



**Meeting, March 4, 2013**

**Fraser Valley Child Development Centre, Luckakuck Way, Chilliwack, BC**

**CYC Chairs: Dan Bibby  
Julie Unger**

**Recorder: Karen Steegstra**

**Present:**

<b>Ann Todd</b>	<b>Fraser Health</b>	<a href="mailto:Anne.Todd@fraserhealth.ca"><u>Anne.Todd@fraserhealth.ca</u></a>
<b>Dan Bibby</b>	<b>MCFD</b>	<a href="mailto:Daniel.Bibby@gov.bc.ca"><u>Daniel.Bibby@gov.bc.ca</u></a>
<b>Debbie Denault</b>	<b>CLCS</b>	<a href="mailto:debbied@chilliwacklearning.com"><u>debbied@chilliwacklearning.com</u></a>
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<b>Kiran Sidhu</b>	<b>FVDC</b>	<a href="mailto:ksidhu@fvcdc.org"><u>ksidhu@fvcdc.org</u></a>
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<b>Kathy Funk</b>	<b>Chilliwack Restorative Justice</b>	<a href="mailto:kfunkrestorejustice@gmail.com"><u>kfunkrestorejustice@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Ken Popove</b>	<b>City of Chilliwack</b>	<a href="mailto:popove@chilliwack.com"><u>popove@chilliwack.com</u></a>

<b>Leah Froese</b>	<b>Cyrus Centre</b>	<a href="mailto:leah@cyruscentre.com"><u>leah@cyruscentre.com</u></a>
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<b>Terresa McKenzie</b>	<b>Ann Davis</b>	<a href="mailto:terresa@anndavis.org"><u>terresa@anndavis.org</u></a>
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**Regrets:**

<b>Theresa Point</b>		
<b>Shari West</b>	<b>YMCA</b>	<a href="mailto:shari.west@vanymca.org"><u>shari.west@vanymca.org</u></a>
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**1. Welcome**

Dan welcomed members and introductions were made. Dan commented that Sylvia Dyck from the School District will be attending CYC meetings.

**2. Approval of February minutes.**

**Action: Karen will post to website.**

**3. Every Door is the Right Door Admin. Training Review**

Karen gave members copies of the summary of evaluations from the 2 days of Admin. Training. By the comments of attendees it was time and effort that was well spent.

**4. Agency Inventory**

A copy of the agency inventory survey was sent out last week. The information will be rolled up into a single report. It is meant to showcase what is already being done and what agencies are hoping to do. **Action: Members are to email completed inventories to Karen by the end of the week.**

## **5. Conversation on Chilliwack's Children**

**Registration is open. The breakout sessions will be engaging for both professionals and clients. Having the event at City Life Church is very beneficial for the CYC, as the church gives much support.**

**Dan shared how the CYC initiative "Every Door is the Right Door" has been nominated and is in the final category for the "Premier's Award".**

## **6. Homeless Count – Steve Esau**

**The last homeless count was completed in 2011. It is run through MCC and done over a 24 hour period. There is also a survey for both sheltered and unsheltered people to complete. Will be giving out backpacks filled with supplies. The information gained from the surveys will be very valuable.**

## **7. Cyrus Centre Update – Les and Leah**

**A location has been secured. The Decades building has been purchased by City Life with a favorable lease agreement with Cyrus. There are some hoops to jump through, but so far the response has been very positive. On March 7, from 5pm – 7 pm, there will be a meeting with business owners surrounding the location. On March 18, Cyrus will be doing a presentation for City Council, requesting a temporary use permit application. Letters of support, addressed to the Mayor and City Council, from agencies are needed by March 11. The hope is to have doors opened by July 1. The permit is for a 6 year term. On March 13, there will be a Youth Partnership meeting at the NLC. James made a formal motion that the CYC support Cyrus Centre and that a letter of support be written for their temporary rezoning application. The motion was seconded by Wayne. All members were in favour of the motion.**

**Debbie asked how Cyrus Centre would be sustained. Les said that it would be funded by 3 fund raisers, businesses, grants, churches and individuals. At this time, people are contributing donations.**

## **8. Family Literacy – Debbie Denault**

**Debbie gave a description of the services offered by CLCS. At this time they are looking for existing programs and gaps. Nathan will forward to Debbie all the things happening at the School District in relation to literacy. Debbie described how literacy is the ability to decode information to move forward. Literacy includes reading, math and technology. Kiran described how she is working in emotional literacy**

to teach children how to express their emotions verbally. Debbie asked whether more supports are needed for families.

**9. Sexual Exploitation Awareness – Brenda Listoen**

**Brenda is the Chilliwack Connect worker and a member of SEA-CAT. On behalf of the Action Team, Brenda showed slides from the events around Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week and shared some of the information and statistics learned from the guest speakers. Member of the team are available to present to agencies if requested.**

**10. Immigration Services – April Neave and Melissa**

**April gave an overview of what Immigrant Services offers; language instruction, translation and document completion. There are currently 300 members from the community using Immigrant Services and they come from all over the world. Coming to a new country and community can be very disorienting and so they try to offer a welcoming environment. 70% of the clients are permanent residents and 30% are citizens or refugees. 70% of the immigrants to Canada are female and over ½ have a post graduate degree. A year ago, services provided to immigrants came under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. Province will fund whatever is not covered by Federal funding. Dan inquired as to what was the admission process. April said many clients are walk-ins and many come as a result of family or friends. Prior to language instruction an assessment is done and then the client is streamed into a language class. Childcare is provided. International students do not qualify for services however they can attend conversation circles.**

**Welcoming Communities – Melissa**

**Welcoming Communities is sponsored by Welcome BC. Isolation is the biggest barrier for immigrants. If they don't settle into a community, they tend to relocate often. The goal of Welcoming Communities is to remove barriers and improve access to services. They currently have a partnership with the YMCA and SD#33. The Community School Hubs are very beneficial for immigrants. UFV is currently offering language learner workshops to teach how to interact with adults learning a new language. There will be panel presentation with new comers sharing their experiences. The Social Research and Planning Council is currently collecting data which will be presented next week. Also in the process of creating a resource guide which will contain essential information meant for those with low levels of English. The resources**

**will also be available at Info Chilliwack. Two years ago the Immigrant Symposium was a list of issues and identifying strengths; this year it will be a celebration of successes and challenges. If agencies require the service of an interpreter, they can inquire with Immigrant Services.**

**11. Agency Profile – Fraser Valley Child Development Centre – Kiran Sidhu, Stacy Barfoot**

**CDC was started in 1982 by parents who wanted services closer to home. Now in 2014 they have 105 staff and serve 2200 children annually, 1500 under age 5. CDC is located in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Agassiz and Hope. They also have a wide array of partnerships with other agencies. In 2004 decided to change their service model. Representatives from each of the programs were mixed into teams. This model has allowed for access to an array of services and expertise in a timely manner. It is recognized that families know their children best and so parents need to be provided with skills. CDC is continuously reviewing what it is like to be a family accessing services. Parents come in with a story and a need and need to be listened to.**

**CDC was thanked for hosting.**

**12. Coordinator's Report**

**One of the aspects of my position as a Coordinator that I appreciate, is the variety of activities and events I am able to participate in, and the many different and fascinating people I get to meet. February was a month filled with activities and interesting people. On February 6, I helped facilitate our second Administrative Staff Pro-D Day. Like the previous week, it was well-attended and well received by participants. On February 7 I met with the 'Counsel of Partners' (the Early Years Coordinators of the Eastern Fraser Valley) for our bi-monthly meetings. We discussed with staff from the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre the benefits of having Coordinator's trained to carry out developmental screening.**

**The week of February 10-14 was Chilliwack's Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. As part of the Community Action Team I helped to plan and attended the events. It was very timely that a few days previous to the rally held at the courthouse, the case of David Thomas Hilpert, 53, charged with multiple counts of sexual assault, sexual interference, procuring a person to become a prostitute, being a householder permitting sexual activity and obtaining sexual services of**

**a person under the age of 18, was before the Chilliwack courts. The charges date back to 2010, when a 14-year-old Chilliwack girl connected with the case was also arrested for allegedly recruiting other young girls into the sex trade. Also during that week 3 Kamloops boys were charged with distributing child pornography. It affirmed the relevance and necessity of creating awareness around sexual exploitation in our community. The community events were well attended and the school events were well received. I think the most disturbing information was to learn that the average age of recruitment into the sex trade is between 12-14 years of age. Intervention at the high school level may be too late for some. On February 19 I had the privilege of being a facilitator for the Healthy Communities Council forum on Housing and Homelessness. Lots to be learned and great ideas and feedback from participants. February 20 was “All 4 Kids” a family resource and kindergarten readiness fair that was held at Cottonwood Mall. We had great participation from agencies and the feedback from the event was very positive. We hope to use this venue again for next year’s event. During the month I also participated in the Aboriginal Lunch and Learn. I do encourage everyone who has opportunity to attend; there are so many interesting things to learn about Aboriginal culture and tradition and how it effects day to day life. I was also invited by Sto:lo Health to be part of a planning committee bringing the play “Beneath the Surface” to the community. It is part of a suicide prevention campaign and deals with a number of painful issues that Aboriginal families may be facing. The hope is to hold the event on March 22. I have a number of responsibilities around the planning this year’s Conversation on Chilliwack’s Children, which include promotions, registration, logistics, and all kinds of other stuff all to ensure the day runs smoothly. Never a dull moment in the life of a Coordinator, and for that I’m grateful!**

**Next Meeting – April 1,  
City Life Church,  
Chilliwack Central, Chilliwack**