



CENTRAL & SOUTH OKANAGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

CHAIR SUMMARY

First of all thank you to all of the wonderful members that we are honoured to have on our Interior Region Council! A huge congratulations, from both James and I and your vice chair Sylvie for your dedication, donation and sharing of time, knowledge and kindness, and assisting our council to be as informative and helpful as we can possibly be. Our Council strives to inform, inspire and create the BEST environment possible to connect, inform and assist families/and persons who live with a disability to have the most connected life within their community and beyond.

It has been an incredible year of good work, great commitment and wonderful support from the community! The team who rallied around the table are motivated, experienced and inspired....we feel so proud to be part of a process that is making a difference in the lives of people and families who are 'differently' enabled. Our council is a rather firey bunch.. a group of motivated individuals who want to make the world a better place. As co ~chairs, James and I , and Sylvie, hope that we are doing just that. We are moving forward by taking the guidance, wisdom and insight provided by council participants to heart. We learn from each other, and the varied and various concepts, ideas and thought processes expressed allow us to celebrate embracing communities with people from all walks of life.

Having the opportunity to work with our friends at CLBC at the board level has allowed us to gain some understanding of their journey and to celebrate their choice of career; the staff and manager dedication is remarkable.

Having the honour of participating on the first Interior Region Community Council (the first compliment in what we hope are many Community Councils to come) it is our hope that one day, our communities will embrace the collective opportunity to make the world a much better and inclusive place for everyone.

From all of us: Roni Keeley, Rainer Persicke, George Arambasich, Darryl Harand, Kelly Tompkins, Miki Hanna, Janet Roloff, Donna Long, Anna Caruso, Melissa Prost, Lynn Middleton, Lisa Bourget, Jim Murphy, Sylvie Zebroff, and Allison McNeill.

WE look forward to moving towards our joint goals as a council here but also working with our fellow groups throughout the Province to join in our goals and reduce any barriers that could be left once we are through!

Co chairs.. Alli McNeill, James Murphy, Sylvie Zebroff

KEY INITIATIVES

BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

- Community council meetings have been held in various locales -- allowed different community members to participate and for service providers to orient the council to the different services in their community;
- Self advocate luncheon in Penticton was a huge success with over 100 people participating; it was successful on so many levels including: an opportunity for individuals to learn more about self advocacy and local projects; meet old friends and make new friends and lastly, it allowed self advocate leaders from the Kelowna area to really “shine”;
- Council members used meetings as an opportunity to disseminate/share local information;
- Through Allison McNeill’s connections the Kelowna business women’s network were introduced to CLBC and it’s mandate; and through this connection numerous individuals and families were supported at Christmas and the business women were encouraged to assist in making their communities welcoming for all citizens;
- Self advocates members of the community council have expressed their satisfaction about being involved and how their involvement assisted their friends and peers; for example, individuals educated peers on how to run a meeting effectively and the role of a chairperson
- Council participated in a process to choose initiatives and projects to work on; two projects selected were forwarded by members from Penticton hence, causing these individuals to feel “heard” in respect to their regional issues;

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Self advocates are not represented by a “group voice” in the Penticton area; the challenge is to spark interest and provide information;
- Sometimes it feels like we are “preaching to the converted” and we need to get to the greater community in a more systematic fashion;

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Council meetings in various community locations;
- Promoting training/events throughout the year;
- Reviewing CLBC’s strategic work plan and the budget; specifically, Brian Salisbury with a consultant provided an opportunity for the community council to provide feedback about the 2009/2010 operational plan which allowed for members to voice regional concerns and the like;
- Attempted to get information out in regards to CLBC and services; as well as the council to as many people as possible via booths at different community events; mail outs and word of mouth; As well the council worked very hard to encourage community members to attend meetings to learn more;

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Challenges associated with getting greater community participation at the council meetings;
- Some community members feel that the council work is not “transparent” enough and have questioned the “CLBC agenda”;
- Challenges with keeping the website up to date and information flowing; and it being part of each community!

FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

- Regular budget updates with Lynn Middleton (or designate) has been very insightful due to the level of detail that has been provided; this allowed community members to be informed not only in regards to the region but also the province;
- Reviewing the annual budget, budget priorities and regional per diems has again allowed for a level of understanding that did not exist before;
- Review of service numbers, waitlists allowed council members to separate fact from fiction; specifically, waitlists on the coast for example are very different from “local waitlists”;
- Council members identified gaps in service and priority areas;

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Council members are comfortable providing feedback about the budget and priorities but members do not necessarily want to be responsible for decision making;
- The central and south Okanagan is still funded at the lowest per person per diem in the province;
- The council is very supportive of working on providing individuals on the waitlist with services and supports; however, some members feel strongly that there are people receiving services currently who are “under funded”;

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Various service provider including Penticton and District Community Resources Society; Penticton and District Society for Community Living; Southern Okanagan Association Integrated Community Living;
- Chamber of Commerce, Kelowna Business Women’s Network, Ki low Na Friendship Centre, Families in Touch, MLA’s , Westside and Kelowna Mayors (with assistance from Rachel Schmidt)

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Roni Keeley	Penticton	Self-Advocate
Rainer Persicke	PDCRS	Family Member
George Arambasich	Kelowna	Service Provider
Jim Murphy	Kelowna	Self Advocate
Darryl Harand	Kelowna	Self Advocate
Allison McNeill	Kelowna	Parent and community member
Sylvie Zebroff	Kelowna	Parent and community member
Kelly Tompkins	Kelowna	Self Advocate
Miki Hanna	Kelowna	Service Provider
Janet Roloff	Kelowna	Parent and Community member
Donna Long	Kelowna	Parent and Community Member
Anna Caruso	Kelowna	Parent and Community Member
Melissa Prost	CLBC	Administration Assistant
Lisa Bourget	CLBC	Manager, CPD

Lynn Middleton	CLBC	Manager, QS
----------------	------	-------------