



**COALITION TO
END
HOMELESSNESS**
CAMPBELL RIVER & DISTRICT

CRDCEH

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 7, 2021
12:00-1:00

1. In attendance:

- a. Stefanie Hendrickson, CRDCEH
- b. Susan Guthrie-Dick, KCFN
- c. Shelly Kernovich, Campbell River and North Island Transitions Society (CRNITS)
- d. Ian Baikie, Hama?elas Community Kitchen
- e. Gwen Donaldson, Community Action Team (CAT)
- f. Colleen Evans, Councillor, City of Campbell River
- g. Marc Kitteringham, Campbell River Mirror
- h. Sheena Campbell, Island Health, Harm Reduction Coordinator for NI
- i. Kaitlyn Nohr, Vancouver Island Health Authority (Gold River, Social Work)
- j. Operations Manager?
- k. Valery Puetz, CRNITS
- l. Audrey Wilson, Laichwiltach Family Life Society
- m. Lucas Schuller, MP Rachel Blaney's rep
- n. Mary Ruth Snyder, Campbell River & District Chamber of commerce
- o. Kristi Schwanicke, Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- p. Taryn O'Flanagan, Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- q. Madison Stewart, Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness Coalition
- r. Emily Post, UWBC
- s. Don Kattler, Mental Health Recovery Partners, NI
- t. Candace Lindhout, John Howard Society North Island
- u. Signy Madden, United Way
- v. Claire Moglove, Councillor, City of Campbell River
- w. Courtney Harrop, First Nations Health Authority, Harm Reduction NI
- x. Heather Murphy, BIA
- y. Shannon Baikie, NIEFS

2. Welcome and Meeting Introduction

3. Coalition Updates

- a. People with Lived/Living Expertise (PWLLE) Advisory Committee update
 - i. Please see attached PWLLE Recommendations document for details



- ii. Valery, are people being moved along from business entrances to Spirit Square and Nunns Creek Park?
 - 1. Heather - for businesses who are signed-up with our security program, people are moved from their entrances to public spaces.
 - 2. Valery - Some people moved on from alley behind Transitions and we haven't been part of that security program
 - 3. Heather - will look into it and see if Blackbird Security is moving people along from other spaces than just those businesses who have signed on.
- iii. Courtney - At FNHA we have some peer training opportunities, particularly for Indigenous-led peer programs. If anyone would like to discuss this, please reach out.
- b. Us & Them Documentary report
 - i. 650 viewed film and panel discussion, either in person or virtual. This was an anti-stigma piece that we've had some really good feedback from.
- c. Strategic Planning update
 - i. The Coalition has undertaken two strategic and organization planning sessions with Wave Consulting. Waiting on draft final report to be able to share with Coalition
 - ii. We hope the next phase of strategic planning will be a long-range Action Plan to End Homelessness. This would be a collaborative document. We have some funding from the UBCM grant but are looking for more funding.
 - 1. We also hope to have the City and SRD's involvement in this as partners. We will be speaking to the City and SRD about this in the next short while.
 - 2. The final product would be an action plan with players needed and each player's role in the process in order to be able to end and prevent homelessness in 10-15 years.
 - 3. As an example of a similar style Health and Housing Plan, Nanaimo has a good example:
<https://nanaimohomelesscoalition.ca/health-and-housing-action-plan/>
- d. Rural homeless count
 - i. Part of the pre-work for this will be getting some better data for the region. Currently, we are mostly working off of PIT Count numbers which did not give us a true representation of the state of homelessness in the region. The Coalition is beginning work on a Rural and Remote Homeless Count under the guidance of the Rural Development Network out of Alberta.



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1. We have not yet decided if we will stick to the outlying region only, or if we will also include Campbell River. The reasons to include Campbell River would be that it would provide a more true number and demographics and could also include those who are precariously housed, which is a population that is not reached with a Point in Time Count.
 2. Stay tuned! We may be in touch if we feel that your organization may be a key partner to support this.
 3. This will be important information to have for advocacy and funding purposes and to understand the true scope of the situation going into creating an Action Plan.
- e. UBCM, Strengthening Community Services grant update
- i. Things are going really well with this. We are working with SRD and City staff to roll out contracts for this and over half of the contracts are in place now. We still have a few details to iron out on some (such as cart storage and finding possible suitable location(s) for that).

4. Emergency Weather Shelter discussion

- a. Last year, Salvation Army was able to take the EWS. This year, they do not have space or staff capacity to take this on. A group of us are currently trying to problem-solve this
 - i. BC Housing has funds to support an EWS but the problem is a location and staffing
 - ii. We are exploring the option of a dispersed model (where a few organizations would provide 2-3 beds each in their current programs) but this is not ideal for people experiencing homelessness as it will be difficult to know where to go and who is full
 - iii. We have also reached out to churches to see if any of them might have space.
 - iv. Audrey - we have spoken to BC Housing and it may be a possibility to have their support in renting a space if we could find one. We are meeting with them again soon to discuss further options. How many beds are we looking for?
 1. Stef - Sue had mentioned at least 15 beds - probably more if in the greater downtown area, less if it is a difficult location to get to
 2. Candace - RCMP will drive people to the EWS
 - v. We will continue to follow-up on this and see if we can find some possible solutions to this problem.



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- vi. Program runs from November 1 to March 31, from 7pm to 7am. Typically a meal is provided. Showers would be a bonus. Bathroom facilities are a must.
- vii. If anyone knows of any possible vacant buildings who might be open to renting for a few months, please let us know, just in case this ends up being a feasible option with BC Housing
- viii. Mary Ruth - could put posting on Volunteer CR board to support this
 - 1. Stef - yes, we have talked about a few pools of volunteers and/or peers, but we also need to make sure that at least one trained staff member is present who has first aid and some experience working with the unhoused community. We will keep Volunteer CR in mind if we need to access further volunteers.

5. Hospital Discharge of People Experiencing Homelessness

- a. There was interest expressed by Island Health and Divisions of Family Practice to have a meeting to discuss discharging people experiencing homelessness
 - i. The meeting will be about brainstorming possible solutions to the complications regarding discharging people from hospital into homelessness or precarious housing.
 - ii. Stef - I have spoken with Island Health and they have assigned someone to facilitate this discussion
 - 1. Please let Stef know if you are interested in being included in these meetings.

6. Good news story and member updates - from the floor!

- a. Gwen - CAT - Walk With Me Project - walkwithme.ca (thank you Sara and Art Gallery for helping support this)
 - i. Register online or just show up - these are stories from people affected by the Drug Poisoning Crisis. Interactive walk of downtown with headsets playing stories of people with lived/living experience with addictions
 - 1. Sheena - Walk With Me in Comox Valley, organizations got together and did the walk together - this was a great way to do it!
- b. Courtney - FNHA will be offering regional 'Not Just Naloxone' training Dec 16 and 17 - registration opening soon if anyone is interested - https://interceptum.com/s/en/NJN_Two_Day_Signup
- c. Sara - Art Gallery received funding to provide arts-based education to people who don't have access to it, including people experiencing homelessness in CR



- i. Art intervention project to create pieces of art that are positive and welcoming for the unhoused community and to create art to help shelter people who shelter overnight at the Art Gallery entrances.
- d. Heather - murals created from the art of local artists have been going up recently - we are looking forward to a new piece that is made by an Indigenous artist who is part of the unhoused community.
- e. Taryn - COVID is increasing in shelters/supportive housing in Victoria. So far we are doing okay in Campbell River but we are doing some work around education around COVID safety, vaccination information, etc...
 - i. Encourage others who are working with the unhoused community to talk about prevention and COVID safety.
- f. Lucas - Housing was the biggest issue that we heard throughout the campaign - this has never been the case before - Rachel is very motivated by that and is back in Ottawa and this is top of mind for her
- g. Mary Ruth - Municipal election coming up in 12 months. BC Chamber will be doing a campaign to promote people voting in municipal elections (voting rate is typically very low in municipal elections)
 - i. People who are interested in running should start to consider that soon so that people have a chance to get to know you in the community
 - ii. Most importantly get out and vote! It is important and municipalities have the opportunity to make a lot of impact and affect much of our day-to-day living in communities.
 - iii. Housing is number one issue all across Canada. Also the employee shortage. Chamber looking at creative ways to bring workers into the workforce. Let Mary Ruth know if you know of people looking to enter the workforce and she can help direct them to opportunities.
- h. Stef - thanks to Kristi, we were able to partner on a reverse open-house at Q'Waxsem Place. It was an opportunity for neighbours to get to know some of the residents and a few elected officials were there as well.
 - i. Kristi - thank you to those who attended. This was a really positive night of interactions to bring a community feel to the neighbourhood and has influenced an idea of a photo-board to document events such as this. The residents were so pleased to speak to people and share some of their experiences living in Q'Waxsem.

7. Next meeting - November 4, noon