

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday January 12, 2017 Clements Centre Society- 5:30 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins Chair, Denise Williams co- chair, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Melie De Champlain, Valorie Masuda, Robin Routledge, Douglas Hardie, John Elzinga, Denise McKinlay, Kate Marsh, Gretchen Hartley, Chris Hall, Jennifer Yee Fairweather, Terri Dame, Aimee Sherwood, Jane Hope, Jane Osborne, Jennifer Jones, James Tousignant, Anita McLeod, Douglas Hardie,

**Regrets:** Robert Calnan, David Robertson, Amy Trippe Brophy, Alice Gelpke, Michelle Staples, Linda Roseneck, Sheila Service, Leslie Welin, Diane Pope, Rhoda Taylor, Dave Ehle, Jan Tatlock,

**Absent:** Colleen Fuller, Bob Day,

**Guests:** Dr Jan Malherbe Cowichan District Medical Society, Cindy Savage BC Schizophrenia Society, Danita Senf BC Schizophrenia Society, Jennifer Lazenby Volunteer Cowichan, Melaina Patenaude Cowichan United Way, Jodie McDonald Cowichan Caregivers Support Society, Angel Saumier Cowichan Community Kitchens, Lori Iannidinardo Cowichan Community Kitchens, Marcel Aubin Cowichan Intercultural Society, Jennifer Hermary MP Alistair MacGregor’s office, Seamus Wolfe MP Alistair MacGregor’s office, Barry O’Riordan Cowichan Station Hub, Sadie Bartam Cowichan Station Hub, Daniel Collins Community member, Arlene Robinson Chemainus Neighbourhood House, Moe Versey Cowichan Neighbourhood House, Erin Generous Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Welcome to new members**:

1. **Welcome and introductions.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second
3. **Cowichan District Hospital Foundation Announcement:** The Ministry of Health has contacted Island Health and requested concept drawings for the future Cowichan District Hospital. The concept drawings will be funded by the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation and will likely be in the amount of $500,000.00. This funding in addition to the 27 million dollars already saved and the purchase price of the hospital site will come from the community’s responsibility to cover 40% of the expenses towards the new hospital.
4. **Cowichan District Hospital Petition:** With the announcement of the request for the concept drawings the petition intended to voice the community need for a new hospital has been put on hold.
5. **Our Cowichan Introduction- History-**Rob Hutchins shared a brief history of OCCHN to provide invited guests with more information on our network, where we came from and what we do.
6. **Delegations – Small Grant Recipients-** Recipients of OCCHN small grants were invited to a celebration and an evening of learning about each other. Guests provided information on their organization and the projects where small grant funding is directed.

**Cowichan Station Community Hub- This** community hub is run by volunteers who provide anywhere from 6 to 24 hours a week in volunteer time. The old Cowichan Station School has been transformed into a centre where child, youth, adult and seniors programming takes place. Regular activities include the Friday Hub Café, Koksilah Farmers institute, clay studio, square dancing, dance classes, Beavers and Cubs, parent child drop in classes, AA, senior’s socials and more. The Hub is also available for rental. Our Cowichan small grants go to support a number of programs.

**Cowichan Community Kitchens-** Cowichan Community Kitchens operates on a annual budget of $16,000.00 and the rest of the resources come from community donations. Participants meet in a community kitchen and learn how to shop, cook and budget for meals. Participants also give back to the community and provide meals for those in need. An Average of 5660 meals are cooked each year. Our Cowichan small grants go to creating a Community Kitchens program in the Town of Lake Cowichan.

**Cowichan Big Brother Big Sisters –** serves boys and girls in the Cowichan Valley and offers programs that include school mentorship programs. Mentorship for vulnerable youth can make a difference in school success, community engagement, reduces risks for substance and alcohol use and more. OCCHN small grant funding will support the Game On mentoring program that provides boys with information and support to make informed choices about a range of healthy lifestyle practices. Each session is 8 weeks and boys participate in a variety of activities and discussions for two hours each session.

**Cowichan Caregivers Support Society-** Cowichan Caregivers Support Society is co-located with Volunteer Cowichan and the Cowichan United Way. It provides support for those caring for loved ones including a young carer’s component. Caregiving can be satisfying and stressful and the supports and services help caregivers to remember to care for themselves as well as loved ones. ½ of the caregivers are supporting a loved one with dementia and ½ serve all health challenges and problems. The number of caregivers is growing as are the number of those suffering with dementia or are caring for parents. OCCHN small grant funding will support enhancing a circle of support model that enhances caregivers to support other caregivers.

**Chemainus Neighbourhood House** – Cowichan Neighbourhood house operates in Chemainus and opened 19 years ago. Its premise is neighbours helping neighbours and offers free programs, meals and more for children, youth, adults and seniors in need. It is operated by over 48 community volunteers who provide programs such as a Free store, Adult literacy, Preschool literacy, Emergency assistance – food and shelter, resource drop in and arts and cultural programs. A large portion of the program revolves around food, collection, preparation and distribution to those in need. They provide over 500 bowls of soup in any given month. The social connections stemming from attending the neighbourhood house are invaluable. OCCHN small grant funding will support a zero waste project which will work with local food distributers, restaurants to ensure that all food does not go to waste and is properly prepared and stored for those who can use it.

**Cowichan Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society** - There are now 70 Syrian refugees residing in the Cowichan Valley. In addition to supporting refugees the CIS offers many programs including English language training, Immigrant settlement services, youth programs, employment aid, community connections and community outreach. The OCCHN small grant funds will go to support child care services offered to parents who are attending programming or receiving services at CIS

**Volunteer Cowichan-**  VC has been in operation for almost 40 years. It is currently the host of the Better at Home program that helps seniors continue to live independently in their own homes by providing simple non- medical home support services. These services include friendly visiting, transportation, light yard work, minor home repairs, light housekeeping, grocery shopping. Seniors may receive some resources for free or may have a small fee depending on what they are seeking. Social isolation can impact a senior’s ability to remain at home so the OCCHN small grant funds will go to support a senior’s luncheon which will provide the opportunity for those providing services and those receiving services to connect in a social setting.

**Celebrating Network Members–Terri Dame- Cowichan Housing Association-** Terri Dame – Cowichan Housing Association is a coordinating body for affordable housing resources and services in the Cowichan Region with a primary focus on prevention of homelessness. Cowichan Housing Association in partnership with OCCHN has applied for a grant to engage in the Close to Home Youth Project. If successful the project will develop, test and evaluate a Housing First model for the Cowichan Region, and as a first priority, develop an Implementation Plan for Addressing Youth Homelessness, with a focus on the design, development and implementation of a supported youth housing/shelter facility.

This project aligns with Employment and Social Development Canada’s objectives through its aim to demonstrate effective practices for:

* **Interventions for specific populations:** testing interventions that work for youth, and
* **Strategic partnerships:** developing strategic partnerships between service organizations, funders, and unique players (e.g. private sector) to coordinate resources and provide streamlined services to the client.

The project will demonstrate the effectiveness of current best practices and develop, test and evaluate a new practice. The particular innovation that will be developed is an adaptation of the Housing First Model that emphasizes an understanding of simultaneous dynamics of a rural/urban geographical context, and issues for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities

1. **Spotlight Speaker- James Tousignant Cowichan Sobering and Assessment Centre** – The Cowichan Sobering Centre opened its doors on December 20 and within 18 minutes had its first client. The centre is open 24-7 -7 days a week. It can house up to 6 individuals at a time (based on configuration of males, females and youth 17 or older), but currently is operating with 4 until the staff are settled and all of the bugs are worked out. An individual who accesses the program can stay for up to 20 hours. During that time they are monitored often to ensure their safety. If a community member is in medical duress they receive services at Cowichan District Hospital. All intakes are done via phoning ahead first to see if there is capacity within the program. If there is capacity and the individual meets the criteria for the program (able to walk, talk, follow instructions and be safe for themselves, the facility other clients and staff). More updates will be provided over time as the program settles in.
2. **Collective Impact**
   * EPIC ( Eldercare Project in Cowichan) – Our Cowichan has applied for a $50,000.00 from the Island Health and Wellness Granting opportunity in order to hire a community lead for EPIC. If successful Our Cowichan will be responsible for the hiring and mentorship of the project lead. This
3. **New Business**

**2017 Homeless Count-** This year’s point in time count will take place on February 21. There are a number of locations where the point in time count is taking place over a period of 24 hours beginning in the evening of February 20. There will also be a community event where we hope to capture those at risk or those in precarious housing. Volunteers are needed for both the count and the community event. Donations of goods are also required. Cindy to send out posters.

* + **Meeting time and Venue Change –** Clements Centre Society is not working. The Kitchen is fantastic but the noise from the fans and fridges impact everyone’s ability to hear. It is also a challenge to set up the heavy tables and room each time. Cindy will look into other options in the community and will report back to the Admin Committee.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY March 9, 5:45 pm**

**Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm