

September 11, 2018

Neighbourhood Learning Centre; Alumni Hall

Co-chairs: Dan Bibby
Collette Bohach

Recorder: Karen Stegstra

Present:

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Regrets:

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1. Welcome and Introductions.
2. Review of June Minutes.
3. Human Services Career Enrichment Program -Chis Reitsma

Chris reviewed the program which is now in its 4th year. The program is designed for “natural helpers” providing learning experiences, mentorship and opportunities to be mentors. Currently looking for meaningful practicum experience for grade 12 students. It is a 3 year course of study which includes off timetable training. The first cohort graduated in June and showed the success of the program. Chris provided application forms for agencies wishing to enlist a practicum student. Cathy Rogers was introduced as the resident facilitator for Chilliwack Secondary. Agencies who applied previously only need to reapply if practicum description has changed. Rob shared how MCFD enlisted the practicum students to provide a youth perspective of the services offered by MCFD which included a history of child welfare in BC and interviewing social workers.

4. Labour Market Solutions for Youth – Christian Saint Cyr

Many international companies stationed in Chilliwack. While some youth think the future looks bleak it very bright for those with labour skills. It is important to plan effectively and prepare for technology. Unemployment rate keeps falling. Women continue to be under represented. Future workforce will be based on characteristics and competencies. <https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Skills-for-the-Future-Workforce.aspx>

5. Mindfulness Program

Y Minds is a partnership program between the YMCA and the Youth Health Centre. The initiative is to help manage stress and anxiety and targets those aged 18-30. It is funded through a partnership with the Province. The groups are supervised by a professional counsellor and is intended to help improve well being. Those who have been part of the program indicated that their quality of life improved. Handout was distributed and Tara Cummings shared testimonials of those who have benefitted from the program.

6. Agency Updates

Sardis Library – Lot's of activities taking place at the library for all ages. Sunita distributed posters promoting the various activities.

Fraser Health – Thanked the CYC for supporting the immunization project. Want to increase the percentage of babies completing the immunization series by age 2. The provincial target is 80%, federally %90; Chilliwack is well below that. Will introduce more evening clinics and looking into other possibilities. Crystal Salter introduced Michelle VanDaele, the new school district nurse liaison.

Cyrus Centre – The “Break Room” drop-in operated all summer with 15 youth attending on a regular basis. Held and end of summer Bbq and had about 40 youth attend. Providing recreational opportunities for youth. Seems to be drawing youth from the area. Currently working on a project “Matrix Meals” which helps to reduce stigma and create understanding around addictions. Hosting dinners around Chilliwack to have a dialogue. Dinners include a facilitator, host and someone with lived experience. Also working on an art project to gain a youth perspective on addictions “The Way I See It”.

Chilliwack Community Services – Currently has Masters level practicum student. She will be providing free outreach counselling on Wednesdays and Thursdays for youth ages 13-19.

Ann Davis – Fundraising event on September 21. Have hired a new legal advocate.

District Parent Advisory Council – Consists of elected representatives from each school; 27 schools – currently have 18-20 reps. Become a collective voice; legislated through the School Act. Purpose is to educate and inform as well as advise School Board on parent views.

Youth Unlimited – Outreach truck is now in Canada and work has begun.

School District – Reconfiguration has meant a significant change in the district. The philosophy has changed creating more stability for students. Early indications are that the change is positive. Playgrounds at Middle School – hoping to keep kids younger longer. Student Services has moved to the end of Prairie Central. Continue to expand Mental Health Literacy – all EA's will be trained.

Stolo Service Society – Working with PCRS and others on Housing Hub. The goal is to have 30 people in homes by March. Will be 2/3's of the way there by November.

Will be running a program “Right to Play” for youth ages 13-19. It will possibly be open to non-Indigenous youth.

Neighbourhood Learning Centre d- Feeling the growing pains of expansion of the high school and the revamping of Distance Ed. Rental spaces are filling up fast.

RCMP – Working together with the City, By-laws, SD#33 and Griffin Security to address the areas where youth are causing issues. Over the summer became more of a problem with youth retaliating; was a group of approximately 35-40 youth. Have been meeting with parents to inform on child's activities and possible criminal offences. Seems to be a productive and positive strategy. The group has decreased in size, but still more to do. Also informing parents of available community resources.

RCMP has also introduced “Safe Place” to provide a safe place for LGBTQ youth who feel they are being bullies. Contact Isabelle if you would like your agency or business to display a decal. 604.393.3016.

YMCA – Family Healthy Living Program is currently taking referrals. Handouts describing the program were distributed. Is replacing the MEND program.

Chilliwack YMCA is scheduled to open in January.

Youth Works is currently going through renewal of contracts.

Big Sisters Big Brothers – Reminder to sign up for the “Be You” event at Cottonwood Mall, September 29.

Chilliwack Connect – Will be a down-sized event this year held at Evergreen Hall. Will be collecting clothing and winter clothes at Evergreen Hall September 29 and October 6, 9am-noon.

7. Sub-Committee Profile – Primary Prevention

Rob shared a power point highlighting the sub-committees membership, it's purpose, past projects and current focus. The sub-committee has been focussing on how to get legislation that will prevent children from accessing pornography. In the UK pornography can only be accessed with a credit card to verify that the user is over the age of 18. The committee is also promoting that a healthy sex education curriculum be introduced into the schools. The other focus of the committee is “Trauma Informed Communication” also known as non-violent communication. So far there have been 2

workshops held in the community and one scheduled for October. This is one more step to becoming a trauma informed compassionate community.

8. Conversation 2018 Evaluation Report – tabled
9. All Candidates Forum – CYC members agreed that the CYC should host a forum for the Mayoral Candidates. Reps are encouraged to submit questions to Karen.
10. Youth Space/Commission Update – tabled
11. Truth and Reconciliation Workshop Review and next steps - tabled

Next meeting October 2, 2018