



May 5, 2020
Via ZOOM

Chair: Dan Bibby & Kate Healey

Recorder: Annette Williams

Present:

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1. Welcome and Round Table Introductions

2. Review Agenda & Approval of March Minutes – Approved

3. Presentation: Feed the Children Initiative, Diane Janzen

Within the School District system there are three food providers: Bowls of Hope (feed lunch to 850 kids per day), CCS's Starfish Backpack program (provides food for families over the weekends), and Rotary Club of Chilliwack's breakfast program in a number of schools. When schools closed recently, food security was identified as a need and the initiative was created. They receive donations of eggs, vegetables and fruit which are put into packages by volunteers from various groups and the community. CCS's volunteer drivers take the packages to 23 schools which then distribute them to families. About 47% go to Indigenous descent. The operation has worked seamlessly.

CCS holds the administrative and fundraising role, with enough funds to for the initiative to last until December. CCS had applied to Vancouver Foundation, which granted \$50,000 in 3 days.

Further funding was received of \$19,000 from the Breakfast Club, \$12,000 from the United Way of the Lower Mainland, \$11,700 from Rotary, \$5,000 from the Childrens Foundation and \$50,000 through a CCS fundraiser. For every dollar received they receive \$3 in value.

This has raised questions about whether there should be a summer-long food security activity, which hasn't occurred in previous years. It has also sparked discussion about whether there should be a longer-term food security provision.

CCS has put in a proposal for a rapid response food hub.

Sabine mentioned that the CHC's Poverty Reduction table meets twice a month to help connect and support those who are delivering food security during this time.

4. Presentation: Childcare for Essential Workers, Debbie Onucki

CCR provides services to childcare providers – workshops, networking opportunities, pro-D, access to their resource library, funding for start-ups, operating info. They also provide services to parents – access to local childcare providers' information, community resources info, access to funding.

When COVID-19 social distancing measures began, MCFD asked all CCRs to shift their focus to be 100% on providing childcare referrals to essential service workers. They were also asked to maintain an inventory of all open and closed childcare spaces that would have childcare services available for children of emergency workers (Tier 1). They also were to provide the best match or fit between childcare providers and Tier 1 essential service worker families. MCFD created a space on their own website where parents could self-refer to childcare providers. MCFD created temporary emergency funding to support childcare workers to stay open, whereby the facilities could claim 7x the childcare operating fund if they stayed open. If they had to close they could claim 2x their operating fund. Interested parties were instructed to call MCFD for details.

CCR reports weekly to MCFD. Childcare facilities have been receiving support from Fraser Health Licensing and MCFD regarding their questions.

In Chilliwack there are currently 75 open childcare providers/facilities, of which 46 programs have spaces available for all age groups. About 30 are closed, in part because of lack of staffing due to COVID-19. CCR started out with about 20 referrals in the first couple of weeks but now they're averaging 5-6 per week. Now they're referring for all Tiers.

May is Childcare provider appreciation month, CCR is looking at how they can honour all childcare providers and early child educators. They're discussing the possibility of providing workshops through ZOOM and how to open up the resource library for use.

When families who have been home go back to work they can call CCR who will provide them names of childcare providers that have space available.

Licensing has been visiting all facilities that have opted to stay open to give tips regarding cleaning and health safety of children and staff. They have asked CCR to refer families to them if the families have any questions.

Temporary Emergency Fund – childcare is not paid for. Each facility or licensed program is still charging their regular fees. Families can apply for the Childcare Benefit if they qualify.

Any school age children would be referred back to the family school principal.

The School District joined the conversation with an update. The District has ongoing connections with parents regarding family who need support. At the end of spring break a parent survey had been done based on needs, which included food. More than 4,000 families participated in the survey. It also identified families who needed childcare.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the Ministry of Education had a mandate for schools to provide childcare to essential service workers, starting with Tier 1 and including Tier 2. GW Graham and CSS sites were selected for care. There is a full-time custodian at both sites. The District worked with the Provincial Health Authority to establish routines to track movement of people within the building so that if a person is infected the entire building doesn't need to be shut down. 59 students registered to use the sites and coming in regularly. They have also created a before and after school childcare option in conjunction with the YMCA where Bernard Elementary's program opens at 6:00am, then the School District provides bussing to GW Graham at 8:00, then a bus back after 3:00pm for care until 6:00. No one has registered for this service yet.

There are 50 staff at GW Graham, morning and afternoon shifts; they're not educators, the programming is more childcare-focused and activity-based. Students can bring in work from their teachers to work on there.

Their childcare centre hasn't been designed for kids with behavioural concerns. Principals are welcoming those children into their own schools. School-based teams are meeting to discuss supporting the children.

The School District is working closely with childcare providers, not in competition with them. Prior to COVID-19 the City of Chilliwack was beginning to work on a childcare action plan. Many of the agencies who offer childcare were part of that. The survey and research helped identify some of the childcare statistics such as wait lists and number of centres. Chilliwack had been identified as needing 10-15 new licensed childcare centres. Chilliwack is the only one in the Fraser Valley that did the work.

At this point in the meeting CCRR reported that more potential childcare places have come forward as being interested in opening, those being 12 additional infant toddler spaces and one group daycare for infants/toddlers and children ages 3-5 years.

5. Update: Youth Unlimited Mobile Drop-In, Ken Neufeld

Abbotsford, Mission and Langley had a mobile drop-in unit which was a converted double-decker bus, but it had a lot of mileage. Fire trucks are extremely well maintained, don't travel a great distance, and at 20 years of age the cities sell them.

In Feb 2018 an airport fire truck from Atlanta Georgia was purchased and driven to Chilliwack. A local fabricator that makes pop-out trailers for the movie industry has been consulting with Youth Unlimited and doing the structural work. The truck was delivered to them in August 2019, to be worked on between their regular contracts. The pop-up and slide-out portions are complete, and cladding is ongoing.

Youth Unlimited has spent \$135,000 of the \$140,000 raised and they continue to raise funds. They have received grants from City of Abbotsford and individuals. Get-away RV and Fraserway RV have pledged and donated for completion of the inside. Those businesses have had a slow-down right now but are still interested. The fabricator is also experiencing a reduction in business due to slow-downs in the film industry and is running a skeletal crew.

The mobile unit will be used in Chilliwack and Abbotsford. Volunteers will be solicited for a team that will be with the vehicle in certain neighbourhoods on certain days. It will be a mobile Every Door is the Right Door opportunity to increase neighbourhood knowledge about programs and services available to youth, and will be a good relationship building tool to help connect them to services.

An artist's rendition of the fire truck drop-in unit is attached.

6. Presentation: CHC Elements of Mental Health Guide, Sabine Mendez

The idea was generated 5 years ago, has been worked on for the past 4 years with the contribution of many people. It's based on the Canada Food Guide format and [Healthy Mind Platter](#). Phase 1 was a poster, which is now the first page of the Guide.

Funding has been received to print 3,000 copies, which will provide 25 to each organization free of charge. They're ready to be picked up at the CCS Wellington office. People can also print their own quantities, for which pdfs are available on the CHC website. A PayPal button is being linked to the CHC website for organizations to order multiples of 50. CHC will send to Fraser Valley Custom Printers once a quantity of 1,500 copies is reached. Organizations will pick up their copies at the local printer (curbside pickup).

It is on the CHC Facebook [page](#) as well, please share.

Bookmarks and rack cards were created originally and will be updated with the current rendition.

Dan shared with other directors in MCFD, who are interested in it.

Sabine would like to send it to the Health Minister as she would like to see it used nationally. She also contacted CBC about giving an interview about it and is waiting for a response. She'll follow up with them.

There is conversation about it going in the Progress, logistics are being researched.

7. CYC Updates:

a. McCreary Forum

The forum was held during the 3rd week of February. McCreary presented Chilliwack specific results at the well-attended forum. The information will help plan for youth services going forward.

Every 4 years there is a provincial youth survey. The School District & MCFD split the cost of the survey, and the School District owns the information. The last one was in 2018. About 100 questions were asked of students, facilitated by public health nurses.

The 2012-13 results helped kick off the Youth health Centre.

b. CYC/CHC Weekly Mailout

CYC and CHC have now combined their weekly mailouts; CHC is supporting CYC's mailout. This is so that all the information will be accessed in one mailout to make it easier for people. It is also a cost-saver for the CYC, which has reduced funding available. Those who have been on both mailouts are currently receiving it twice, but in the future it will likely amalgamate to one mailout and one contact list. The information now covers the years of infants to seniors.

c. CYC Conversation Sponsors

The event has been postponed; it will be rescheduled once the Provincial Health Authorities declare it safe to gather again.

Thank you to the sponsors:

- Chilliwack Social Research and Planning Committee
- MCFD
- FVCDC
- City of Chilliwack
- CCS
- CSCL
- PCRS (leftover funds from Scott Miller event)
- City Life
- United Way of the Fraser Valley
- Sto:lo

Confirmed funding for when we reschedule:

- FVACFSS
- YMCA
- BC Responsible Gambling

8. Break

9. Agency Updates

- What is your agency doing differently?
- What programs at your agency have been impacted?

Fraser Health Public Health – continue to run a base level of service. About 50% of staff is focused exclusively on contact follow up. They are still providing immunization primary services by appointment and adult immunizations for those who are medically high risk. Families are receiving phone calls and home-based visits for certain vulnerabilities, and some are being brought into the clinic.

All new moms are receiving standard calls at regular intervals and there is still maternity support. There has been a drop-off in people requesting services or in-home visits. There was initially a reduction in immunizations of babies, which has now levelled off.

Fraser Health appreciates the hard work the community has done with social distancing and also thanks the health teams.

Chilliwack School District – The Ministry of Education’s priorities are: 1) establishment of health & safety protocols; 2) Childcare; 3) vulnerable students (food, and schools are now opening more for face-to-face time); and 4) the continuity of learning.

The District switched to using Microsoft Teams for increased security. Teachers came back from spring break to pre-populated classes. There are close to 2,000 people who have received training so that teachers and support staff are comfortable delivering services virtually.

There are ongoing Mental Health sessions about identification of mental health needs for themselves, students and families. There are once-weekly meetings with childcare workers and counselors. The School District works closely with MCFD around disclosure protocols.

CCS Immigrant Services – Vanessa and Arlene are providing childminding. They have started a Facebook group for parents which contains stories and will include a Mental Health focus.

Both morning and evening LINC ESL classes are operating daily, online on ZOOM. All classes are full!

Conversation circles are occurring every Tuesday/ Thursday on ZOOM, the class is full.

Settlement support, Employment counselling, Information and referrals are provided via phone calls, emails, ZOOM.

The childcare department is offering circle time on Facebook.

There are Temporary Foreign Workers classes on Thursday evenings.

LIP meetings are occurring on ZOOM.

All students have managed to get connected and have technology – except one who has chosen not to attend right now.

CCS Family Services– Family Places drop-ins are not running right now. They are connecting through social media. They had purchased music sessions online, but now facilitators will be offering the sessions instead. Cobs Bread donations are received every week, which families can pick up from the NLC through the Better Beginnings program.

CCS is working with Infant Development to run the Mother Goose program through ZOOM, Lana Hergott hosts it weekly.

There's a new early years counselor for families with kids ages 0-6, offering therapeutic support. This includes education, psycho-education, support and therapy in the home. It's part of the partnership with MCFD to expand Downtown Family Place contract to include therapeutic support. It was intended to be an outreach position, but support is currently provided via ZOOM with hopes that home visits will be possible at some point. Referrals can be self-referrals based, from agencies, friends/family, etc. To refer email Helen at edwardsh@comserv.bc.ca, call CCS Wellington St at 604-792-4267 or contact Anya Vogels at vogelsa@comserv.bc.ca.

CCS has a COVID-19 support hotline offering therapeutic support for anyone in Chilliwack during this time, open Tuesday to Thursday. They are also accepting emails and phone calls through the week on days that the hotline is not available.

The CCS website has been redesigned, www.comserv.bc.ca.

CCS Youth – spring break events were cancelled. CCS is working from home and are connecting with youth via online platforms. The schedules are on the CCS youth page, www.comserv.bc.ca/youth-services/. Hunter has been hosting activities for youth ages 9-18. There are daily video game sessions at 1:00pm Mon-Th which are being live streamed on the CCS Youth [Facebook](#) and Instagram pages. There are movie nights on ZOOM. There's a science experiment every Thursday; kids are encouraged to take part and post results online. Please encourage youth to contact Hunter via email or text or message on the CCS Youth Rec Instagram.

Afternoon Adventures – their after school programs are cancelled. They're trying to stay in touch with all the families that normally participate, which looks different in various communities of Chilliwack. Their current focuses include: participation in food security, talking to students, acknowledging birthdays, finding ways to stay in touch. There's a larger outreach through City Life – partnering with Starfish, Cyrus Ctr weekly connections regarding needs which the City Life then posts on their [website](#). Many people from their church would like to volunteer in the community, but it seems there are currently enough volunteers. The church is keeping a list of names for a time, perhaps this summer, when there will be more need for volunteers. Some people are sending funds to programs such as the Starfish Backpacks and the Salvation Army.

UFV's School of Social Work and Human Services – all UFV classes are currently delivered online. The winter semester has recently finished and the spring/summer semester is starting. In addition, they're planning for the fall.

Kelly expressed thanks to those who hosted practicum students. Social Service diploma students are the next practicum students who might be available, though it is uncertain whether that will be in person or remotely. Contact Kelly if you have ideas for creative remote learning opportunities. If placements will not occur in the fall then the next placements will occur in January. The next group of Social Work students will be in January.

Youth Unlimited – kids that were connected with at the Education Centre and Chilliwack Middle School are now connecting online and videogaming. A number of kids don't have access to online which makes it difficult to connect on social media. Ken and a team of volunteers have been writing cards and letters and dropping them off, with some being mailed through Canada Post.

Youth Unlimited runs from North Van to Chilliwack. They've just launched a Viral Video Contest for youth aged 10-24 (www.youthunlimited.com/videocontest). There's \$1,600 in prize money available, May 17th is the deadline. On May 28th they will host their first live-streamed video show, hosted by a Canadian comedian.

City of Chilliwack – the City has been busy. The facilities are closed to public with the exception of some provisions for contractors and developers to access resources virtually or via scheduled drop-in to city hall.

The Neighbourhood Grant program has been suspended and replaced with a [virtual grant program](#), which gives \$25 grants to Chilliwack residents who share creative ideas to connect their communities, reduce social isolation and build community strength and resiliency.

The City is creating an inspiration corner on their website, and they have created a spot containing colouring sheets, crosswords and other activities (bottom of the [webpage](#)).

They are receiving more inquiries from user groups to use facilities and are trying to find the balance between usage and cleanliness/guidelines. They are working with the Provincial Health Authority in the development of guidelines.

There was confirmed case of COVID-19 within City Hall, so they're looking at physical restructuring within the building and are also allowing people to work from home. Their IT department is extremely busy with the shift.

The City is trying to provide resources so people can keep their businesses going as much as possible.

Sto:lo Health Services – Offices are closed but most of the services remain intact on a virtual basis wherever possible. The Early Years and Dentist programs are closed. Sto:lo communicates with most of their clients through their Facebook page which has been very active.

They will be receiving about \$95,000 in grants to be used for food security. Let Sto:lo know if you're aware of any First Nations families or elders who need support.

The youth have created a public relations campaign asking people to stay home. The number of youth getting in trouble has decreased since social distancing.

Chilliwack Society for Community Living (CSCL) – They are very busy. Disability Services was deemed an essential service by the Provincial Health Officer so they are still operating

(just a bit differently). Rather than providing group programs they are now stretching their funding, as best they can, to support children/youth with special needs in a 1:1 capacity. They are connecting with families on a weekly basis (who receive their services, approximately 150 families) and are doing their best to determine which families are priority to receive 1:1 supports (based on a set of questions that they are asking Families). They are currently supporting approximately 35 children/youth this week (1:1 capacity) and that number is increasing slightly each week. Families are feeling overwhelmed and needing supports. They have been assembling care packages for families – as a ‘brighten your day’ gift (which includes a roll of toilet paper) and staff (with help from children/youth being supported) are cooking meals that are being packaged up to send home to families who are really overwhelmed and ‘maxxed out’. They’ve been in contact with some Youth via Zoom and Facebook Messenger to connect and to facilitate some virtual social connections for them. CSCL will be determining this week what their summer programs will look like and how they can continue to offer supports through the summer (while following directions from the Provincial Health Officer).

Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association (FVBIA) – all support services are virtual. A number of clients have been given Chromebooks so they can stay in touch. FVBIA is connecting clients with buying groceries and to the food bank. They’re looking at setting up summer camps alternatives for youth. They’ve cancelled all fundraising which is typically from June-August and are trying to get creative about fundraising and grant opportunities.

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) – all location closed in early March and book drops are locked. Due dates for checked out items automatically extended and late fines waived. Spring break programs were cancelled. Staff are working from home.

They received a \$50,000 grant from the Federal Government for digital literacy.

Staff are conducting virtual storytimes on FVRL’s [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook](#).

People can apply for [digital library cards](#) used to download audiobooks, ebooks and to stream movies online. People can receive support for their questions via email.

Teen Imagine is still running until May 31st, online.

Ann Davis Transition Society – continues to support clients. They’re offering emergency counseling; when people call the office they will be directed to the appropriate person.

The STAR summer program needs to be revamped.

Shelters and women’s centres are open. There is an increased frequency and intensity of gender-based violence at this time.

YMCA – they moved quickly to delivering programs online. www.gv.ymca.ca is the temporary website during COVID.

They offer essential childcare services. Youth employment is online (YouthBeat). The current session started on Monday with a full roster; the next group starts August 3rd, referrals are being accepted.

The Chilliwack YMCA’s [Facebook page](#) has at home workouts, kids programs and more.

Chilliwack School Board – Names have been chosen for the two new schools: Imagine High will be the Arts & Technology school, Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:It will be the K-8 school. The latter means place of crossing, house of learning in Halq’eméylem.

MCFD – many staff are working from home. Priorities include childcare, child protection, assessments. They're also focused on keeping staff safe through a virtual case management setting. MCFD has set up a special interviewing room within the School Street building that meets COVID protocol requirements.

10.Subcommittee Reports

Early Years: No report.

Youth Matters (& SEACAT)

Nicci has been redeployed working on COVID efforts and is hoping to rejoin in the fall. The committee will try to meet this month. They anticipate they will work to support the youth and see where gaps are.

The SEACAT hosted a Sexual Exploitation conversation which was attended by about 30 people, including youth from the Youth Advisory Committee. They're trying to stay connected via their Facebook [page](#), and are looking at how to adapt to virtual.

Primary Prevention

The committee will meet virtually next week. Much of the work done has been in schools (vaping prevention) which will look different right now. They also worked on reducing/preventing harm from pornography use by youth.

Next meeting: June 2, 2020 at 9:00am online

*Youth Unlimited Mobile Drop-in Unit
Artist's Renderings*

