



## Community Network Monthly Meeting & NETWORKING

Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 1 – 3:00 PM  
Fraser Room, Maple Ridge Library

### Minutes

Attendees: Bella Elphick, Shawn Matthewson, Brenna Ayliffe, Ash Healey, Colene Thompons (Chair), Angie McLeod (Minutes), Tony Cotroneo, Candace Gordon, Elaine Yamamoto

Regrets: Roberta O'Brien

#### 1. Welcome

2. **Agenda Approval – January 10, 2017** – *approved with removal of CSH Community Superhero Awards*

3. **Adoption of November 8, 2016 Minutes** - *change Colette to Colene; otherwise accepted as presented*

4. **Toonie Tuesday: Community Chest Week Fundraiser.** Please bring a small donation to the Community Chest project (\$2 to ?) → sent around

#### 5. **Presentation** : Raincity Shelter Update

- History of the Raincity Shelter → invited to come here to help in response to the results of a survey on the street completed by the City. Survey identified that a shelter was needed to serve those who couldn't currently access Salvation Army services due to a number of concerns. New shelter to focus on harm reduction and being low barrier and on meeting the needs of our most vulnerable population.
- Harm reduction = we are going to keep the people alive (help them make good choice); low barrier – don't have to be clean and sober to access the shelter
- Transition over the past 1.5 years: Bylaws brought all homeless together into Tent city → through conversations moved folks to Mattress Shop without a court injunction (first time this has been successful) → Raincity and partner agencies worked together to formulate plan for Quality Inn which was shut down by community without even being heard; similar community response to purpose build building which was suggested by BC



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Housing for 203 / Lougheed → all suggested solutions have been met with resistance.

- One year later, in the same position. Shelter closing in March 2017. No plan in place to house the existing 40+ residents.
- Past year Raincity and Shelter residents have been faced with hate and harassment. Serious incidents and concerns for the safety of both staff and residents. Online facebook group has been very vocal and negative. Serious physical threats happening daily. → Raincity Staff are burned out. Serious impact on personal and professional lives of those working for Raincity.
- Personal stories of those in the shelter are heartbreaking. These are the most vulnerable residents that exist in our community.
- Hate and violence HAS to STOP. Raincity has never experienced this in any other community.
- Working with Opiate Response Work Group and the working being done in the Mattress shop are the reason that so many changes are happening locally, provincially, and nationally. Huge changes have been made in terms of system (fraser health, hospital, police, fire, paramedics, etc.) and how they understand the situation.
- Currently the Community as a whole doesn't understand the value of the work being done, it's positive impact, or the outcomes actually being achieved. Those who support the work being done aren't vocalizing their support and this needs to happen for the tide to shift.
- Raincity is working with those that no one else will work with – doesn't deny service to anyone. Always one more chance. Has resulted in these people getting some help.
- Stopped over 100 opiate overdoses in our community – not all from the shelter; some are being dropped off in front of the shelter by dealers, johns, etc. One staff member has saved 34 lives in the last year.
- Lot's of good stories – successes – that can't be shared because of confidentiality. Amazing stories of success is the young woman who was one of the most vulnerable has turned her life around and is drug free (for over a year) now. Making a new life for herself with her baby and re-connected with her family.



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- Decrease in the number of overdoses; flooded the streets with Narcan.
- Need to spread the word in the community about all the good that is happening and have the good overtake the HATE / VIOLENCE. Needs a bigger/ louder voice for the acceptance / non judgemental.

### ***BIGGER QUESTION for the Community:***

- What are we going to do about this as a community?
- Where are we as partners and professionals and supporting the great work that is being done in our community to help those most vulnerable in our community?
- How are we going to respond collectively to the situation?
- How does the CN advocate for the need for Shelter? Do people have ideas of what can be done?
- *City has the 20/20 plan... how can we help promote this.*
- *The CN can respond to this – CN speaks for all; doesn't highlight a specific agency. What role can / should the CN take? How might this look? Correct the facts... We need more than just correcting the facts.*
- Working Group within the CN to figure out how to address this head on from a community perspective... where does the CN stand in relation to a low barrier shelter in the downtown / in our community? Limited amount of time support the shelter → how do we ignite the larger community? Not sure what's happening in terms of AHSS supportive housing piece.
  - **ACTION** → Letter from Ash and Helena to NEWs and on social media – post it on some of the other community sites where we can → List all 80 Agencies (need approval?)
  - **ACTION** → Meet with MLA's to talk about the shelter and next steps: Colene & Angie → Shawn, Helena and Ash to provide speaking notes; Colene and Angie to meet with MLA's
  - **ACTION: COMMUNITY Leaders** → Long term – address stigma – how do we fit within the communication strategy and share information – ***add to the Facilitators Agenda***
  - **ACTION** → Angie to attend Opiate Overdose Response Group on Friday



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- The Community Network to unite around the Opiate Overdose Response presentation in the near future. Invitation to participate to come soon.
  - **Action:** Shawn to send 20/20 link and sign up for the ongoing information.
6. **Request from Opiate Overdose Response Work Group** to become a CN Task Group – recommended by Facilitators.
- Brief presentation by Helena Swinkels, Fraser Health to have the Opiate Overdose Response Work group become a CN Task Group
  - Majority of the opiate deaths are not in shelter.
  - ***Motion to accept – Elaine and Bella; all in favour - unanimous***
7. **Community Network Updates and Facilitators' Reports:**
- **Terms of Reference Updates** – *in favour.*
  - **CN Annual Survey** – will be sending out in early February to CN Leaders and CN Members; CN Committee Chairs and Coordinators will be invited to meet face to face for a discussion around how to best support Committee's moving forward AND to introduce the new CN Coordinator.
  - **CN Rack Cards (introduction)** – Rack cards printed and ready to go. Will distribute when new CN Coordinator comes on board.
  - **Community Superhero Sidekick** appearances – *do you have a community event coming up and want to borrow the Community Superhero capes and buttons? If so, please call Angie at 604 476 2447*
8. **Roundtable**
- **Brenna, Community Health Specialist** – taking over from Delaram, currently getting to know the community; looking to get oriented to what's going on in the community.
  - **Elaine Yamamoto** – Literacy Outreach Worker / HIVE Neighbourhood Centre: Family Literacy Day January 28<sup>th</sup>
  - **Bella – Public Health:** Opiad Overdose posters to hand out. Lots of Narcan kits available for personal use or use within a family situation.
  - **Candace Gordon – GE Feast:** activities listed for upcoming events. Lots going on. Will send details through CN email.
9. **Correspondence** – none on file.



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**10. Next CN Meeting: February 14, 2017 @ 1 – 3 PM** Fraser Room, Maple Ridge Library. **Qmunity will be here to share some information on their LGBTQ programs and services. *MARK your calendars!***