

SUPPORTING SOCIAL PLANNING and ACTION in REVELSTOKE

Social Development Committee Meeting Minutes 8:30 a.m. Wednesday February 24, 2010

Present: Nelli Richardson, Tony Scarcella, Mary Kline, Melissa Klages, Linda Chell, Cathy Girling, Lory Borges, Susan Knight, Jane McNab, Antoinette Halberstadt and Steve Bailey
Staff: Jill Zacharias, Debra Wozniak, Alan Mason
Guest: Tracy Spannier, Early Childhood Development Committee
Press: Alex Cooper, Revelstoke Times Review
Regrets: Brian Sumner, John Yakielashek, Melodie Kindret, Cathie Thacker and Anne Cooper

1. **Call to order** – Chair Nelli Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda Additions: Community Social Services Month

Motion:

Moved by Mary Kline and seconded by Linda Chell to adopt the revised agenda.

3. **Presentation: Early Development Instrument (EDI)**

Tracy Spannier presented the findings of the EDI for the Revelstoke school district. The EDI measures the state of development of 5 year-old children as they enter kindergarten and data is being collected annually in order to assess trends, both locally & provincially. Five areas of development are measured by kindergarten teachers:

- Physical health and well being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communication skills and general knowledge

In 2001 Revelstoke was assessed as one of the most challenged areas using the social economic index and vulnerability was measured at 19.1% (provincial average - 26%)

In 2006 Revelstoke was assessed as having an average social economic index and vulnerability was measured at 12% (least vulnerable in BC) (provincial average - 29%).

In 2009 Revelstoke's vulnerability dropped to 6.7% (least vulnerable in BC) (provincial average – 28.6%)

4. **Approval of January 27, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Motion

Moved by Mary Kline and seconded by Susan Knight that the Minutes of January 27, 2010 be approved. . **Carried**

Business Arising from the January 27, 2010 Minutes:

- Antoinette advised that recommendation regarding the province opening discussions on involuntary youth detox has been not yet been submitted to City Council as administration is waiting from a response from the Health Advisory Committee which does not meet until March 9.
- Pool Pass process – Jill advised that all service providers now have forms and information regarding referrals for low income clients.

- Support for Single Men – Nelli reported that the committee met on February 16 and the meetings notes are attached to the agenda package. The committee has requested information regarding the Housing Society’s activity. Discussion followed and agreed that the Housing Society be asked to provide written information on their activity as well as be invited to make a presentation.

5. Coordinator’s Report – Jill Zacharias reviewed the Coordinator’s report for February 2010.

- Housing Outreach Coordinator presentation to the Housing Society – Cathy Girling will email a copy of the homelessness report to committee members.

6. New Business:

- Housing Partnership between OC & Housing Society – Alan Mason reported that plans are moving forward to construct 2 rental housing units on Clearview Heights that will utilize a \$250,000 grant from BC Hydro Unit 5 Project for development of rental units. 10 students have registered for the course and will be on site April 19 for four months. Sub trades will complete the project by September. The Society is hoping that the City will agree to a nominal lease for the land to help reduce costs of the project.
- Letter from Solicitor General regarding the Southeast District Drug Unit services – Jill will reference these services in the Substance Use Strategy.
- Secondary Suites in R1 areas – Jill requested that she be directed to make a written submission about the social benefits of secondary suites in R1 areas for the public hearing on March 23rd. Discussion followed and agreed that Jill prepare the submission and circulate copy to the committee.
- Membership Renewal – Jill advised that four social sector members and two business sector terms are expiring. The committee recommends sector representatives for appointment by City Council and they are to submit letters indicating their willingness to continue on the committee. One member at large position is up and will be advertised and appointed by Council. As well, Anne Cooper has submitted her resignation due to lack of time. Jill will send letter to the School District seeking their representation on the committee.
- Community Social Services Month – Antoinette reported that a request from BCGEU was received by City Council to designate March as the Community Social Services Month, however Council no longer makes such declarations. Discussion followed. The committee requested that Jill write a letter to the Editor of the newspapers celebrating the services the social sector provides to the community.
- Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 8:30 am.

7. Round table

Linda Chell – Revelstoke recorded 92 births for 2009 which is a substantial increase over the past few years and will have an impact on children focussed programming in the community.

Cathy Girling – Many clients have issues with the Transit service.

- Multi-barriered people are experiencing difficulty accessing services that are not well coordinated.
- There has been an increase in the number of people being denied Income Assistance and Disability claims. Cathy to send related article to committee members.

Steve Bailey – Rail Jam will be held March 13, 4 – 9 PM at Grizzly Plaza.

Melissa Klages – If anyone has questions on family law to let her know so she can include in her presentation on March 31.

Antoinette Halberstadt - questioned if RMR was allowing overnight camping in the parking lot – Steve Bailey responded that there were some but City is not permitting as there are campgrounds operating for the winter season.

Jane McNab – Volunteering for income tax preparation and noted that there are opportunities for low income people to file for rebates. Jill to email information to committee members & the social sector at large.

- CBT is seeking feedback on goal setting exercise – Jane will include committee members comments, she will email information for members to reply to.

Lory Borges – Held a Parent Presentation last night and will be holding another session on March 24.

Debra Wozniak – Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program public presentation evening is 7:30 pm, March 2 at the Community Centre.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Nelli Richardson, Chair

Revelstoke Community Social Development Committee Coordinator's Report – February 24th, 2010

1. Communication, support and coordination

Directory of Social Services update & redistribution March 2010

Contacts:

- Jan 27th – RCSDC steering committee meeting
- Jan 27th – Quarterly presentation to City Council
- Jan 28th – CFDC (volunteer)
- Feb 1st – Housing Society meeting (presentation from Melissa Jameson, Housing Outreach Worker report on homelessness in Revelstoke)
- Feb 3rd, 8th – Substance Use Strategy key informant interviews
- Feb 4th – OC Multicultural Antiracism Community Action Plan meeting
- Feb 6th – Carousal of Nations event (volunteer)
- Feb 8th – WCWIP stakeholder meeting (followed up with grant writing support)
- Feb 10th – Kerry Dawson, the City's new Director of Parks, Rec & Culture
- Feb 10th – Lory Borges, IH
- Feb 10th – Tuulikki Tennant, Community Care Social Work
- Feb 15th – Cathie Thacker, Employment Centre
- Feb 15th – Substance Use Strategy steering committee meeting
- Feb 16th – Supporting single men subcommittee meeting
- Feb 16th – CFDC executive (volunteer)
- Feb 17th – Service provider speaker series talk – Cathie Thacker, RESC
- Feb 22nd – Lory Borges, IH
- Feb 23rd – Attended substance use session for RSS parents

2. Supporting our Seniors

- The application to IH Injury Prevention Small Grants Program in partnership with City of Revelstoke Public Works and Engineering, for \$3500 to initiate a "Grit Box Pilot Project" was successful for a partial amount of \$3000 – this will be enough to implement the project.

3. Transportation

- Alan Mason is hoping to convene a Public Transit planning session with Steve Harvard, BC Transit regional rep before the end of March.

4. Substance Use Strategy

- Key informant interviews and targeted focus groups are complete. The client survey (for non-school-aged clients struggling with substance use issues) went out to MCFD, Women's Shelter, Community Connections, Mental Health & Addictions, and CPR EAP, and is due at the end of February. A questionnaire was distributed to RCMP. Starting to put collate info. The steering committee providing input towards Guiding Principles.

5. Service Provider Speaker Series

- February's speaker was a 'lunch and learn' event on Wed Feb 17th: Cathie Thacker, Program Coordinator at the Revelstoke Employment Centre will speak on "Everything you always wanted to know about the Employment Centre, the Job Market & More!" The presentation was excellent – very informative. Attendance was low, but included 2 City Councillors and Jim Barmby, Dean,

OC Shuswap-Revelstoke region. Next session will be Wednesday March 31st – Melissa Klage, Attorney, will speak on the highlights of family law and services to access in Revelstoke.

6. Holidays

- I will be away for spring break the week of March 8th to March 12th.

7. Miscellaneous

- I have been asked to participate in two social planning workshops for the west & east Kootenays, on March 23-25th – expenses will be covered by event organizers.