coordinated Access – Wilbur and Karen

Karen presented on Overview of Coordinated Access under Reaching Home and the value of this approach in community as a collective impact model. The presentation is available to the CAB for ongoing reference.

Sandra shares that the presentation supports a better understanding of CAB and the Outcomes Based Approach. Naomi also shares her concern regarding resourcing the staffing for the implementation and asks Karen to share her perspective from other CABs. Niveria shares some additional context regarding coordinated access in Kelowna, the work of the CA leads, some of the project timing and the opportunity to work in collaboration with the I-CE.

Wilbur thanks everyone and then suggests a two-minute break.

Sandra will Chair the remainder of the meeting post break. She thanks Wilbur for chairing the first half of the meeting.

## 7. PiT Count

Kristine provided an update on the Point in Time Count and the report. The report is delayed and will be completed in mid-April. HICC will receive the revised report for review. It will be posted to the Central Okanagan Foundation's website shortly after HICC review. The CAB will receive the report and key messages in advance of it being made public.

Janet Bertrand and Jim Boysis departed from the meeting at 11 AM.

## 8. Alignment Project

Niveria shared the status of the Alignment Project. CEs have completed all four worksheets that are informing the project requirements. DC CEs are now awaiting the delivery of the renewed Project Charter, Critical Path,

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and Roles and Responsibilities for endorsement. The Roles and Responsibilities detail how the Community Advisory Board will participate in community leadership regarding homelessness, how the CE will work with HICC, Ministry of Housing and BC Housing, and how Coordinated Access and HIFIS will be supported towards implementation.

Sandra shares that some of this is new knowledge and understanding the CAB role and function. Karen shares that the Federal and Provincial governments have been working on this project for several years. Ian asks about the framework and how this will work in community. Stephanie shares that the framework will have some consistency across communities and each community will also be different.

### **9. Community Homelessness Report**

Niveria shared that the process for the Community Homelessness Report, a requirement of the DC-CE, will invite both the I-CE and DC-CE Community Advisory Boards to collaborate towards informing the report. Naomi suggests a joint meeting between all the sub-project holders to inform the report. Wilbur asks about the frequency of the report and whether it includes the voices of sub-project holders. Niveria shares that the report does allow for a summary within the CHR and also shares that the CE provides quarterly reports which summarize the sub-project holders work throughout their own quarter. Karen shares that the CEs provided feedback to HICC prior the latest updating of the Directives for the Reaching Home program. The Community Plan is a tool that can be updated on an ongoing basis and the CAB will need to revisit this prior to our next call for proposal.

The Community Homelessness Report is due May 30, 2025, and Board members will be invited to meet and then engage in a facilitated planning process.

### **10. Community Roundtable**

Candace shares the launch of a new employment program provided by CMHA for people with barriers to employment that is provincially funded. Niveria shares that the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and Built for Zero will begin working with Kelowna partners. The CAB may also benefit from some coaching and training and will be asked about their needs. Tracey asks about youth and Stephanie and Naomi respond with reference to the coordinated access work, the potential protocols that are developed through Abbotsford and Nelson existing work with Built for Zero. Naomi also shares how the ongoing work with CA/CE leads helps to share knowledge regarding practices and gaps in communities. City of Kelowna has also acknowledged the gap for youth and has maintained the membership with Built for Zero.

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The Reaching Home Coordinated Access sub-project is waiting for the go ahead to conduct community engagement to inform the coordinated access process. Alicia shares that BGCO focuses on prevention work through their emergency stay shelter, a focus on their own family, natural supports networks and Penny Lane for short term stays for youth in care. Youth aging out of care continue to experience barriers to accessing housing. Tracey references that the need is shelter and/or housing that supports young people with active drug use. Stephanie asks about COAST and the gap there is that the emergent issue must be new. Stephanie will look into this and ask about whether the life transition stage can be understood as a new criterion for consideration. Tracey mentions that the services are great, but it is housing that is the biggest gap. Sandra echoes that as the major gap for IHA and others.

### **11.Final Summary**

Sandra summarizes the meeting, thanks the Alternate members and reminds everyone that Kaitlin will join us in the future. Wilbur expresses recognition of the value in the sharing of knowledge to support each other.

Members to receive the CA presentation, the latest Alignment Project update, and some additional meeting requests for the Community Homelessness Report. A token of appreciation will be sent to Don Richmond to recognize his service on the CAB.

### **12.Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Community Homelessness Report meetings - TBC for late April and May depending on ICAB and CAB availability.

Next regular CAB meeting to be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.