



Introduction

The year began with some very hard work on the part of our Building Committee in terms of populating our Council. We achieved full membership by September 2009, in time for a second annual planning session. This was held in late September to review the new Terms of Reference for Councils and build our work plans for the balance of this reporting year. The focus that we derived for our Council grew from the Purpose of Councils to “work collaboratively with community partners to support community inclusion, citizenship and full participation of people with developmental disabilities....”.

Our council internalized this purpose as a foundation and established as pillars the four key activities of:

- awareness and support for inclusion
- understanding of local issues
- ability of community to include and informally support
- identification of province wide barriers to inclusion

From the foundation through the pillars we developed the focal framework that has been, and will continue to be, before us in the coming year.

Areas of Focus

- Connecting with families in the region to enable us to communicate their needs to CLBC.
- Effective strategies to help connect with the aboriginal population in the region.
- Expanding the role and voice of advocates within the Council and the community.
- Building a dialogue around the needs of aging parents and participants.
- Becoming known in our region and developing strategies to expand and become known by other Councils throughout the province.
- Strategies to rebalance the relationships with the CLBC partnership.
- Gearing up the Council to function at maximum effectiveness.

Activities and Accomplishments

- The self advocates on the SICC are very proud to be members of a council that “walks the walk” as demonstrated by the nomination and subsequent appointment of a self advocate to represent SICC on the Provincial Advisory Committee.
- The SICC Self Advocates (SA) Committee, along with other self advocates, will be hosting Victoria’s first ever self advocacy conference in June 2010; it is being planned BY self advocates FOR self advocates.
- The SA Committee is partnering with CLBC Self Advocacy Advisor Shelley Nessman, and other self advocates, to develop a handbook to guide self advocate involvement on community councils.
- Three family “Meet and Greet” sessions, facilitated by the Family Committee, were held in our geographic service area. The meetings are informal and attendance is encouraging. The SA Committee will partner with the Family Committee to host parallel “Meet and Greets” in the new year and to expand these sessions to other areas within our geographic service area. Recommendations have resulted from the Meet and Greet sessions. These recommendations will be brought forward into the next reporting period. Where they relate specifically to the South

Island service area they will be worked on through our 2010/2011 work plan. Where they relate to CLBC Corporate Head Office/Board, the recommendations will form part of South Island's strategy relative to 2010/2011 Provincial Advisory Committee participation and deliberation. They are as follows:

1. Establish a "day program" or some form of local support on the Saanich Peninsula to alleviate long travelling times to existing programs and also to accommodate those transitioning in the near future.
 2. CLBC take the lead in connecting with school districts regarding transition to adult services, starting at age 14. Parents felt the need to hear about this transition sooner and yearly (previously accomplished for age 16 to connect with CLBC but not now in the school connection). Develop a "Transition Initiative" where funding and service can be set up to ensure a seamless transition. The Second Wave group is active in this area.
 3. Establish a means (particularly on the Saanich Peninsula) whereby families could meet (e.g. a weekly drop in centre) to plan joint activities and share resources.
 4. Establish a forum e.g. Facebook (with limited access) in which families can share information, successes, resources, etc. (Note that this recommendation is currently being investigated by CLBC staff and the SICC Communications Committee).
 5. Develop more transparency between families, facilitator and analyst during request for service period. Meetings should have the above three represented at the same time.
 6. Provide funding for "after program" care costs.
 7. Make the CLBC website more user friendly.
- Nine Council meetings were held in the year. We had eight guest presenters. One meeting was hosted by one of our South Island service agencies.
 - We have secured dedicated administrative support for our Council.
 - Our Council minutes are comprehensive and posted as soon as possible on the CLBC website. Our plan is to append regular monthly Committee reports and also have them posted on the site when the technology can easily support this action.
 - The Communications Committee has produced a fact sheet on our Council membership and 400 copies have been printed for distribution. This sheet has been inserted electronically or as an insert in local service provider newsletters.
 - The Communications Committee participated in the BCACL annual meeting. They have joined CLBC staff in meetings with local politicians and assisted in the review process for the new CLBC video on Community Councils. A PowerPoint presentation on Community Living and the Community Council has been developed to share with local service clubs. It was recently presented to the Victoria Rotary Club.
 - The possibility of a second joint meeting of Island community councils is being explored.
 - Representatives of our Membership and Planning Committee have met with Senior Management from CanAssist at the University of Victoria regarding their and our future direction.
 - Our Council, along with CLBC staff, participated in a Resource Fair sponsored by CanAssist.
 - On March 22, 2010 SICC also participated in a Resource Fair hosted by the Garth Homer Society and cosponsored by Integra Support Services and CLBC.
 - Council, along with staff and agencies in the South Island, participated in meetings in the region hosted by school districts on the matter of transitioning to adult supports.
 - Discussions are ongoing to secure and distribute email addresses of Community Council Chairs and Vice Chairs throughout the province so they may correspond with one another.
 - A great deal of effort has gone into our initial expression of concern (formal letter) to the Chair and Members of the CLBC Board regarding the Bill 20 activity and the possibility of not having advocates, parents or family members on the future CLBC Board.

- Currently South Island Council members are encouraging individuals from our region who we meet the criteria for CLBC Board membership to apply for board positions when vacancies occur in the next few months.
- Plans are well in hand for a spring planning meeting of the South Island Council. A strategic discussion paper will be developed to address the Council's concern regarding the need to rebalance the presence of advocates, parents, family members and community within CLBC and how to ensure that these voices are heard through the PAC and the newly structured Board.

We understand that the Terms of Reference for Councils and PAC were just recently revised. The revisions were made before and therefore without any knowledge or understanding of the partnership realignments that occurred in the fall of 2009 with the Bill 20 amendments. These issues around Councils, their focus, their membership on the PAC and reporting will be the focus of a South Island discussion paper for release to CLBC in the new year.