



Meeting, January 7, 2013

MCFD, 8878 School Street, Chilliwack, BC

**CYC Chairs: Dan Bibby
Julie Unger**

Recorder: Karen Steegstra

Present:

Collette Bohach	Big Brothers Big Sisters	collette.bohach@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
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Leah Reimer	Cyrus Centre	leah@cyruscentre.com
Patti Macahonic	Ann Davis	patti@anndavis.org
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Steve Esau	CAPS	<u>SEsau@pcrs.ca</u>
Theresa Point		
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Regrets:

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1. Welcome

Dan welcomed members and talked of the new initiatives and that was upcoming in the New Year.

2. Approval of December minutes.

One correction was noted. Action: Karen will revise and post to website.

3. Every Door is the Right Door Update

Agencies were encouraged to free up staff for the two upcoming Admin. Pro D Days. These mornings will be a great morning of networking and information sharing. Agencies were encouraged to ensure that brochures and pamphlets are available for distribution. James confirmed that Info. Chilliwack is in the process of being updated.

4. Continued Quality Improvement Congress

Dan, Julie and Karen were invited to this event to present on the CYC, focusing on how community mobilizes the initiatives of the CYC; how initiatives go from concept to action. There was good feedback and an admiration for the Chilliwack CYC. As well positive feedback regarding childandyouth.com. A number of other representatives from Chilliwack also gave presentations related to their agencies.

5. Aboriginal Youth Engagement – Theresa Point

The mandate of the Aboriginal Youth Project is to discover ways to engage youth who are clients of Xyolhemeylh and MCFD, to discover ways to make services better and more seamless and to find ways to implement culture into services. After having 3 months of conversations with youth, the first “Let’s Talk About Youth” event took place. This was a way to bring youth and professional together. In December 2013, the second annual event was held. Lots of concrete actions came out of this event. Xyolhemeylh has made some tangible commitments, as well as other agencies. Staff at Xyolhemeylh are now required to attend at least 3 cultural events throughout the year to give them a better understanding of what culture means to Aboriginal people. Previous to working with Aboriginal Youth in Chilliwack, Theresa did a consult with youth in the Vancouver Coastal region. She partnered with Child and Youth phd. Students from the University of Victoria. Colour and cultural art were important factors in making Aboriginal youth feel welcomed. The students from UVic were able to take Theresa’s ideas and create a toolkit to help agencies evaluate

their readiness for youth engagement. At the Youth Forum is was very valuable having people like Gwen Point and Chief Brian speak. During the video where youth were asked a series of questions, their faces lit up when asked about culture and the importance of it in their day to day life. Many Aboriginal youth are disconnected from their culture and still experience racism and misunderstanding. The youth would like to see a youth centre available for all youth that allowed them to express their culture. Theresa was told about Cyrus Centre Chilliwack and how it would be both a drop-in and resource centre. Duncan asked how long it would take to do the evaluation. Theresa explained that it is a process and a few month commitment, however there is a shortened survey that will give a grade at the end of well an agency is doing is respect to engagement.

Theresa invited everyone to take part in the upcoming Lunch and Learns, the next one scheduled for January 21 at Stolo.

6. NLC Update

The NLC is now opened to agencies and clients. Community Services already has staff in place at the new location. The young parent's program along with all the programs offered at Family Place are now at NLC. As well there is a daycare for staff and the community. Xyolhemeylh and MCFD are sharing office space which includes an open learning space. Also at NLC are the United Way, Elder College and the Distance Learning Program. Equipped for Life staff will be delivering services at this location. There will be some mental health intake as well as a probation officer available. An open house is scheduled for some time in February. It is advantageous for agencies to use the space as rent is low. After June, training rooms will be available for rent. At this time just with core partners using the space, there have been 450 bookings.

7. Consultation Update

The next working group meeting is January 17, 7:30 am at the Airport Café. Everyone is welcomed to attend. The Program working group has been putting together the day. So far Lynell Anderson from HELP who will address public policy around Generation Squeeze and how policy affects the family, and Mae Burrows from Grief to Action are the Keynote speakers. The day will also include an experiential component, break-out sessions and networking.

8. Sub-Committee Reports

Early Years – Kiran

The committee is currently working on social marketing with the reprint of the Development Guide and the resurrection of the Parent Resource Guide.

Middle Years – Karen

Karen read AJ's Speech which he presented for City Council at National Children's Day. In his speech AJ shared about his participation at his after school program, Second Day, offered at Central Elementary. It was clear to all members that the program is very beneficial.

Youth Matters- Collette

The committee met to review Challenge Day. Are still in the process of collecting funds.

Karen encouraged members to participate in the events scheduled for Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week. Feb. 11, 7:00 pm at the NLC, Merlyn Horton speaking on cyber safety. Feb.12, 11:00 rally at Chilliwack Courthouse, 1:00 pm Jassy Bindra, Trisha Baptiste and Les Talvios speaking at the NLC.

Clinical – Duncan

The committee has some new members and are currently working on a new strategic plan. Are looking at Family Violence and its effects. A Connect Parenting Program will be offered at the NLC.

9. Terms of Reference

Dan, Julie and Karen met to review the document to update. Members reviewed and a few corrections were noted. Action: Karen will make corrections and have revised copy uploaded to CYC website.

10. Agency Profile – MCFD

MCFD has been located at School Street for 10-15 years. Previous it was divided up into multiple locations. Presently have 65 staff both part time and full time; the bulk being Social Workers. Social workers - 25, Mental Health -10, Admin. – 8, Probation Officers – 2.5, Special Needs – 3 , Regional After hours – 2, Adoption Specialists – 2. Most of the staff have a specialty area and are working towards being more client driven. By combining services into 1 Ministry has allowed for better integration. While in some areas doing well, other areas need more work. An integrated screening team allows services to be client

centred and more linear. MCFD has co-location agreements with a number of agencies: CDC, SD#33, CSCL, CLBC, CCS. This makes it easier for clients to access services. The NLC Hub will be another co-location. Currently working on a work place strategy. Want to get the messaging out to the public that MCFD is a place someone can come for help and support, not to be known as an agency that takes away kids. Also working to make staff more mobile so they can go to where their clients are; laptops, rocket sticks. 70% of the MCFD budget is for contracts. There are currently 260 children in care. MCFD also offers adoption and mental health services. Chilliwack is the only community in the Province that has Social Workers in the schools and it seems to be working very well.

11. Coordinator's Report

On December 4, I was able to participate in the CQI Congress held at the Langley Event Centre. Dan, Julie and I presented a workshop on the Chilliwack Child and Youth Committee. It was interesting hearing comments from professionals from other communities how they wished their community had a CYC like, what we enjoy in Chilliwack. We also got good feedback regarding our website; it's good looking and easy to navigate. The underlying theme throughout the day was "listen and include your clients in their care plan" and "work together with other agencies". It was affirmation that as a CYC we are current and relevant in focusing on "Every Door is the Right Door".

On December 10, I had opportunity to take part in the Let's Talk About Youth event,

which is part of the Aboriginal Youth engagement project, headed up by Theresa Point.

The youth who participated were well-spoken and showed fabulous leadership skills. I left

the day feeling like I had learned lots and that some important ground work had been accomplished.

I have been working with the Every Door is the Right Door working group planning the upcoming training for Administrative Staff. A survey was completed by Administrative Staff and the results of this survey are helping to shape the two training

sessions. The administrative staff were all employees of CYC agencies and surprisingly 50% did not know about childandyouth.com. As part of our strategic plan, I am currently working on developing a survey to discover how agencies are currently engaging families and collaborating with other agencies.

I have also been working with the Community Action Team to plan events for Sexual Exploitation Awareness Week, February 11-13. Something new this year will be a rally held at the Courthouse stairs, followed by a march around the block. February 12, at 1:00 pm will be an event geared to professionals. Jassy Bindra from the RCMP Human Trafficking Division will be speaking, as well, Trisha Baptiste will share her story of how she entered the sex trade as a young girl. I had the privilege of hearing both speak last year and found their information to be eye opening and very practical and useful especially if you suspect a youth is being exploited.

In the Fall, I took on the project of updating and refreshing the "Parent Resource Guide" I am hoping that by the end of this week, that it will be ready for distribution. A printable copy will be available on the CYC website.

Planning for the Annual Consultation is well under way and the day is nicely taking shape. The working group is made up of many perspectives and as a result, I feel we will have a well-rounded day.

12. New Business

Patti Machonic invited everyone to participate in the Ann Davis fundraiser, Feb.12, 7:30-9:00 at Chances.

Update on Cyrus – still looking for location but hopeful to be up and running by April 2014.

**Next Meeting – February 4,
Host - Ann Davis,
Meeting Location - Hub International, Leadership Centre, 8362 Noble Road**

