



## YOUTH MATTERS

### *A subcommittee of the Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee* Meeting Minutes (September 28, 2017) – 9:00-10:30am

**Co-Chairs:** Kate Healey (CCS) and Trevor Wiens (Cyrus Centre)

**Recorder:** Trevor Wiens

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**Present:** Kristy Jones, Tara Cummings, Nikki Dionne, Aileen Matthews, Donna Simon, Katrina Ovens, Karen Steegstra, Jeff Gates, Wendy Coleman-Lawley, Dan Bibby

**Regrets:** Maggie Aronoff, Antonia Victor

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#### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Round table introductions

#### **Reviewed minutes and action items from June 22, 2017**

##### **VOYCE Youth Update**

- The VOYCE youth is currently still in transition. Donna Simon is acting as a liaison for the youth belonging to the group.
- VOYCE has begun to collaborate with Impact which is a mutually beneficial relationship.
- A hot topic among VOYCE has been the issue of high school graduation events in regard to what youth are allowed to attend.
- Have submitted a grant to help learn about culture diversity.

##### **CYC Update (Karen, Dan)**

- Strategic planning meeting held in September with Ron Plowright with the goal of creating a plan that is cohesive and manageable. There is also a desire for the CYC sub committees to be well plugged into the plan. At the next CYC meeting Ron will provide feedback from the September meeting.
- “Youth Hub” - Over the years there has been efforts to identify a youth centre in Chilliwack but without complete success. An increased effort toward youth engagement over the past few years (VYPER, YAP, VOYCE) has been made to ensure that youths’ desires and needs are met. Maggie Aronoff has completed a report (draft) to find out the desires/needs that youth in this community. This draft is getting feedback from a steering group. The CYC would like this steering group to report to the Youth Matters Sub-Committee. The word “youth centre” is being used loosely because there isn’t yet a clear picture of what it looks like in a practical sense quite yet.

- ***ACTION: Review draft report and provide feedback to Karen Steegstra.***

##### **SEACAT Update (Karen)**

- Gail Dines is a leading voice on pornography and its effects on individuals and culture. She did a presentation on September 11 and SEACAT had an opportunity to meet with her for two hours prior to the event.
- Moving forward: Recognition that parent education is needed and that there need to be more discussions surrounding sexual consent (what is it? how do we talk about it in schools in an engaging and appropriate way?). Looking into facilitating an art project with the theme of sexual consent.
- Little Warriors Workshop: Next Wednesday (October 4) from 10:30am-12:00pm at the NLC. The workshop will help you gain knowledge, know how to prevent and know how to respond to child sexual abuse.



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- Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (TCO<sup>2</sup>) is currently booking workshops between November 14-16 and November 20-24. They are workshops for youth about sexual exploitation. The workshops are free.

#### **Youth Transitions Committee (Karen)**

- This is a new group that is looking at the gaps between the transition between youth and adult services. What is noticed so far is a lack of cohesive transition for acute mental health and housing challenges.

#### **Strategic Plan (Kate)**

- Youth Matters went through strategic planning earlier this year which will continue to develop as the larger CYC strategic plan becomes more concrete.

#### **Youth Matters Task Group (Kate)**

- Last year, Youth Matters identified last that we want to do one large event per year that extends beyond schools. This year's event is on November 15 (Wednesday) at 3:30pm at the NLC. Transportation available. There should be promotional available tomorrow to begin to promote the event which is directed toward youth 12-18 on topic mental wellness. The LAT and MCFD have contributed financially to the event. We are still looking for at least \$500 to help make the event happen.

***ACTION: Help promote the event.***

#### **Service Integration: Agency Updates**

- CYC is currently updating information on their website in order to make sure all agencies are represented accurately.

***ACTION: Check the CYC website ([www.childandyouth.com](http://www.childandyouth.com)) to see if your agency is listed and that the information is accurate.***

- September 29 is Orange Shirt Day to remember and acknowledge the impacts of residential schools.
- Balancing our minds grant (\$5000) is available to communities to put on an event. Application needs to include a follow up plan.

#### **New Business**

- Co-Chair: Still looking for a permanent co-chair for Youth Matters

#### **Program/Service Updates:**

- There is a new yoga program that is youth friendly and promotes mindfulness in schools. The program can come into schools at a very flexible rate (or possibly free).
- YMCA is under construction and the official groundbreaking is next Thursday, October 5. The temporary location is at the downtown business centre with the expected reopening to be in Summer 2018. YMCA is applying for renewal of the Youth Works contract. For all information, check out YMCA on social media.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters is accepting application for in school mentors.



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- The HSEP is looking for practicum placements for grade 12 students from Chilliwack Secondary.
- Kids in Control (Oct 10-Nov 28) – program that helps kids understand mental health struggles of adults in their lives. Referrals for 11-13 years old. Contact: kicchilliwack@gmail.com.
- Youth Experience Project – Interviews conducted through partnership with UVIC and Centre for Disease Control. Interviewing youth (16-30) in Chilliwack about their drug use and interactions with police. Participation pays \$25.
- Aileen Matthews of CSCL is looking to further youth integration and ways to work with other service providers.
- Donna Simons (BC Gambling) will be putting on workshops that includes the 7 Sacred Teaching to target youth and parents.
- Learn 2 Lead is a prevention based program that currently has 5 groups. The groups focus on resiliency, recreation, and volunteering. Just began a new partnership with McCammon Elementary with their outdoor education class. Contact Wendy about how to refer.
- PCRS has new housing unit on Broadway and is currently in process of transitioning residents.
- City Wide – a monthly gathering of youth pastors in Chilliwack.
- Youth Health Centre – Currently has two locations (NLC and Sto:lo). Email Karen Steegstra or Dan Bibby to receive posters.
- Breakfast Club at Cyrus Centre – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (10:00am-12:00pm). Program aimed at vulnerable 18-24 y/o youth who would benefit from life skills, breakfast, and community.
- Chilliwack Connect – October 28 at First Avenue Church. It is a one-day service event for people with low incomes who experience difficulty getting basic community and professional services. Free breakfast and lunch included.
- Chilliwack Community Services has openings for the REAL Coordinator position and Community Outreach position. CCS has a newly hired director and is releasing their strategic plan within the next month.

**Next meeting: Oct 26, 2017**

**CAPS Office 45921 Hocking Ave, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1B5**