



Chair Summary:

The Richmond (Delta) council met a total of 5 times in this past year. The council has experienced some significant changes this year; after the transfer of children's services to MCFD in October, CLBC realigned the region to include Richmond in the Vancouver Coastal region, and include Delta in the Surrey region. As a result, a decision was made to split the Richmond Delta council. All members continued on the councils in their respective communities.

The Richmond council currently has 8 members, from 13 in the previous combined council and has met twice as a stand-alone group.

In January of this year, representatives from all councils in the Vancouver Coastal region met to receive an orientation to the new Terms of Reference facilitated by Stephen Russell. This group had a conversation about how councils will be represented in this larger region going forward. While there was a willingness to have some opportunities to come together as a broader region (for example, two times per year for training and information sharing), at this time the existing councils wish to continue in their current forms; focusing on the work in their own community. Our council looks forward to planning the community engagement activities our Richmond council will embark on this year.

Current Areas of Focus:

- Continue to find ways to connect with families and individuals regarding youth transition to adult life; with particular interest in encouraging employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Richmond
- Looking forward to next year by organizing a strategic planning day May 10th to review last year's goals and develop new ones based on the new focus on community engagement in the Terms of Reference for the Council

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Chair and one member (in the co-chair's stead) attended the Provincial community council meeting held in Richmond in June 2009
- Recruited new members – two self-advocates and one new community member who runs a non-CLBC funded agency supporting people with disabilities in the Chinese community

- Received a presentation from the Director of Regional Operations (Carla Thiesen) and Cheryl Blake (Quality Service Manager) regarding the changes from the children's transfer as well as the potential changes to the council and the adult service delivery model going forward. Additional information was shared about the budget and waitlists in the region.
- Extended the terms of 2 members who had provided three years of service on the council
- Organized an information session for council members on Supporting People with Complex Health Care needs
- Developed a survey for the Richmond community
- Collaborated on a multi-agency initiative to support youth and young adults in attaining successful employment
- 2 members participate on the Richmond Education committee (partnership with Richmond schools and Richmond Society for Community Living) and also the Richmond Transition committee – a multi-agency committee who has been instrumental in ensuring that all parents of transitioning aged youth have information about the services and supports available in Richmond
- Nominated a self-advocate to the Provincial Advisory Committee to the CLBC Board of Directors

Issues and Challenges Experienced:

- The children's transfer to MCFD did result in some members with children leaving the community council
- The move of Richmond to the Vancouver Coastal region resulted in the separation of the Richmond/Delta council
- A delay in sending out the council survey and now a new understanding that this is not possible for the council because of privacy issues & possible survey fatigue
- Council members are worried given this year's budget challenges that people may not be able to access supports they require; particularly concerned for those with complex health care needs and challenging behaviour being accommodated within a home share model

Recommendations Arising from Work Undertaken:

- Would like to have input to the questions asked on the CLBC provincial service satisfaction survey to ensure that information collected will be useful for council purposes in community engagement