



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

**CRDCEH**

Community Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 7, 2023

12:00-1:00pm - IN-PERSON - Campbell River Library Meeting Room

Room available to 1:30pm to allow for networking

**1. Attendance:**

- a. Stefanie Hendrickson - CRDCEH Coordinator
- b. Jen Banks-Doll - Consultant working for CRDCEH
- c. Joëlle Samson - CR Library
- d. Myra Kohler - Campbell River Family Services
- e. Heather Gordon Murphy - BIA
- f. Gwen Donaldson - Community Action Team (CAT)
- g. Jordan Campbell - AVI Health & Community Services
- h. Paul Bertrand - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- i. Chrystal Arnet - Habitat for Humanity
- j. Grace Mukadzambo - John Howard Society North Island
- k. Linda Dwyer - Community Member and Community Volunteer
- l. Candace Lindhout - Salvation Army
- m. Savannah John - Ehattesaht First Nation
- n. Kaylin Fowler - Liḡw̓ildaxw̓ Health Society
- o. Mary Catherine Williams - United Way
- p. Sue Moen - Community Member
- q. Susan Doyle - Community Member
- r. Bailey McKay - John Howard Society
- s. Edward Joe - First Nation Health Authority
- t. Donna Desmet - North Island Employment Foundation Society
- u. Meredith Starkey - Strathcona Regional District (SRD)
- v. Madison Stewart - Strathcona Community Health Network, SRD
- w. Melony Larre - Native Courtworkers and Counseling Association of BC
- x. Ian Baikie - Community Member

**2. Land Acknowledgement, Welcome and Meeting Introduction**

- a. Roundtable Introductions
- b. The Coalition will look at hosting in-person meetings 2-3 times per year in order to balance the convenience of Zoom with the networking possibilities of in-person.

**3. Coalition Operational Updates**

- a. System Inventory Project (Jen Banks-Doll and Stefanie Hendrickson)
  - i. We discussed the purpose of this project. Any questions about this can be emailed to Stefanie
  - ii. This excel document will be available on the Coalition's website in the coming month.

**1. ACTION: Community partners are asked to proof-read their organization's programs/housing and email Stefanie with any changes**



- iii. System Inventory “surprises” as per consultant:
  1. Amazed with the amount of services and housing that are available in Campbell River (document contains 90 entries of housing and programs)
  2. Most organizations work internally with their housing and coordination is limited
  3. Data collection methods vary greatly from names in a notebook to complicated spreadsheets and shared HIFIS access
- iv. Peer portion of project
  1. 14 peers interviewed - very willing to speak to Jen and were very happy to be heard
- v. Forward-facing graphics
  1. Purpose is as an anti-stigma piece to show community members that it is not so simple to “just get housed” or “just find a job”
  2. Mock-ups presented at meeting for feedback
    - a. Anonymous stories graphics based on peer interviews
    - b. “Wall of Challenges” graphic - the barriers that may exist for folks trying to access housing - based on Oct 5 agency workshop and meetings with peers
    - c. Folks were invited to provide feedback on the mock-ups
- vi. Final consultant report
  1. Report pending and will be sent out at a later date
  2. Have heard a lot of positive things about the community - people feel it is much better since COVID
    - a. Lots of new places since COVID - ex. Kwesa, Q’Waxsem, Rosebowl
    - b. People grateful for the services that exist in the community including homelessness support services and food services
  3. Also heard a lot of negative things
    - a. Lots of talk about toxic drugs and death
    - b. Lack of services for addiction and mental health, especially if you’re not somewhat “balanced”
    - c. Lack of housing for couples
    - d. More seniors living on streets and in vehicles
    - e. Lack of safe space to camp and park an RV
    - f. Loss of possessions with bylaw
    - g. Lack of compassion from businesses/bylaw/security/rcmp
    - h. Burnout from service providers and front-line workers
    - i. Lack of a cohesive system to access mental health/substance use services/housing/etc
  4. Recommendations will be included from Jen and Coalition. Some recommendations from Jen may include:
    - a. A system designed from the margins - people who have been in the “system” have some amazing ideas!
    - b. Need housing that supports a variety of needs - it is not “one size fits all”



- c. Community educational is important - education in the schools - building empathy, life, social, mental health skills in youth
- d. Supporting groups of service providers coming together to support each other in this difficult work - we need to be there for each other to debrief and talk with each other.

#### **4. Good news stories, updates, and discussions roundtable**

- a. Sue Moen - Vigil for peace and ceasefire in Palestine, Spirit Square at 4pm on Friday
- b. Meredith Starkey - SRD, City of CR, Coalition working on a Poverty Reduction Plan
  - i. Currently bringing together a Community Team to advise on the Poverty Reduction Plan process
  - ii. Of note, in order for regions to be eligible for future poverty-reduction funding streams, municipalities must have a Poverty Reduction Plan or comparables within their OCP. This work will set us up for future funding opportunities and create partnerships related to poverty reduction.
- c. Mary Catherine Williams - Parks, Recreation, Culture with City of Campbell River is undertaking a community engagement process in January for community input. Stay tuned to City of CR channels!
- d. Bailey McKay - Housing walk-ins are going to be open on Tuesdays from 9-11am at John Howard Society soon for folks who don't have an appointment
- e. Susan Doyle - what can community members do?
  - i. Susan asked if there are any better solutions to support folks who camp in our community. There is a lack of services available to these campers and the places they are camping are not dry/with access to water/toilets, etc...
    - 1. Stefanie mentioned that the City is currently looking at possible solutions for emergency transitional housing to help support folks who are unhoused. However, the amount proposed will not be enough for everyone and camping will still need to exist in our community
    - 2. Mary Catherine wondered if there is a way for the community to come together to support campers. Ex. Hama?elas is almost entirely volunteer run...maybe we could do the same for campers
- f. Mary Catherine Williams - Acknowledged the invaluable services available at Kwesa Place but also noted a need for another drop-in location where folks can be warm, dry, have washroom facilities, etc... hopes this idea doesn't get lost
- g. Gwen Donaldson - has a vet friend who may be interested in providing vet services for people experiencing homelessness.
  - i. Please connect with Gwen about this, if you're interested in being part of this discussion.
- h. Kaylin Fowler - looking for dentist who provides low barrier dental care for folks
  - i. Partners provided a few places to start but no ideal solutions seem to exist for folks who use substances regularly and need extensive repairs with sedation. This is an ongoing challenge.

#### **5. No meeting in January - Next meeting February 1, 2024 - via Zoom**