

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday May 10, 2018 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:45 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, James Tousignant, Douglas Hardie, Rhoda Taylor, Jan Tatlock, Denise McKinlay, Emma Edmunds, Pam Alcorn, Sheila Service, Jane Osborne, Kate Marsh, Valorie Masuda, Terri Dame, Michelle Staples, Tara McCaffery, Diane Pope, Faye Gilbert, Christy Villiers, Vicki Holman, Arlene Robinson, Maureen Vesey, Jennifer Hermany, Chris Hall,

**Regrets:** Denise Williams, David Robertson, Alice Gelpke, Anita McLeod, Jodie McDonald, Aimee Sherwood, Jennifer Jones, Melaina Patenaude, Gretchen Hartley, Jane Hope, Linda Roseneck, Gus Williams, Addie Williams

**Guests:** Lisa Keller, Mikaela Whitelaw, Colleen

**On Leave**: Robert Calnan, John Elzinga, Robin Routledge,

**Welcome to new members**: Arlene Robinson Cowichan Neighbourhood House

* **Welcome and introductions.**
* **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second **Approved**
* **Celebrating Network Member-**
* **Spotlight Speaker-** Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative- Youth Shelter Project
  + In 2017 the Point in Time Homeless count captured 24 homeless youth
  + In the fall of 2017 the students at Cowichan Valley Open Learning Coop entered the Placemaking project and designed a youth homeless shelter. Why? Because there are a number of students who attend CVOLC who are completely homeless or are precariously housed and could be couch surfing or on the brink of homelessness.
  + The students created their project based on using the now vacated school that is directly across the street from their new location. Having a shelter so close to where students need it was a driver for refurbishing the school. The students were very clear about what they wanted it to look like and how they wanted it to operate. They entered their idea into the Placemaking Competition and won first place as well as people’s choice.
  + Community partners Social Planning Cowichan, Cowichan Housing Association and Canadian Mental Health Association jumped on board to help turn the students vision into a reality.
  + They have now created a film on what the face of youth homelessness looks like, visited other shelters to learn about them and how they operate and created the criteria and have begun to draft business plan for what they want to see.
  + The youth have also consulted with over 30 youth in the region to get their feedback
  + This project is directly linked to the Housing First For Youth Collective Impact initiative and has been embedded into the Close to Home project
  + Students presented to the School Board as well
  + Knowing that there may be obstacles to using the school site the youth have also explored options for a smaller venue and have also consulted with Canadian Mental Health Association in regards to this
  + What is next?
    1. Completing the business plan
    2. Building more partnerships
    3. Working with community groups
    4. Creating a list of what is needed and what individuals can do to help

**Motion**- That OCCHN support the Cowichan Valley Open Learning Coop and Youth Homeless Shelter Initiative in Cowichan. Carried

* **Delegation-** Cowichan Housing Association.The demand for housing across the housing spectrum in the Cowichan Region has reached a crisis point. This includes shelter housing, supported housing, rental and affordable housing. The community that are impacted by the lack of housing includes those who are completely homeless, those who are precariously housed, single parents, youth, families and seniors. Cowichan Housing Association has been working with OCCHN, Canadian Mental Health Association and Social Planning Cowichan among other partners collecting research and data. Housing Snapshots have been created and can be found on the Cowichan Housing Association and Social Planning Cowichan Websites.
* Currently the Federal and Provincial Governments have announced significant funding for housing. In order for Cowichan to access those funds local governments are also required to provide a local contribution as well.
* The CVRD is exploring options to create a regional financial contribution service to the Cowichan Housing Association that could provide up to $765,000.00 to support the creation of affordable housing in the CVRD. $500,000.00 of these funds will go directly into the creation of housing each year. The remaining funds will go to planning and development, housing loss prevention, research and administration. These funds would be provided to Cowichan Housing Association to provide the service.
* In order for the CVRD to move to the Alternate Approval Process they are seeking public input and are providing a number of options on how to voice your support
  + Letters to the CVRD
  + Attending one of 4 open houses
  + Emails to the CVRD
  + Posting comments and voting on the Placespeak Website

**Motion-** That OCCHN write a letter of support to request that the CVRD move forward with the Alternate Approval Process for a financial service for housing. Carried

OCCHN members discussed getting friends and colleagues to support this initiative through sending emails and voting as well as attending the open houses

**Youth Initiatives-**James Tousignant- Tabled until next meeting

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY July 12, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm