

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday September 13, 2018 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:45 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins Chair, Denise Williams Co Chair, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, James Tousignant, Rhoda Taylor, Jan Tatlock, Denise McKinlay, Jane Osborne, Valorie Masuda, Tara McCaffery, Diane Pope, Kate Marsh, Linda Roseneck, Robin Routledge, Anita McLeod, John Elzinga, Sheila Service, Pam Alcorn, Vicki Holman, Terri Mattin, Lynn Weaver, Laurie Beverley, Douglas Hardie,

**Regrets:** David Robertson, Alice Gelpke, Jodie McDonald, Aimee Sherwood, Gretchen Hartley, Gus Williams, Addie Williams, Michelle Staples, Faye Gilbert, Christy Villiers, Alistair MacGregor, Jane Hope, Maureen Vesey, Chris Hall, Melaina Patenaude, Bob Day, Arlene Robinson, Jessica Curtis

**Guests:** Earle Plain, Dr Shannon Waters

**On Leave**: Robert Calnan,

**Welcome to new members**: Laurie Beverley- Arbutus Ridge Rate Payers Association, Lynn Weaver- Cowichan Intercultural Society, Jessica Curtis- Cowichan Intercultural Society

* **Welcome and introductions.**
* **Adoption of Agenda Approved** Moved/second
* **Adoption of Financial Statement**

Moved/ second **Approved**

**Celebrating Network Member-** Cowichan Intercultural Society- Lynn Weaver. CIS has been in operation since 1981 supporting new comers and embracing diversity, supporting community and enhancing intercultural awareness. They provide settlement services, English classes, child care, employment assistance, community outreach and more. There are 120 volunteers and 25 staff who together speak 11 languages! They support between 400 and 500 community members each year. In 2015 the Cowichan region welcomed and supported 100 Syrian Refugees. Challenges their organization faces each year is the ability help individuals become permanent residents and employment barriers for migrant workers. Always on the forefront is the work around reconciliation and decolonization and gender equity. The CIS supports the One World Festival, Walk of Nations, Inclusion projects and Youth Action Day.

**Delegation-** James Tousignant from Canadian Mental Health Association shared updates on youth initiatives in Cowichan. He is pleased to announce that the New Youth Wellness Centre on Festubert had its first client today! This centre will support vulnerable at risk as well as youth living on the street who would not seek services from a Doctors office or emergency department. It will be staffed by the youth outreach team, a Nurse Practitioner and outreach nurse. Services provided include reaching out to those who need sexual health support, infections, MRSA, staff infections, and wound care for example. The wellness centre, (which will soon be named by the youth) received support from Island Health to be able to fund the equipment for the examination room. The centre will have a slow opening and will build trust with the youth over the next while.

CMHA has been providing “covert” counselling services through its Bike Works and Art Works program for many years and often sees the youth who end up on the streets from an early age. Their team works closely with youth who are on the streets and goes directly to them wherever they may be such as McDonalds or other locations.

CMHA has been working closely with Malahat FN for a program for youth girls 8-12 and 10 to 15 years and is also now working with a boys group aged 8-15 yrs.

Housing and families who have lost their children or are at risk of losing their children have now come to CMHA for supported and assisted housing. This is new for CMHA but working with MCFD and talented staff they have been able to provide housing and support for vulnerable families in addition to adults that they serve.

A new project is on the horizon with the hopes of creating a village of support for families who have lost children or are on the verge of having children apprehended, teen moms and youth. The village concept would provide wrap around services, parenting support, educational support and training and child care. The village proposal for funding was submitted to BC Housing with hopes of hearing in October. More information will come in the event that funding is successful.

**Spotlight Speaker- Cowichan Airshed and Impacts of Open Burning- Earle Plain and Dr Shannon Waters-**

Pm 2.5 continues to pose the greatest health risk to those residing in the Cowichan Region. Pm2.5 is so small that it has the ability to penetrate deep into the lungs and into the blood stream. Those who are already at risk or vulnerable are those who are impacted the most. This includes children, seniors and those with lung and breathing disorders. Cowichan rates for children visiting the emergency department is 70% higher than others in BC.

Pm2.5 comes from burning sources with the most significant source being wood burning. This summer’s many days of choking smoke that exceeded safe standards only added to the challenges we face in Cowichan. Earle shared the data from air monitors that clearly demonstrate how when open burning is permitted the exceedances of pm 2.5 spread across the region. Together with Island Health, the CVRD, MOE, and many community partners the Cowichan Regional Airshed Protection Strategy and Airshed Roundtable are coming together to find solutions. Changing burning behaviours requires policy, education and time. The Power Point Presentation will be shared with OCCHN members.

**New Business:**

* The CVRD and all local governments will have two referendum questions on the October 20 ballots. The CVRD through the referendum, if successful, will provide a housing service to support the development of affordable housing across the spectrum. We have become acutely aware of the significant housing needs across the region for not only those who may be homeless but all the way to those wanting to come and work here in the Cowichan region with no place to live. We encourage everyone to get out and Vote on October 20.
* There is going to be an open meeting at Duncan City Hall for the Women’s Extreme Weather Shelter on September 17 at 6:30pm
* Avi Friedman will be coming to Duncan on September 20 and 21. Information re: Avi and workshops will be in the Friday Newsletter
* The Island Health Board of Directors will be coming to Cowichan on September 27. Our Cowichan will be presenting to the board and executive at Warmland on that day as well. Everyone is also invited to attend the Open portion of the Board meeting at 1:30 pm at Duncan Meadows Golf Course.
* There is going to be a community Day of Service at Duncan United Church on October 10 to support individuals who are living on the streets. This day often includes hair cuts, feet care, clothing, bedding and shelter donations and more. If you or your organization are able to assist in any way you can contact Duncan United Church or the contact in the Newsletter

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY November 8, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm