



May 3, 2016
Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Co-chairs: Dan Bibby
Nathan Ngieng

Recorder: Karen Steegstra

Present:

Briann Gillies	Youth Adult Coordinator	chilliwackyap@gmail.com
Collette Bohach	Big Brothers Big Sisters	<u>collette.bohach@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca</u>
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Ken Neufeld	Youth Unlimited	ken@youthunlimited.com
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Leah Froese	Cyrus Centre	leah@cyruscentre.com
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Regrets:

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1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Review of April minutes. Minutes approved and will be posted to website

3. Conversation Update – 250 people registered. Workshop presenters are local experts.

4. Street2Home – Leah Froese

Formalized engagement and intervention services developed by Cyrus Centre staff. Resources for youth available 24-7. Workers have access to files of previous interventions. Intervention can be anything from helping to create resumes to finding appropriate housing. It is a client based program based on the need. When necessary professionals are brought in. Currently Cyrus Centre Chilliwack is serving 300-350 youth per month; 167 youth have stayed in the shelter since opening. Noticing that there a larger numbers of youth 13-15 that are homeless or street entrenched.

5. Mental Health Awareness Week

A lot of great events taking place the week of May 2-6. May 4 is the fundraising dinner for the Youth Health Centre at Vita Bella- tickets still available. May 13 “Beneath the Surface” being performed at the UFV theatre. As well during the week there will be workshops and presentations for students. The purpose to equip youth with tools to talk about mental health and suicide.

6. Youth Adult Partnership Engagement Program

After the 8 month pilot in 2015 with Sophie Smit as the Coordinator a report was created regarding the learnings. The findings strongly indicated the need to move forward to



develop at Youth Adult Engagement Program. Funding has been secured from MCFD, CSCL, the Division as well as an application for a CDI grant to the City. Briann Gillies, has been hired to fill this 15 hour per week position. Agencies working on projects or initiatives where they would like a youth perspective can contact Briann. These projects will be brought to the youth. The desire is to bring youth representing multiple groups in our community together for feedback and consultation.

7. Building Bridges – Rachel Doucette, Senior Peer Counselling

In working with Seniors have noticed there are a lot of similarities between Seniors and Teens. Wanting to create an intergenerational program which will include mentoring and building relationships as well as interactive programs, recreational activities and events. Many seniors are isolated and suffer from depression. Youth are able to help seniors get connected through technology ie helping to set up Facebook accounts. Youth get to hear the rich stories and experiences of seniors. Both groups benefit. Currently putting together a steering committee of youth and seniors. Applied for a YPER grant and received it. Debbie suggested that it might be wonderful for youth to write the stories of seniors as part of Canada's 150 the Birthday celebration next year.

8. Regional CYC

Five CYC's and CHC's meet bi-monthly. Next meeting will focus on the Middle Years bringing together the actions and efforts in each community. HELP has done work around the middle years and much intelligence was gained through the MDI.

9. Local Action Team

Looking at direction for next year. May 25, forum with youth and parents around substance misuse. Substance use and misuse is a big issue. Are wanting to do monthly community engagement events. Working on journey mapping project. Walking through a family's journey of substance misuse identifying the challenges and barriers. Addictions Awareness Week is in November.

10. Every Door is the Right Door

Another successful workshop held on April 20. Good attendance and great feedback from attendees. Participants are finding the simulation exercise helpful as well as the professional development piece led by Rob Lees.

11. Agency Updates



School Board – Currently doing an Alternative Education review and in the proposal stage of developing direction. Mental Health needs to be included more in schools as this is becoming a bigger problem.

Chilliwack Addictions and Prevention – Have completed hiring and training and now fully staffed. Beth Gray is the new addictions counsellor on the north side of Chilliwack. Noticing younger people accessing the services of the needle exchange.

Child and Youth Mental Health – Working on transitions START Program and emergency and psych ward to CYMH programs. As youth transition into adulthood, looking to see who can best serve the youth best.

FVCDC – Currently have a social worker and speech pathologist on site. Heavy focus on preparing kids who are beginning school is September.

Youth Unlimited – Showed directors around to Chilliwack agencies and services as part of the strategizing for Chilliwack. Have made the decision that Youth Unlimited will be fulltime in Chilliwack.

Chilliwack Learning Society – Fundraising golf tournament coming up. First Books are in. Debbie will bring a selection of the books to the Conversation. Shaw TV is creating a program on the Lady Bug Book Bins.

Public Health – Flu season lasted longer this year. Trying to get the 2yr old immunizations up. Currently doing kindergarten screening.

City of Chilliwack – Will be reviewing the CYC's grant application this evening for approval.

Chilliwack Division of Family Practice– Psychiatrist at Stolo Youth Health Clinic every 2 weeks. Family doctors are on site to make direct referrals. Agencies are encouraged to direct clients to the services at Stolo since low access at this time. Will be holding an open house at Stolo, June 21, 12:30-2.

Big Brothers Big Sisters – AGM had the opportunity to honour 2 Chilliwack volunteers who had been Big Sisters for 6 and 8 years. Bowl for Kid's Sake surpassed fundraising goal. Human Services Career Program will be presenting for Trustees and Superintendent. Secured \$50,000 for the mentoring portion of the program.



VYPER – Supporting Briann in her new position. Around until end of June.

VOYCE –Currently getting ready for May 25 panel.

Ann Davis – Will be holding their annual drive-thru breakfast fundraiser. Will be offering Connect Parenting Group; currently looking for funding for food and childcare.

Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy – Piloting prevention programs in SD#33; funding secured for next school year. “Classroom Conversations” taking place in 3 middle schools. Great response. Will pilot in an elementary school in January.

Chilliwack Society for Community Living – Open house went well, however would have liked to have a greater attendance. Mark Strahl did attend. Currently getting ready for summer programs.

Chilliwack Community Services – Will hold it’s open house at the end of May. Early Years fundraiser raised \$45,000 for Downtown and Sardis Family Place. CCS will be ceasing operation of the daycare at the NLC. Family Place will continue to operate. Currently 80 kids go home with a Starfish backpack filled with food for the weekend. Building a hub centre which will include Youth Housing. Have received a grant for a business plan.

YMCA – Annual fundraising campaign “Strong Kids” raised 125,000. 1 in 4 users at the YMCA are receiving access programming. Will be holding “5 Days 5 Ways” , access to try out the YMCA. MEND will be running in the summer. May 24 and July 18 are the start dates of the Youth Works cohorts.

MCFD – 2 year contract with SD#33 to have a mental health therapist working fulltime. Dan is excited to announce the soon arrival of CYC pull-out pens.

SD#33 – Partnered with UFV Nursing to offer the FRIENDS Program; an 8 week program. There is potential for continuation. Working with Hospice to offer partnership and support in schools 1 day a week; will include group work and education.

Next Meeting, September 13
Neighbourhood Learning Centre