



May 5, 2015
Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Co-chairs: Dan Bibby
Julie Unger

Recorder: Karen Steegstra

Present:

Anne Todd	Fraser Health	Anne.Todd@fraserhealth.ca
Collette Bohach	Big Brothers Big Sisters	<u>collette.bohach@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca</u>
Dan Bibby	MCFD	<u>Daniel.Bibby@gov.bc.ca</u>
Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Society	<u>debbied@chilliwacklearning.com</u>
James Challman	CCS	<u>challmanj@comserv.bc.ca</u>
Julie Unger	CSCL	<u>julie.unger@cscl.org</u>
Karen Steegstra	CYC	<u>karen@childandyouth.com</u>
Kathy Funk	Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy	<u>kfunkrestorejustice@gmail.com</u>



Katrina Beppe	Chilliwack Division	<u>kbeppe@divisionsbc.ca</u>
Ken Neufeld	Youth Unlimited	<u>ken@youthunlimited.com</u>
Leah Froese	Cyrus Centre	<u>leah@cyruscentre.com</u>
Nathan Ngieng	SD #33	<u>nathan_ngieng@sd33.bc.ca</u>
Sabine Mendez	Chilliwack Healthier Community	<u>coordinator@healthierchilliwack.ca</u>
Sophie Smit	YAP	<u>ChilliwackYAP@gmail.com</u>
Stacy Wood	Vyper	
Steve Esau	Contact Centre	<u>SEsau@pcrs.ca</u>
Tobi Araki	RCMP	<u>Tobi.araki@rcmp.grc.gc.ca</u>
Todd Lueck	City Life	
Wayne Green	United Way of the Fraser Valley	<u>wayne@uwfv.bc.ca</u>



Regrets:

Doris Marko	Ministry of Social Development and Innovation	
Duncan MacDonald	CYMH	Duncan.Macdonald@gov.bc.ca
Kelly Janveaux	YMCA	
Ken Popove	City of Chilliwack	popove@chilliwack.com
Patti Macahonic	Ann Davis	patti@anndavis.org
Sonja Mussell	FVACFSS	Sonja.mussell@xyolhemeylh.bc.ca
Wendy Bruzzese	FVDCDC	wbruzzese@fvcdc.org
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1. Welcome and Introductions. Guests: Chris Rietsma, SD#33 Work Experience Coordinator; Cindy Rammage, UFV Child and Youth Care Practicum Advisor; Glen Paddock, School of Social Work UFV; Rob Lees, MCFD

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

3. Introduction of Youth Adult Partnership Facilitator, Sophie Smit

Sophie is a Bachelor of Social Work graduate. Her role is to be the connection between service agencies and youth. She will create a Youth Advisory Committee as a way of including their voice. Sub-committees will be formed for other tasks and projects. A



youth lead and directed conference for service providers, will be planned for late September or early October. This project is modelled after Mission, using their strategies and successes to move forward. CCS will be the host agency of the contract. The youth will apply for a larger VYPER grant to cover the costs of the Conference and other projects. Currently the contract goes until the end of July; the hope is to have it extend to October. An environmental scan of where youth engagement is currently taking place would be helpful. Stacy Wood has been very helpful. Sophie will be contacting the different CYC agencies to discover how each currently does youth engagement.

4. SEA CAT Update – Karen updated members on the activities around Chilliwack’s ‘Sexual Exploitation Week’. The workshop for service providers, put on by “Children of the Street” was well attended and well received. TCO2 did presentations in a number of schools; also well received. Karen commented that she appreciated how the presentation was updated with current information so that even if students see TCO2 more than once will get new information. The committee booked Cottonwood Theatre as part of Community awareness, and showed the movie “Trust”. It is about a 14 year old girl who develops a crush on a boy she meet in an online chat room. She believes he is 15. It is a portrayal of how online predators groom their victims. A very heavy movie, but according to the panel that spoke afterwards a very accurate portrayal of what actually takes place. It was suggested that all youth should see this movie. The SEA CAT committee owns the movie and hopes to show it again in the Fall. The events around Sexual Exploitation Awareness week were sponsored by MCFD.

Discussion followed around whether cyber safety was included in school curriculum; it is. As well the DARE program also contains a cyber safety component. Debbie shared a website she found helpful. Media Smarts <http://mediasmarts.ca/>

5. MOU Handout – Members were given a copy of the most updated copy of the MOU for review. It was confirmed that Karen does CYC orientation with new members. It is important that members have regular participation at CYC and sub-committees. A few updates were noted as well as “softening” the language of the document. The document will be redrafted and reviewed.

6. Guest Presenters

Cindy Rammage – Child and Youth Care Practicum Advisor

Cindy shared that 3rd year practicum students need 300 hours of practicum experience. Students do a “scope” practicum which is within their experience and a “stretch” practicum to help them broaden their experience. 4th year practicum students will do a career focussed practicum. Faculty assists 3rd year students in finding placements and encourage 4th year to find their own.



Glen Paddock said the School of Social Work follows a similar pattern. Students are assigned to a faculty person who is involved in their evaluation. The Masters of Social work are students looking for leadership practicums or clinical specialization.

Some of the difficulty with an agency having a practicum student is the liability around privacy of information on caseloads. It is important that the agency and the practicum student have good communication on what is hoped to be gained from the placement.

Chris Rietsma – SD#33 Work Experience Coordinator

Human Service Program being offered at Chilliwack Secondary is about building career opportunities for natural helpers. Chris' role in the district has many facets; he facilitates work experience and career placement. It is now a grad requirement to have 30 hours of work related experience. There is a subset of grade 11/12 students who opted to work in an elective work experience course. This is a 9th course of the timetable where students will complete 100 hours of community based work. The challenge is to find authentic and meaningful placements. Also a specialized program for students with disabilities and one geared for Aboriginal students. Partnerships in the community are key. RCMP Youth Academy is a successful example. The concept of “service learning” is very important to universities. Summer is a popular time for students to do their work experience.

7. SAFE (Suicide Awareness Fraser East) – Rob Lees

Have been meeting for about 20 years, focussing on suicide prevention for children and youth. Brian Gross is currently the chair. The committee's website is suicideawareness.ca. Have information on suicide post-vention.

Suicide prevention is multi-faceted and includes:

- 1) Promoting Gay Straight Alliances**
- 2) Connecting kids to adults**
- 3) Improve help seeking, which is a goal of Youth as Gatekeepers**
- 4) Creating opportunities for kids to matter**
- 5) Create compassionate communities**

Suicide is a “wild problem”; outside of grasp and hard to understand. Creating awareness of pre-suicide behaviour; what are the triggers.

12% of kids per year attempt suicide, 2-3% complete it in Fraser East. There is opportunity for better mental health literacy. CNN has a suicide prevention campaign around suicide on railways.

Labelling “youth at risk” is a negative and creates isolation. Move towards a more positive language “youth with possibilities”. There is a gap in intervention, not recognizing that response is key.



8. Conversation Update – members of the working group updated the larger membership on the work happening around the 22nd Annual Conversation. It was suggested that the CN police and the downtown security should be invited to the event.

9. CYC Co-Chair

Julie Unger has completed her 2 years of service. We are grateful for the leadership she has provided. A new co-chair will be decided at the June meeting.

10. Strategic Plan – Members were given a copy of the current strategic plan to review. After the Conversation Report is complete, members will update the strategic plan to reflect the findings of the Conversation.

11. Coordinator’s Report

It’s Conversation time and so much of my time is consumed with all the details surrounding our annual community event. I am so amazed that each year we find a way to bring it to a new level.

The Early Year’s Committee has recently created a “Visioning Task Group”. We see the value in pursuing a “mental wellness” focus and look forward to presenting the vision at the June CYC.

Very positive discussions and potential actions taking place around the Middle Years. At this point it is important to bring the right people together to discuss the potential and how to best implement the available resources.

Working with the new YAP Facilitator.

SEA CAT update. (see item #4 of May minutes)

CYC orientation – Did 2 CYC orientations during the month of April

**Next Meeting, September 15
Neighbourhood Learning Centre**