

Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 7th, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Co- Chairs: Julia McCaffery and John Stellingwerff

Recorder: Julie Unger

Those Present:

John Stellingwerff – Chilliwack Community Services
Julie Unger – Chilliwack Society for Community Living
Bobbi Jacob – Ann Davis Transition Society
Scott Street – Youth Pastor, Chilliwack Ministerial
Lindsay Gallagher - PCRS Supervisor
Debbie Denault - Chilliwack Learning Society
Joy Nolett - Chilliwack Early Years Coordinator
Duncan MacDonald – Child & Youth Mental Health - MCFD
Tim Bohr – Chilliwack Community Services
Lisa Demanchuck – MCFD-CYSN
Dan Bibby – MCFD
Susan Edgecombe – SD. #33
Julia McCaffery - Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society
Kiran Sidhu – FV CDC
Carolyn Glover – Adult Mental Health

Regrets:

Diane Janzen – City Council

Guest:

Rob Lees

1. **Welcome & Introductions:** John called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Special Welcome to Joy Nolett who is the new Early Years Coordinator, replacing Karin Rempel.
2. **Review Agenda:** John asked committees to review the agenda.
John thanked Dan for the lunch later on. We'll be following our regular agenda until 11:00 a.m., and then from 11:15 to 12:30 we'll be working on CYC Action Plan.
3. **Report on Youth Consultation re Healthier Communities (Rob Lees):**
Rob provided some background to this topic; the most recent consultations have created opportunities for involvement of youth, with the Consult 17 having a separate session for youth (including a meeting prior to the event). The last topic focused on addiction issues, and asking youth what we could do to minimize these issues in our community. Youth expressed that there is a need to intervene earlier; programs like DARE are useful, but need to have something for the middle and high school levels as well. Middle school is a time when a lot of things change for kids – and the message needs to be getting to them as well. The city's initiative in regards to Healthier

communities – crimes and public safety; homelessness, and addictions – these also involved some youth participation. On October 25th, 2010 a Youth Consultation on a Healthier Chilliwack was held at the Stolo Alternate School – Rob provided those present with copies of the consultation’s outline. He stated that they also provided youth with related statistics for Chilliwack (Affordable housing; Mental Health & Addictions; Crime & Public Safety).

Three top priorities identified by the youth in attendance:

- a) We have an arts centre – where is the youth centre?
- b) Transportation – how do we get around?
- c) Help youth feel important – love and care for them!

Concurrent to this face-to-face consultation, there was also an online process where other youth could provide feedback and input to the issues. Rob stated that all this input is not our responsibility to deal with – but for the Healthier Communities – and to guide their work. Rob suggested that as we think about next year’s ABC consultation – we should consider how we might use some of these themes in developing the conference and consultation.

A copy of the document “Youth Engagement - Beyond Tokenism” was provided to members. Rob provided an overview of the document and some suggestions about what Chilliwack might consider for our Consultation. **1) Encourage positive youth development by involving youth in the decisions that affect them; 2) Develop future adult citizens committed to “deep democracy”; 3) Foster social integration through bringing together youth from diverse lived experiences (Challenge Day Philosophy); 4) Identify and build on the existing strategies already in effect in schools and agencies.**

John thanked Rob for his presentation. We need to make it a priority that we not lose sight of this information. Tim questioned whether there were any specifics around the “we want a youth centre”; was there any definition to that sentiment. Rob added “safe place”, “central place” – some place they could just go and hang out. Susan referenced the shift in the School district office - melding the “Student Services” with curriculum staff and aboriginal education staff – this is a tough process for *adults*. Thinking about safe schools projects – would much rather work on a challenge day philosophy – bringing youth together from diverse experiences. Shari stated that the youth matters sub-committee has five years of youth forums – inevitably the conversation comes up in regards to a “place where we could just be” – hang out (not leisure centre, not skate park). Shari mentioned the old Paramount Theatre that is now owned by the City of Chilliwack; could this possibly be made into a Youth centre? Dan talked about a lot of the ideas that have been talked about over the years; and what has happened -we’ve lost the focus – we just don’t have that youth voice here in Chilliwack anymore. Why aren’t youth voices being heard in the planning and development of our city’s facilities and resources? Rob suggested that we are perhaps missing talking with the faith groups – youth groups – and involving those groups. They are connected with many youth on a weekly basis.

John summarized by suggesting this information be incorporated into our Action Plan discussions later this morning – and also ensure that Youth Matters Sub-Committee has this information. Bobbi stated that we need to educate City Council in regards to what youth are asking for. Maybe we need to do an inventory of what’s currently happening for youth, “mapping” across the community and looking for geographical gaps. Debbie suggested that she is not convinced that there is ONE centre that would serve all the interests of all the kids. Looking at where there are

groups/centres missing – and target development in those areas or neighbourhoods. Transportation (or lack of) is a really big factor here in Chilliwack. ABC Consultation in May – will be another avenue to get the message out.

4. **Review Minutes of November 2nd, 2010 Meeting**

- a) ***May 20, 2011 – ABC Conference*** – John S and Dan B provided information from the Oversight Committee for the Conference and Consultation. Copies of the Notes from the committee’s meeting were distributed to those present. Need to consider the possibility of having a keynote speaker – someone who sets the tone for the day and draws people in. Clyde Hertzman talking about what he’s done in Vancouver – would fit well with our emphasis on the middle years. Kiran suggested that we still have the keynote speaker at the end of the day. This could engage teachers at the end of the day – they would be free to attend if they wished. Rob’s suggestion that we put aside a little bit of the money- so that those who are doing the youth process, have an opportunity to do some pre-work with the youth – prepping them for the event, prepping them for full participation. Rob asked that other ideas be sent to the committee. Paul Kershaw, Clyde Hertzman, (Susan Edgecombe has a thought for another speaker – will inquire)...other suggestions for keynotes who might be in the \$1000 range (or less) forward the information to the ***ABC Conference and Consultation - Oversight Committee.***
- b) ***Application to Chilliwack Foundation*** – Application submitted through Ann Davis Transition Society. Thanks to Bobbi Jacob. This was for funding to develop a website for the CYC and its subcommittees.
- c) ***Karin Rempel (Certificate)*** As a CYC we will be printing up a certificate for Karin Rempel to thank her for her work, and participation at the CYC.

5. **Youth Matters Committee and Youth integrated Plan Presentation** (Shari West and Julia McCaffery). A “Youth Integrated Plan” was presented to the Committee Members – Shari elaborated on the report. A number of the issues/priorities identified will feed into the Youth Matters Sub-Committee Action Plan. Where CYC is identified as notifying a community agency – recommend that CYC’s action plan include drafting those letters or notifications to agencies and forwarding them as recommendations from the CYC. Susan suggested that the CYC take some time to review the plan, share information with our agencies – and then book some time into a future meeting to further discuss and approve the work as identified in the plan.

Action: Committee Members are to review the Youth Integrated Plan, and bring back any suggestions or questions to the next CYC Meeting. (Also to be reviewed as part of the CYC Action Plan). Motion for approval will be made at the next meeting.

Officially, the CYC thanks the Youth Matters Sub Committee for this awesome work that has been completed! This fits into the CYC Action Plan – Goal #2.

6. **CYC Coordinator Position Update**

The CYC submitted, or is submitting a proposal to the United Way (Fraser Valley) – trying to get a bit of funding from three different sources – to fund a CYC Coordinator position. Talked about ten or fifteen hours per week – but it hasn’t been finalized. This is still in the works.

Recommendation to look at combining the Early Years Coordinator Position with the CYC Coordinator position – there is a lot of overlap of the two job descriptions – this would save some hours/money – and also provide for good linkage and information sharing.

Action: Coordinator Position discussion tabled for a future meeting.

CYC Documents: MOU (Memorandum of Understanding); Shari talked the need to have a central location for documents (especially those with signatures). She stated that Committee chairs often hold the information, and when the chairperson changes, the information may not always be passed along. Joy stated that she has a number of past CYC documents as well (at least as far back to 2005).

Action: Official CYC documents will be housed in a central location – for now they will be at the School District office. A decision needs to be made as to where they will be held permanently and how they will be archived. Once this decision is made, the information needs to be included in the CYC's Terms of Reference.

7. **Work on CYC Action Plan – Goals 1, 2 & 3** – Committee members took a short break, and then worked on the CYC Action Plan.

8. **Next Meeting – January 11th, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. – School Board Office**