



# CENTRAL AND SOUTH OKANAGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

## CHAIR SUMMARY

We have had a very active and productive year! In April of last year the council supported from “Inclusion to Belonging” a presentation and world cafe for individuals across sectors and with differing abilities to discuss and promote a “warm and healthy welcoming community” for all of its members. This event was a rousing success with over 100 attendees and an introductory address from Mayor Sharon Sheppard. We enjoyed guest speakers including: Caroline Ivey from the Parkinson Recreation Centre and Sylvie Zebroff, Family Partnership Advisor. October 2009 was incredibly busy with events promoting the gifts and strengths of people with developmental disabilities. Various members of the council participated in a resource/transition fair and dance at the Recreation centre. On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 15 self advocates from the region participated in the first ever, regional Self Advocate Conference! This event was organized and coordinated by self advocates for self advocates. And for those that participated in this event it was deemed a “highlight” of their year. This event was so positive that it will occur every 2 years with various self advocate groups in the region hosting it. Just “Start with Hi”! Various council members enjoyed time at the Orchard Park Mall where along with self advocates and community dignitaries we launched this very important campaign. The response from the public was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the above the following was also completed: a community council/ self advocate flyer was created; survey packages were compiled and a new chairperson was appointed—Anna Caruso. In February 2010, the council supported the continuation of “Start with Hi” by provided an honorarium to self advocates that gave free newspapers to community members. In March, Stephen Russell oriented the council on the new terms of reference. The council voted unanimously for a strategic planning day to develop new tasks and initiatives for the upcoming year...this will be occurring next week!

## KEY INITIATIVES

### BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

- From “Inclusion To Belonging”
- “Start with Hi”
- Various resource and transition fairs
- Flyer completed for families and individuals about the council and self advocacy
- Manager spoke at various club meetings including the Rotary Club

- Self advocate/council member joined the Rotary club

#### **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- Meeting with people outside of the social service sector
- Creating diversity on the council (business people, Spiritual and Aboriginal leaders)

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Council members participated in an event with Brian Salisbury where they provided feedback on the CLBC operational plan;
- Suzanne Veit, Consultant, reviewed the purpose and productivity of community councils and solicited feedback by various members;
- Issues were identified by council members (eg. Changes in health coverage to people with disabilities) that were sent to the CLBC Board for review and action;
- Donna Long, was appointed to the CLBC Provincial Advisory Board

#### **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- More linkage needed to other councils and the CLBC board;
- A change part way through the year to new terms of reference;
- Not necessarily hearing back when issues/concerns are sent to the CLBC Board

#### **FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING**

- Former Quality Service Manager, Lynn Middleton, provided budget information on at least two occasions;
- CPD Manager regularly updated the council on Financial priorities for the fiscal year (for example: the waitlist project);
- Community Council was very supportive of self advocate initiatives with their own budget

#### **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- Council members frequently discussed their discomfort in making financial decisions;
- Members felt comfortable discussing gaps in services but did not feel they had the expertise in terms of projecting funding etc.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- As previously stated, the council participated in community outreach in many ways: transition and resource fairs, community events, “Start with Hi” campaign in the mall;
- Presentations occurred with :Rotary groups, the Westside Aboriginal Band and the Professional Caregiver Society

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Darryl Harand	Kelowna	Self-Advocate
Anna Caruso	Kelowna	Family Member
Miki Hanna	Kelowna	Service Provider
Donna Long	Kelowna	Family Member
Janet Roloff	Kelowna	Family Member
Alli McNeill	Kelowna	Family Member
George Arambasich	Kelowna	Service Provider
Jim Murphy	Kelowna	Self Advocate
Kelly Tompkins	Kelowna	Self Advocate
Rainer Persicke	Penticton	Service Provider
Roni Keely	Penticton	Self Advocate