

# Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee

## Minutes

April 1, 2008

### School District Board Office

Attendees: Rod Santiago, Susan Edgcombe, Duncan MacDonald (Recorder), Tara Harrington, John Stellingwerff (Co-chair), Mel Folkman, Kiran Sidhu, Debbie Denault, Dan Ludeman, Diane Jakobowski, Jason Beauchene, Marianne Smirle.

Guests: Julia Dodge, Donna Gannon both from the Chilliwack Learning Community Society (CLCS)

1. Welcome to Mel Folkman representing the City of Chilliwack and Tara Harrington from the RCMP.
2. Presentation by Julia Dodge re: Formalizing the relationship between CYC and CLCS.
  - CLCS has developed their strategic plan; a Community Literacy Plan
  - One of the strategies specifies youth at risk
  - There is some focus is on social inclusion, literacy is foundational to youth as they develop into adulthood.
  - There is a desire to integrate their committee work with the CYC strategic plan.
  - The committee wants to make a difference to families at critical points in their lives, recognizing the need to work with families in order to have positive literacy outcomes.
  - The committee endorses a multi-level strategy including:
    - Engaging youth in fun ways, outreach workers for literacy functioning as mentors, literacy and social competency both need to be included.
  - The committee encourages people to be learners, literacy is a social determinant of health.
  - There was acknowledgement of CLCS support at CYC and the Early Years committee.
  - The question was asked: How does CLCS engage and embed itself into the work of agencies?
    - Suggest participation in Consultation on Chilliwack's Children, suggest starting with Youth Matters with the possibility of developing a task force for Youth at Risk.
  - Mel Folkman acknowledged how difficult it is to apply for and receive federal funding and congratulated CLCS on this.

3. Review of March 4, 2008 meeting minutes

4. Business arising from March 4 minutes:

4.1 Follow-up on suggestion to join First Call. John suggested that we join First Call. That we will be on the mailing list and we will add our voice to those asking for a commitment to youth. It was also suggested that we check with Karin Rempel or Barb Pressau and ask if they are attending meetings in Vancouver on behalf of Chilliwack.

4.2 Jason reported that Julian Wiggs is no longer working in the capacity of youth pastor. Rod Santiago agreed to communicate with Matt Rempel regarding the need to have representation on the CYC from the youth ministers group.

4.3 Members of the CYC met with Mel Folkman who agreed to sit on the CYC until next November. Mel talked about the Network Coordinating Council and importance of working together and communicating. Mel suggested that there be a presentation on the NCC and how the CYC fits into this. The plan is to have a presentation during the May 6/08 meeting. It was agreed that we would schedule the meeting from 9 to 11:30 because of the number of items to be discussed before the Consult on Chilliwack's Children.

5. Review of progress of the CYC Strategic Plan process.

Dan spoke about the need for commitment with accountability around resources.

There was discussion about:

- the impact of small projects where people are supporting specific individuals.
- making a connection and having empathic witness
- There was acknowledgement that collaboration is a fundamental shift.
- Also mentioned was the need to develop processes about utilizing dollars
- Acknowledgement that families are unique and they might not fit into programs. Collaboration with families, what works for them?

6. Chilliwack Community Consult

Planning is underway. Kiran and Susan are involved in the planning. They hope to have consumers present; one of the priorities is to have youth in attendance. Susan wants to have a look at the facilities at W.G Graham Secondary to see how things will work with the break out rooms. The facilitators of the small group discussions will need to help get people back to the main theatre quickly. Janit

Carol will be coming to the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide some facilitator training. The organizing committee is looking for volunteer facilitators; they suggest that each agency come up with 2 people. There will be space for agency display tables to be set up.

7. Sub- committee Updates:

7.1 Youth Matters

The next meeting will be held April 3, 2008. Plans are being made to celebrate Youth Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Objectives for the day include: fun, learning and connecting to the community. Bussing to the site will be provided for youth.

7.2 Early Years

The sub-committee is putting out calls for proposals for implementation of the draft of the strategic plan. Looking at ways to connect with "invisible families". Mary-anne announced that there will be an expansion of Strong Start, with the possibility of having up to 8 in the community. Also an outreach component is under consideration.

7.3 Clinical Sub-committee

The next meeting will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Discussion will focus on review of Intensive Community Care Plan funding, special resources funding for care teams and specialized counselling for children and youth in care. Liaison is taking place with the Fraser east suicide prevention committee around training for suicide awareness.

8. Agency updates.

Dan announced that MCFD has hired a new team leader, Tracy Bann and has begun a restructuring process. Dan reminded everyone of the Lunch and Learn events taking place at MCFD on School Street, Tuesdays at lunch until May 6<sup>th</sup>. An open house is taking place on April 10<sup>th</sup>, all are welcome.

Mary-anne reminded everyone about a meeting taking place to discuss the school district budget on Thursday (April 10<sup>th</sup>?) at 3:30PM at Kipp Centre.

9. Next Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 11:30AM at the School District Board Office.