



November 4, 2014  
Cyrus Centre

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Review of October minutes. Karen will post on website.**

**3. Conversation Update**

On October 20 the program committee met and created a rough plan for the Conversation Day. The day will be divided into 3 blocks with lunch in between. The theme will be around Safe Relationships Safe Children. The first block will be a series of Ted Talks. Attendees would then have the opportunity to engage further with the speaker of their choosing. The second block would be an activity, possibly a BINGO style game as well as youth led activities. The third block would be a celebrity speaker. Throughout the day students who participated in Challenge Day will lead the group in various activities. The program committee would like to have Spirit of the Community do the welcome and Aboriginal blessing. Some possible speakers for the morning include Sherry Mumford, Marika Sandrelli, Rob Axson, Steve Smith and Michael Weiss.

A question was asked whether speakers would be video-taped; this would be dependent on the capacity of the venue. Toby suggested the RCMP should be involved to ensure the information shared is relevant to Chilliwack. Todd suggested John Stellingwerff in regards to speaking on Safe Families.

The date of the Conversation has been changed to May 15 due to a Social Work conference taking place the first week in May. The Regional CYC is hoping to tie in a youth engagement project with this conference. The CYC didn't want to compete with



this conference. Next planning meeting is Nov.21, 7:30 at the NLC. Next program planning meeting is December 12, 8:00 am at the NLC.

#### **4. Workshop ‘Children With Justice Involved Parents’ update**

The full day workshop and community discussion took place on October 30 at the NLC. A good representative of community leaders attended, although it would have been beneficial to have representation from Adult Probation and Aboriginal Probation. While there are no exact numbers of families affected it seems in Chilliwack the number is large. Discussion was had around how to support caregivers who often become responsible for children without notice or financial support. There was also discussion around the specific trauma experienced by children who see parents get arrested, who are separated from parents and those who visit parents in prison. A full report will be available in 2 weeks. Todd and Patti expressed interest in participating in a task group around this subject. Karen said that Elizabeth Fry would be interested in partnering with an agency to offer support services in Chilliwack.

#### **5. HELP EXPO**

1) Childhood Experiences Questionnaire - This diagnostic tool is completed by parents just before their child enters Kindergarten. It asks questions to get information regarding a child's early learning and care, family context and neighbourhood and community context. It focuses on 3 domains; physical health and well-being, early language and literacy and social and emotional well-being. It has been designed to give a more complete picture from the information gathered from the EDI. So far it is still in the testing stage. They would like to do a couple more pilots before using it widely. I said Chilliwack would love to be part of the pilot!

2) Peoplescapes of EDI vulnerability - Currently HELP is combining Census and EDI data to create neighbourhood maps. (Looks like we're ahead of the game!) HELP has focused on 9 themes to create a Social Economic Status index

- 1) Poverty
- 2) Unemployment
- 3) Lone parenthood
- 4) Shelter costs
- 5) Education
- 6) Language and immigration
- 7) Young population (less vulnerability)
- 8) Second generation Canadians (less vulnerability)
- 9) Females in manufacturing jobs (more vulnerability)

3) HELP is linking data from MDI to FSA tests and is in the process of working with MCCreary to see how results might be linked.



HELP has also been able to compare data from 2009 EDI results in one school district with 2013 MDI results in the same district. It turns out that teacher's ratings of a child's behaviour are powerful predictors of grade 4 self-reports.

#### **4) Social Epi-genetics**

For the last 2 years HELP has been doing research around social-epigenetics. Very interesting! Stress and vulnerability in the early years can cause chemical marks on top of DNA. The more epigenetic marks, the more inactive the gene.

5) Toddler Development Instrument - currently in the works. Will measure kids at 18 months.

#### **6) Agency Profile – Cyrus Centre**

Cyrus Centre is an emergency shelter and resource centre serving youth 12-18 years. If it is a sibling group will make considerations to take in younger. Staff are awake 24/7 and available to do intakes. The work is mostly about building relationships and trust. Want youth to know Cyrus Centre staff can be contacted for any reason any time of day since most scenarios don't take place Monday to Friday between 9 and 5. Youth are able to stay at Cyrus Centre for 30 days but longer if there is a plan in place. Collaborations with the RCMP, School District and Antonia are going very well. Currently have 15 youth from Salish Park coming in for meals. These are the kinds of kids Cyrus wants to connect with. Have been open for 2 months and have already 25 youth use the emergency shelter. Are in the process of implementing the extreme weather shelter; this would provide an additional 12 beds in inclement weather. Entry is a 5 question form and gives staff an opportunity to connect with youth they not otherwise have the opportunity to connect with. Currently waiting for BC Housing to give final approval. The resource centre is open 12 noon until 8:00 pm and youth are required to give their name and age. They can come to hang out, build relationships, help with resumes. Most of these youth don't do well with scheduled programs but would eventually like to offer some at Cyrus Centre; anything from guitar lessons to counselling. Salvation Army provides youth hampers. Youth Unlimited is currently looking into ways they might fill gaps in Chilliwack. Currently Cyrus Centre is looking for funding to hire a Family Mediation Professional.

#### **7. Agency Updates**

CHC – a handout was passed around reminding members of the monthly breakfast networking events.

Cyrus Centre – Dessert Night and Silent Auction fundraiser coming up on November 14.



**RCMP – There was a school lockdown for credible reasons. Showed the effectiveness of VTRA. A violent sex offender entered a school and was arrested. Reiterates the importance of secure entries into schools. The Youth Specific Task Group is currently looking at 20 kids that are not wanting to be connected. Are also seeing kids from good families on the streets, 3 from other communities. Currently only meet once a month but looking how to address issues in real time. Everyone works frontline with kids so there is lots of good information sharing.**

**ROVER (Raising Our Voices Everyone Rise) Youth in care through foster or adoption were part of a 2 day forum. Mike Scott was the keynote who shared his experiences. The kids connected with him and his story. The purpose of the forum was to ask young people how services could be improved. Information will be collated and presented in a Guide.**

**ACE Committee – Looking at cultural enhancements for mainstream services. Looking at how to engage and connect youth to culture. ACE will be taking over the lunch and learns. Will need to fill host seats. Theresa will send a form through Karen. Hosts will be responsible for a \$50 honorarium for presenters. Presentation this year will be built around the calendar year.**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters – Will be moving office to Chilliwack Central December 1. Have developed a partnership with the school and will be offering mentoring programs there. January will bring positive changes. Miranda will be finishing off her practicum with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Collette is looking for another practicum student.**

**Chilliwack Community Services – Youth Services has built a great relationship with Cyrus Centre and with the Library. Downtown Family place will be closed as staff do a complete overhaul of the space and curriculum. Will be partnering with the Salvation Army to offer the Christmas Sharing hampers. Will be receiving applications beginning November 12. Last year were able to serve 900 families with this program.**

**Chilliwack Learning Society – Will be the host agency for regional literacy training. Financial Literacy is coming along nicely. Members are encouraged to attend the CHC networking breakfast to learn more. On November 13 will be hosting the Book Lover's Breakfast, 7:30 – 9:00 am at Stolo, building 10. Community volunteers and businesses are welcomed to attend. Rotary gave CLS 30 boxes of books leftover from the Rotary Book Sale. For Halloween Debbie and her husband Dave gave away 100 books instead of candy. CLS would like to offer their services in helping parents or grandparents who may not be able to spend time over the holiday the opportunity to record the reading of a book to a loved one.**



**Fraser Health – Flu season is upon us and people are encouraged to get flu shots. There will be no flu clinics this year; connect with family doctor, public health or pharmacy to get your flu shot. Flu shots are free to almost everyone. If you don't get a flu shot you will be required to wear a mask when visiting at the hospital from December to March.**

**FVCDC – Everything continuing as normal.**

**Ann Davis – In March will be hosting the ‘Bread and Roses’ event. Currently accepting nominations to recognize outstanding female volunteers. Currently looking to find someone qualified to do supervised visits; 4 hours or more. Have asked Tracey Arsenault to provide a Pro D Training for staff on November 26. Patti has been in her position for nearly a year and is grateful for the outstanding staff she gets to work with. Ann Davis will be without a female youth counsellor for 4-6 weeks. The Purple Lights wind up event was a great success and well attended. Have started planning for next year's Chilliwack Connect Event. The first meeting will take place November 25, 2:30 at Ann Davis.**

**Division of Family Practice – The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort for the Chilliwack Child and Youth Mental Health started in October. This is a partnership between the Fraser Health Practice Support Program and the Chilliwack Division for physicians, school counselors, MCFD CYMH and ACYMH, and other service providers.**

**One of our A GP for Me strategies involves developing a business management and customer relations pilot for physicians and medical office assistants to improve the physician and patient experience.**

**Creating a one point access for patients seeking a GP called PAM – Patient Attachment Mechanism. The Hope Health Fair had a 5-2-1-0 theme. Will be partnering with Central Second Day to offer Be Active Every Day. Kids will take pictures of themselves being active and the winner will get a signed soccer ball from the women's Olympic team.**

#### **8. Health Centre Update**

**Currently looking at the North and South side and working with partners to iron out the details. Chilliwack Senior Clinic will be a counselling centre with a Physician component opening on the south side of Chilliwack at the same time. Next meeting will be November 18.**



## **9. Coordinator's Report**

**Throughout the month of October I have been spearheading a number of initiatives which have come out of the Early Years Strategic Plan. The Parent 2 Parent task group has met twice and is gaining momentum in putting together a workable and best of all a doable plan. The Early Years table also agreed to use National Child Day as a way to create community awareness around the UN Convention and the needs of children and youth in Chilliwack. The National Child Day task group has come up with a long term plan in creating awareness and action around poverty and will start with a "Blue Ribbon" campaign. I participated in the "Primary Prevention" meeting and will do a presentation in February on the importance of prevention and intervention in the Early Years. As part of the United Way campaign, I did two Success By 6 presentations, sharing the needs in Chilliwack as well as all the great work being done in our community.**

**This year there seems to be a number of groups interested in focussing on Sexual Exploitation, which means the SEA CAT is doing its job in creating awareness around this issue in our community. As an action team, we have been meeting and deciding what our focus should be. Currently we are looking to do a community awareness event at Cottonwood Theatre in partnership with "Safer Communities" in November, as well as a grant to fund a SEY worker in our community.**

**This year's HELP Expo had lots of great research to share as was reported earlier.**

**I had the pleasure of working with Annette Vogt from UFV's "Safe Schools Safe Communities in putting together a colloquium to begin discussion around children with justice involved parents. The workshop was well attended and some good discussion came as a result as reported earlier in the meeting. I have been asked to be part of a task team which will look at next steps.**

**Our Fall Every Door is the Right Door training will take place on Thursday, November 6. We have 48 people registered and look forward to an informative morning.**

**Next Meeting, December 2  
Contact Centre**