

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday November 9, 2017 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:45 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Gretchen Hartley, Jennifer Yee Fairweather, Joyce Behnsen, James Tousignant, Faye Gilbert, Colleen Fuller, Douglas Hardie, Rhoda Taylor, Melaina Patenaude Tara McCaffery, Michelle Staples Jan Tatlock, Robin Routledge, Diane Pope, Jane Hope

**Regrets:** Denise Williams Chair, David Robertson, Alice Gelpke, Dave Ehle, Chris Hall, Linda Roseneck, Danita Senf, Denise McKinlay, Anita McLeod, Jane Osborne, Jodie McDonald, Kayla Clarke, Pam Alcorn, Kate Marsh, Sheila Service, Bob Day, Terri Dame, Valorie Masuda, Aimee Sherwood Seamus Wolfe Robert Calnan, John Elzinga, Jennifer Jones,

**Guests:**

**On Leave**:

**Welcome to new members**:

1. **Welcome and introductions.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second **Approved**
3. **Delegation-** Social Planning Cowichan –Alexander Neighbourhood Project
   * Michelle Staples reported the challenges that the Alexander and Quamichan neighbourhoods are facing and the pressures that are placed upon them. The neighbourhood also has incredible individuals, families, businesses and service providers that live work and play in the area. Building a sense of community and removing the barriers and stigma placed on the neighborhood was helped to move in the right direction in part by a small grant from Our Cowichan as well as the significant contribution from Social Planning Cowichan and Safe Youth Cowichan. In the summer of 2017 a large community barbeque was hosted where dozens of families, children and community came together to learn about each other and get to know each other. The partnership between community and Warmland was a perfect way to break down the barriers and help to bring people together.
   * In the fall the children from Alexander kindergarten and grade 7 classes went to Warmland to carve pumpkins. Hesitant teachers, parents and students soon had a fabulous time and were welcomed into Warmland. The opportunity to bring the Warmland community and the school community together was a positive way to build awareness and a sense of safety in the neighbourhood. More opportunities to come together will be explored in the future
   * Taking care of the grounds surrounding the school, McDonalds and York Street is important as the public is angered and vocal when they see trash or materials building up in the area. Social Planning Cowichan has hired community members from Warmland to help care and clean the area around the Sprott Shaw Building with great success. They are working with neighbourhood businesses to also consider doing the same.
4. **Evaluation – Next Steps-**
   * **What would you like to change?**
     1. **More public information sessions-** Want to respond to emerging issues that are important to the community. We want to create a template of actions for moving forward that includes:
        + We want to have more opportunities for community dialogue
        + We need to determine what topics to focus on
        + list of contacts, venues and speakers
        + Meeting Structure
        + Picking key people for each topic
        + Develop a process for going forward that lets people know their voices are being heard and is an opportunity to engage with the public at large
        + This is an administrative role
     2. **Enhance the Community Awareness of OCCHN beyond organizations**
        + Assess where there are gaps in representation; geographic; under privileged; lower income; limited education; youth
        + Not sure what role to engage all community members- might be too big
        + This is an administrative role
     3. **Enhance Aboriginal Representation**
        + Important to seek more representation
        + Perhaps an Elder in residence
        + Learn more about Aboriginal Issues- invite to present
        + Explore process, barriers, meeting environment, time of day
        + Ask if this network is relevant for First Nations
        + This is an administrative role
     4. **Increase- implement a campaign against poverty**
        + Poverty is connected to everything we do. It impacts where you live, what you eat, what services you access, education, training and more. (Social Determinants of Health)
        + We need to articulate why we want to implement a separate campaign or embed into all that we do. (poverty lens in all of our work)
        + Who else is focussing on poverty?
        + This is a strategic priority to move forward
     5. **Balancing OCCHN focus between one that is too narrow or too broad**
        + We are doing a great job and this is not currently a problem
        + Broad views of community help to narrow our focus in our strategic plan
        + Continue to monitor our efforts and review the plan regularly to ensure that we stay on track
        + This is an administrative role
5. **New Business**
   * **Hospice-** The concept plan is under development for the Hospice House. The plans are to attach it to Cairnsmore. Although it was hoped it would be a free-standing building it has been determined that attaching the centre will allow for better staff support and operations. The Hospice Gala event hosted by Purica Foundation was a great success with the amount raised estimated to be over $100,000.00. The total amount will be released soon.
   * **Physical Literacy- Active4 Life Summit-** We are down to the final days in planning for the Active 4 Life Physical Literacy Summit to be held on November 24 and 25 at the Island Savings Centre. $25.00 gets two days of workshops, Keynotes and lunch!
   * **Overdose Prevention Site** – The Overdose Prevention Site has opened its doors and is now in the process of serving individuals in the community. It has had a quiet start which was anticipated while the community builds trust and learns about the resource. The temporary site will be reviewed in the new year where it will be determined if it is to remain at the location. The hours have been adjusted to include mornings most days of the week except for the days where the methadone clinic is open. It is open 7:30 am to 1:30 pm Tuesdays to Sunday and 5 pm-11 pm on Mondays.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY January 11, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm