

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday April 13, 2017 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:30 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins Chair, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Melie De Champlain, Robin Routledge, Denise McKinlay, Kate Marsh, Gretchen Hartley, Jennifer Yee Fairweather, Jennifer Jones, James Tousignant, Anita McLeod, Danita Senf, Robert Calnan, Leslie Welin, Diane Pope, Rhoda Taylor, Sheila Service, Jan Tatlock, Colleen Fuller,

**Regrets:**, David Robertson, Amy Trippe Brophy, Alice Gelpke, Michelle Staples, Linda Roseneck, Dave Ehle, Douglas Hardie, John Elzinga, Chris Hall, Terri Dame, Aimee Sherwood, Jane Hope, Jane Osborne, Valorie Masuda, Douglas Hardie, Denise Williams

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Dr Paul Hasselback Island Health- Central Island Medical Health Officer, Rod Allen Superintendent Cowichan School District 79, John Close community member

**Welcome to new members**: Joyce Behnsen, Danita Senf, Tara McCaffery

1. **Welcome and introductions.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second
3. **Delegations – Cowichan Schizophrenia Society- Moved to June meeting**
4. **Spotlight Speaker- Dr Paul Hasselback-** There has been a massive increase in the number of overdoses and deaths as a result of Fentanyl and Car-Fentanyl. The same thing that is happening across the province is happening here in the Cowichan region. The problem is getting worse and in February we saw more overdoses than ever before. Currently it is estimated that within the Cowichan region we have 350 daily injection users, 260 occasional injection users, 680 regular users of other substances and 7500 regular cannabis users. The urgency to respond has never been greater. It was reported that in one house where injections are taking place that there could be anywhere from 5 to 6 overdoses per week. There seem to be spikes in overdoses related to particular batches of drugs as well as cycles of social assistance having that have an impact. There are strategies that are effective in preventing deaths which include overdose prevention sites, low barrier housing, affordable housing, substitution drugs such as Methadone and Naloxone as well as working to ensure that our youth have meaningful employment. It is also important to use this crisis as a teachable moment regarding harm reduction and the illness that Opioid use is. Destigmatization relating to substance use is very important in our response. Dr Hasselback and Island Health will be working closely with community partners within the Cowichan region to tackle our crisis.
5. **Celebrating Network Members- School District 79 Rod Allen-** Cowichan School District 79 has 7,605 students and has grown 350 students this year and continues to grow. It employs 1104 employees and is expected to gain 50 to 70 more teachers. Its annual budget is 81 million dollars. The district also has 235 international students bringing in 2.7 million dollars in fees of which 1.8 million dollars go back into the community for homestay families. The graduation completion rate for the 2015/2016 school year moved to 82.1% which is an impressive 5.6% increase over previous years! British Columbia is recognized as world leaders in the realm of education but sadly bad press related to contract challenges have painted a negative picture of what is a high quality system. Changes to the curriculum have been implemented to respond to the ever increasing changes within our society. Students have access to a world of information at their fingertips. Memorizing facts is not what is required today. What is required to day is:
	* Critical thinking and problem solving
	* Collaboration and leadership
	* Communication and digital literacy
	* Personal and social responsibility
	* Creativity and innovation
	* Cultural and global understanding

The new curriculum reflects these societal changes

1. **Collective Impact**
	* **EPIC (Eldercare Project in Cowichan)** – Our Cowichan helped to write a grant and applied for a $20,000.00 from the CVRD Gran in Aid, via Volunteer Cowichan, in order to hire a community lead for EPIC. This grant was successful and now EPIC has a project lead for the community stream of work!
	* **Airshed Roundtable** -Our Cowichan submitted a Grant in Aid Proposal to the CVRD for the Airshed Roundtable which was successful. This grant allows Our Cowichan to remain as the stewards for the Airshed Roundtable
	* **Hospice House update**- Rob Hutchins reported on the Hospice House Centre of Excellence. The project is moving forward and Island Health has now signed a memorandum of understanding for 7 end of life beds. This is a significant move forward for the Hospice project. Currently a feasibility study will be underway in May to determine if the centre will be a standalone facility or if it will be included as a renovation to one of the wings at Cairnsmore.

The Hospice Task Force has been meeting with the Town of Ladysmith to change the designation of the 2 end of life beds to community access beds for their community. The changes are not anticipated to be much different than the current state as complex care patients have been treated in Chemainus or Cowichan District Hospital because they require a higher level of care.

1. **New Business**
	* **Printing of Agenda’s and Meeting Packages-** To reduce the amount of printing each table will be provided with an agenda and one meeting package. All members will continue to receive the agenda packages and minutes via email.
	* **Recommendation to continue to facilitate Sobering and Detox Task Force**
		1. A meeting was held with Island Health and a number of community partners who are working to address the overdose crisis within our region. The Sobering and Detox Task Force stewarded by Our Cowichan was deemed to be the best venue to support this work because many of the partners are already meeting there and are engaged in addressing substance use challenges within the region. It was requested that Our Cowichan continue the role of stewards.

***It is recommended that OCCHN will continue to steward the Sobering and Detox Task Force and will facilitate***

***discussions, administer agendas and minutes, identify new* participants and report on the progress toward the**

**initiatives underway to address substance use in the Cowichan Region. Carried**

* + **Recommendation to proceed with application for Community Dialogues on Opioid Use**
		1. The public may not be aware of the circumstances related to the Opioid use within our communities. Dialogue around destigmatising the disease and responding via a harm reduction approach is very important as overdose prevention sites, addressing needles, homelessness and more are now in the public eye. Our Cowichan has an opportunity to apply for funding to support community dialogues and to work with leaders in the field to help us understand Opioid use.

**It is recommended that OCCHN submit a letter of intent to the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for community dialogues on Opioid use. Carried**

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY June 8, 5:45 pm**

**Dinner served at 5:15**

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