

SUPPORTING SOCIAL PLANNING and ACTION in REVELSTOKE

Social Development Committee Meeting Minutes 8:30 a.m. Wednesday October 28, 2009

Present: John Yakielashek, Tony Scarcella, Melodie Kindret, Mary Kline, Melissa Klages, Steve Bailey, Antoinette Halberstadt, Susan Knight and Cathie Thacker
Staff: Jill Zacharias, Alan Mason
Regrets: Nelli Richardson, Linda Chell, Lory Borges, Cathy Girling, Anne Cooper, Jane McNab, and Brian Sumner

1. **Call to order** – Chair Alan Mason, in the absence of Nelli Richardson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of ‘Housing Society Minutes’ and ‘Infant Development and Supported Child Development Program Cuts’ under New Business.

3. **Correspondence**

- Letter of response from Minister of Human Resources and Social Development regarding suggested improvements to the EI program, reviewed for information. It was noted that EI response time seems to be improving. The Employment Centre is asking clients to track response wait times to monitor the situation.

4. **Approval of September 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Motion

Moved by John Yakielashek and seconded by Melodie Kindret that the Minutes of September 23, 2009 be approved with changes. **Carried**

Discussion regarding the minutes ensued. It was agreed that the minutes would not be considered final until they are ratified by the committee at the following meeting, and then would be forwarded to City Council. If an item under discussion is time-sensitive, it will be extracted and brought to Council’s attention beforehand.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- Revelstoke Advisory Committee on Health Care update – Alan reported that the City re-advertised for volunteer members to fill the 6 positions. 4 members of the public applied and were appointed - Inamarie Opperman, Nelli Richardson, Maura Dower and Melissa Hemphill - as well as 2 City Councillors and Julie Lowes, Manger of Revelstoke Health Services. The group will be convened shortly.
- Sexual Assault Protocol – The committee has met, and represents a broad range of services providers including one doctor and a RN who has been specifically trained in this area. The group is in the process of working through a draft protocol, building on previous efforts. Nelli will keep the Social Dev committee updated on progress.
- Support for Single Men – John reported that so far the group has focused on sharing knowledge, information and resources to improve supports, and has identified 3 main issues:
 - Supervised access – they hope to develop a list of trained people who would supervise visits in safe locations throughout the community. MCFD is being considered as an initial point of contact.

- Family maintenance issues – noted that the debt, if not paid, does not go away and can become a burden.
- Shelter is also a concern.
- Service provider speaker series – Jill reported that the next event will be held in the evening some time in November. She is still waiting for confirmation from the speaker before setting a date.

5. Coordinator’s Report – Jill Zacharias reviewed the Coordinator’s report.

- Transportation – It was noted that public transportation will be ever increasingly important to the community for a number of reasons, including the aging population.

RECOMMENDATION: Moved by Melodie Kindret and Seconded by Cathy Thacker, that City Council make public transportation a high priority and allocate adequate resources to address this need. Carried

- Substance Use Strategy – It was noted that many liquor outlets, including delivery services, are not asking patrons for ID and subsequently underage residents are illegally accessing alcohol.

RECOMMENDATION: Moved by Melody Kindret and seconded by Melissa Klages, that City Council write a letter to all local liquor outlets, including delivery services and cc’d to the RCMP, requesting increased diligence in asking patrons to show proof of age in order to inhibit underage access to alcohol. Carried

6. New Business:

- EDI Update – tabled until the next meeting.
- Housing Society Minutes – It was noted that there is a lack of awareness among service providers of Housing Society activities, and agreed that the minutes of Housing Society meetings will be forwarded to the social development committee members, after they have been reviewed by City Council.
- Infant Development (IDP) and Supported Child Development (SCD) Program and Regional Office Cuts - Due to reduced provincial government spending both the Provincial Advisor’s office for IDP and SCD are scheduled to close October 31st, 2009. Both have been given short extensions to wrap up. These offices and their regional advisors provide critical support to local service providers who in turn support many families and children in our community.
 - There is a concern that the loss of these regional offices & advisors will not only result in a lack of continuity and consistent professional standards of practice but lead to a gradual attrition of service providers who are professionally trained to support children & families.
 - Revelstoke has had great success in reducing the number of vulnerable children entering kindergarten each year. In part this is due to early screening and intervention of children with special needs.

RECOMMENDATION: Moved by Mary Kline and seconded by Susan Knight, that City Council write a letter to both the Minister and Deputy Minister for Children and Family Development outlining our community’s concerns and requesting that the Infant Development Program (IDP) and Supported Child Development (SCD) provincial offices and their regional advisors be maintained. Carried

- Antoinette suggested that a delegation to council from IDP and SCD consultants would be appropriate. Jill will contact Kristal Bradshaw of Community Connections with the request.

- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at 8:30 am.

7. Round table

Mary Kline – On November 5th at 7 pm at Okanagan College, the multiculturalism and antiracism initiative will be hosting a meeting as part of gathering input to find out what is going on in the community in this regard. All are invited to participate.

John Yakeilashek – A reminder that BC Community Living Services are now being delivered out of the MCFD office, Britt Hunchak is the designated staff resource person.

- Former MCFD employee Brian Sumner is one of 12 individuals across North America who has been invited to Boston to participate in an organizational leadership seminar.

Cathie Thacker – Employment Centre will be offering a new skill development training program beginning Nov 1st for non-EI eligible residents who have been off work and meet the eligibility criteria for the program.

Antoinette Halberstadt – Encouraging youth participation component in all master planning initiatives undertaken by the City of Revelstoke.

Melissa Klages – Encouraged everyone to participate in upcoming transportation plan public input opportunities.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Alan Mason, Acting-Chair

Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee Coordinator's Report – October 28th, 2009

1. Communication, support and coordination

- **Directory of Social Services** – Updated in October
- **Contacts:**
- Sept 24th – CFDC board meeting (volunteer)
- Sept 28th – ECD meeting
- Sept 29th – AA/NA focus group
- Oct 1st – OC multiculturalism initiative meeting
- Oct 5th – 6th - CFDC Conference in Vernon (volunteer)
- Oct 6th – Anne Burrill, Manager of Social Development, Williams Lake BC
- Oct 7th – Age-Friendly Planning event in Kamloops (speakers panel)
- Oct 9th – Transit Committee meeting with Steve Harvard, BC Transit
- Oct 9th – CFDC CED Forum planning committee
- Oct 15th – Planning, building & bylaw advisory committee (PBAC)
- Oct 15th – SD#19 staff focus group
- Oct 19th – David Rooney (the Current) interview
- Oct 19th – Substance use strategy steering committee
- Oct 20th – LIRN BC event
- Oct 21st – Facilitated speaker @ Seniors' Centre
- Oct 21st – RLAC
- Oct 22nd – Youth Drug Survey admin at the High School
- Oct 23rd – Nelli Richardson
- Oct 23rd – Emergency Housing Committee
- Oct 26th – High School focus groups
- Oct 26th – ECD meeting
- Oct 27th – John Guenther, planning dept
- Oct 27th – Quarterly presentation to City Council

2. Supporting our Seniors

- The Seniors Resource Guide has been launched & distributed throughout the community & posted on our website. The online version is being updated. This will enhance, rather than replace, the printed booklet, with some additional information.
- Seniors Centre speaker series continues - Hans Mohr, Pharmacist, spoke this month on pharmaceutical use & misuse. November 18th speaker – Falls Prevention.
- Age-Friendly Planning – participated on speaker panel in Kamloops on Oct 7th to 'kick off' their process; on Nov 5th, I have been asked to present the Revelstoke Age-Friendly Planning experience as part of the BC Injury Research and Prevention Institute teleconference series; on Nov 18th I will speak to the Chamber of Commerce about what constitutes an 'Age-Friendly' business. Recommendations from the plan are being integrated into the City's Transportation Master Plan, and; on June 7th the CFDC CED Forum will focus in part on Age-Friendly community planning.

3. Transportation

- The transit committee met with Steve Harvard, the new regional rep for BC Transit, on Oct 9th to look at our current public transportation system. The goal is to make the entire system more accessible, user-friendly, streamline resources & to encourage increased ridership.

4. Substance Use Strategy

- Community consultation phase initiated, including:
 - Stakeholder survey – intake complete
 - Youth Drug Survey – intake complete
 - Client survey – to be handed out through various service provider agencies
 - Focus groups – AA/NA group, SD#19 staff, 2 school-aged youth – complete. We will hold 3 more focus groups for service providers on different dates/times TBA.
 - Public forum will be **November 19th at 7 pm** at the Community Centre with a film & opportunity for participants to provide input through ‘focus group’-type forum & questionnaire.
 - Steering committee has been great, providing excellent direction.

5. LIRN BC

- Took place on October 20th: “Deciding what should be counted in Community Health: A Social Determinant of Health Perspective”.
- Presenters: Eric Kowalksi & Theresa Hermary from Interior Health, Population Health
- About 20 participants took part.