



January 6, 2015
Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Co-chairs: Dan Bibby
Julie Unger

Recorder: Karen Steegstra

Present:

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Regrets:

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1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of December minutes. Karen will make updates an upload to website.

3. Annette Vogt will come present in February.



4. Every Door is the Right Door Review

- 1) Every other meeting will be at the NLC – Agencies will still be able to host.**
- 2) New employee cross agency orientation hasn't gone operational yet. It is a way for all professionals to know where agencies are. Contact Karen to build a strategy for your agency.**
- 3) Community Orientation**
- 4) Aboriginal Lunch and Learns will continue.**
- 5) CYC agency map**
- 6) Continued request for pamphlets**

5. Agency Profile – Chilliwack Community Services – James Challman

Community Services has 7 physical locations and 8 Strong Start programs that are run with a partnership with the School District. Services are divided into streams. Community Services had its origins as a Christmas sharing program which began in 1928 when a neighbour gathered support for a family experiencing hardship. It grew and became known as the Community Chest and in 1969 became Chilliwack Community Services.

Early Years program director is Darby Wilkinson. CCRR is located in Sardis and provides information for licensed and non-licensed childcare. Theme boxes are available for childcare providers to borrow for a month.

Director for Youth Services is Julie Pariseau. The Village is part of the Olympic Legacy. Was part of the Athlete's Village. Chilliwack is one of 6 locations in the province to get a building. Second floor is stage 2 housing for youth. They are able to stay for 2 years. 3rd and 4th floor are adults with chronic mental health. Some challenges but overall it works well. Youth Services is on the main floor. Community Recreation is a partnership with the City, the REAL program is a partnership with MCFD. Reconnect Worker has office space at the Library. A Young Parent Support Worker working out of the NLC.

Jackie Ayer is the director for Family Services. Programs offered for families, Family's First, Triple P parenting (currently being trained), Foster Parent support, Nurturing Fathers, Relatives Raising Relatives.

April Neave is the director of Senior Services. This is the biggest area of growth. Funded through the United Way. Keep seniors in their home by providing supports. The cost of supports is on a sliding scale depending on income level. The Friendly Visitor program is a free program. Community Drivers take people to appointments. Meals on Wheels is volunteer supported. Many service groups helping to keep costs down. Cookies prepares the meals. Also a Senior's Advocate, possibly the Senior's Resource Centre.

April is also the director for Immigrant Services. Chilliwack is a very multi-cultural community. Working with the community to be more welcoming to immigrants.



John Stellingwerff is the director for Literacy and Work BC. They work with GT Solutions and offer classes, supports and information, funding for supplies.

Carrie Moore is the Volunteer Coordinator. If an organization is looking for a volunteer Carrie can offer support.

Christmas Sharing; in 2013 519 family hampers, 1059 children. In 2014, 502 families 1004 children. Serve families in poverty or those who have experienced significant change. Not sure about the reason for reduction.

Community Services is a non-profit with MCFD being its largest funder. Have 125 staff and 260 volunteers. \$400,000 of money raised with grants and fundraising. Are governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Dan congratulated James on the excellent work being done by Community Services and James' role as the executive director.

6. Conversation 2015 Update

Members were told of the ongoing plans around the program. The event will take place at the NLC. Childcare will once again be provided. Letters for funding will be sent to agencies. Looking at a \$7000 budget. School District #33 will be contributing the space.

7. Youth Health Clinic

Opening today with mock counselling session being done by practicum students. It will be open Tuesday, 1:00pm -7:00pm. The counselling is being done along with supervision. Still looking to partner with Stolo Health to offer the Health and Sexual Health component. There has been discussion around the parents of students using the services. School District feels it is important to have families involved.

8. Youth Engagement Project

Regional CYC working together on a Youth Engagement Project. Will use a VYPER grant to hold a Youth Conference May 1 that is youth organized and youth led.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Youth Matters – Plans going forward with Challenge Day. Still looking sponsors.

Clinical – Some inter-agency work being done around confidentiality and consent for services. Successful meeting regarding drug use and youth policy. It was a healthy discussion around the School District's 0 tolerance policy. Some feel the 0 tolerance is not solution based. However policies are not easily changed. A foundation was set on what needs to be investigated further. Kids engaged in drug and alcohol misuse effect not just the school but the community. The door is open for further discussion.



Early Years – Moving ahead with Parent 2 Parent mentoring.

10. Agency Updates

FVACFSS

Family Forum is taking place Feb.25 and 26 at the NLC. Last year had over 200 attendees. Looking for agencies to set up booths.

Chilliwack Community Service

Partnering with the Youth Health Centre.

Ann Davis

Partnering with Law Foundation in order to be able to offer free family law workshops. Will offering a number of groups; Self-Management and Anger, Parenting Groups, Caught in the Middle, Men's Insight Group, Pattern Changing. Patti will send information to Karen so she can forward to membership. Working on raising funds to repair fence around transition house. Did hampers for single parent families. Putting together the "Bread and Roses" event which will honour volunteer women in the community. Ann Davis offers legal advocacy Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as clinics on family law or custody issues.

Cyrus Centre

The emergency youth shelter has been open since Sept. 8. Seeing a higher rate of violence in Chilliwack compared to Abbotsford. Christmas dinner was very successful. Have been able to offer emergency shelter during extreme weather. Extreme weather is considered when the temperature is below 0. Cyrus is able to open 12 more beds; it low barrier shelter at this point. Since opening 43 youth have stayed at the shelter, this is more than Abbotsford. Are connecting with the youth that they wanted to. 50% of youth accessing services are Aboriginal.

Child and Youth Mental Health

Currently have a working relationship with physicians through the Practice Support Program. Sharing of information model being adopted. Also working with school counsellors going over concerns.

Fraser Valley Regional Library

Program Guide comes out 4 times a year. All activities are free. The library has 60 community storytelling kits which contain 2-3 books, puppets and other theme related



items. These kits can be checked out. Have ongoing e-book workshops as well as one on one e-help desks. Teen instagram contest. Any children's material is fine free. Fines can be erased. Started a teen advisory group TAG to help decorate, plan events, volunteer and advise on materials being provided at Library. 8-10 attend regularly however need more youth in order to keep the program running. Typically libraries have 30-40 youth.

Division of Family Practice

Wrapped CYMH module and local division, bringing service providers together. Division is on board with Provincial Collaborative. A local action committee will be formed, possibly aligned with Clinical. Wrapped up "Be Active Everyday". It was a partnership with Central Second Day program. The response was good.

GP for me did its soft launch in Fall and as a result 183 people were connected with a practice 103 of which were considered complicated.

Fraser Valley Child Development Centre

Enjoyed a great Christmas Party. Presently going through an internal revamp of intake process to make it more about the family story.

City Life

Provided food hampers and gifts for families as well as a banquet for families at Bernard. Some families are not accessing services because of perceived barriers. New programs being offered; Divorce Care for Kids and Adults, Unstoppable (similar to Caught in the Middle), and Smart Step Families a program for blended families. Will now be offering after school program at Bernard twice a week and will be able to serve 2x the kids. City Life will be donating vehicles to families in need who have the ability to cover associated costs .

SD#33

Partnerships are important. Continue to work as a school district around mental health. The Feb. 20 pro-d day will have a mental health focus; Kim from HELP will be presenting. Currently the district is very involved with Mind Up.

Chilliwack Learning Society

Currently have extra books suitable for groups. First Books is an inexpensive way to order books; agencies welcome to set up their own accounts however 70% of the families receiving the books have to be impoverished. If your agency doesn't meet the criteria you can order through CLS. Financial Literacy will have its first training for service providers. April 11 is the Financial Literacy Fair which will have interactive



booths. City Wide Literacy Challenge has a financial theme this year. Debbie shared a wonderful story of how a customer called Ken's Tire and Wheel and asked whether their business had a Ladybug book bin, before booking for service.

Chilliwack Healthier Community

A network of agencies with a demographic beyond children and youth. Next networking event, Jan. 27.

City of Chilliwack

Need to continue to move forward with low barrier housing for the homeless population. 2 weeks prior to the fencing going up around the homeless camp under the overpass, outreach workers connected to homeless to help them find suitable supports. A bin was purchased so that they would have a safe place to store belongings.

Youth Unlimited

Serve youth between 8-24; wherever there is a need want to fill the gap. The process of the community assessment is currently coming to close and would like feedback from the CYC. During the assessment there were a number of themes that came up during the conversations. 1) Transportation issues 2) Economic divide in Chilliwack 3) Concept of a Youth Centre; a hangout 4) Accessibility of services – youth had no idea of resources available, usually found out by personal connections 5) High risk behaviours at an earlier age compared to other communities

Project ideas: 1) Mobile drop-in centre. Fraserway RV is willing to fund and RV or bus which could be retro fitted into a Youth Centre. 2) Peer mentoring programs; Middle School mentoring elementary, Senior High mentoring middle school and adults mentoring senior high.

Hospice

Children's grief and loss group for ages 4-13 who've experienced a death. Pregnancy infant loss group. Suicide/homicide bereavement group. Relaxation group.

11. Coordinator's Report

2015, the year to which Marty McFly travels to in "Back to the Future" and also the year the Provincial Government had hoped to reduce early years vulnerability to 15% with the "15 by 15" campaign. Back to Future imagined hover boards as a mode of transportation but hadn't considered the possibility of cell phones and that phone booths would be obsolete. The



Provincial Government imagined a province where children thrive and probably never considered that social and emotional vulnerability would increase even in affluent neighbourhoods.

2014 was the 20th anniversary of the United Nation’s International Year of the Family. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations stated that “The twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) offers an opportunity to refocus on the role of families in development; take stock of recent trends in family policy development; share good practices in family policy making; review challenges faced by families worldwide and recommend solutions. As we learned through Lynell Anderson’s keynote address at our 2014 Conversation on Chilliwack’s Children, families in our province are feeling the intense pressure of time and lack of finances, earning them the moniker GenSqueeze. Reading through a recently released report from World Vision regarding violence against children, the majority of the people interviewed worldwide, identified family as being the conduit for making a positive change even before government and other institutions.

As I consider the various committees I sit on and the prevalent issues that are discussed, the trend of family breakdown and traditions continue to be a root cause. As a CYC I believe our Every Door is the Right Door initiative along with the themes of our Annual Conversations, this year’s being “Safe Relationships Safe Children”, can contribute positively to the health and well-being of Chilliwack’s children and their families. I appreciate that we are willing to look at the difficult questions and work together as partners to come up with an action plan. I think we are doing good work in creating community awareness and block by block making a positive difference for Chilliwack families. I am often inspired by this quote, “ Don’t get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don’t give up.”

Next Meeting, February 3

Host: Ann Davis

Hub International