

Community Living BC – Simon Fraser Region
400-205 Newport Drive, Port Moody

Council Meeting Minutes
Sept 25, 2013, 6:00 pm

Present: Debra Appleby, Maxine Wilson, Diane Bruneau, Jacqueline Jordon, (via phone)
Carol Broomhall (Minute taker)

CLBC Staff Present: Soheila Ghodsieh, Meaghan Taylor-Reid

Regrets: Barbara Thomas, Vera Anderson, Sue Mann.

An informational session was held due to lack of quorum.

1. Introductions

2. Adoption of Agenda -- not adopted due to lack of quorum

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes for June 26, 2013 – not adopted due to lack of quorum

4. Discussion of youth and adults transitioning into CLBC

- Number of people eligible for service and with active CLBC files (listed by where residing, not necessarily where they receive service):
 - Burnaby – 569
 - New West – 116
 - Port Moody – 48
 - Port Coquitlam – 169
 - Coquitlam – 482
 - Pitt Meadows – 42
 - Maple Ridge – 327
- So currently over 1,750 individuals eligible for service.
- **Number of transitioning youth = 106 in entire region, including 13 Children in Care (CIC).**
- Council asked for this regional breakdown to better understand where there may be more need for local housing and employment.
- Comment that many accept that they may need to find employment in other areas.
- Question: Is there an area where there are gaps in services – and opportunities?

5. Discussion on Employment Initiative – Meaghen Taylor-Reid

- Over 700 people across the province – through an appreciative enquiry process -- came together to talk about employment. Out of this came the Community Action & Employment Plan.
- 9 main themes arose
- Meaghen oversees the local employment plan
- There are 106 youth transitioning this year, and 130 transitioning next year

- Looking into transforming services for people already in day services, but interested in transitioning to employment
- Process is all about collaboration – connecting with individuals interested in participating
- Individualized Funding – looking at the role that can play in supporting employment
- Self employment is a big area of consideration.
- Looking at the PWD – BC Benefits – and how it is impacted by working for a certain numbers of hours.
- Have done environmental scans – met with several community groups, including teachers.
- **Teachers** – are fully involved in the transition process
- Concerned that WorkBC is not able to support the demand of helping people with disabilities find jobs
- Comment: there is not enough community support for services to help people with disabilities
- Suggest individuals be listed with both WorkBC and CLBC. Cannot receive services from both at the same time, but the likelihood of services available from both at the same time is remote.
- Need to know who is working in community – who the employers are – and encourage them to promote the benefits of hiring people with disabilities
- **Service providers** – 5 employment-funded contracts with service providers, and also have 3 service providers with day programs focusing on employment as well.
- Meaghan met with ED's of all of those agencies – very positive
- Burnaby-New West identify as communities, Tri-Cities another community, and Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge another community. Met with each of these 3 groupings.
- Discussed partnering and innovations in those sub-regions
- 3 **self advocates** have trained themselves to provide a presentation on the Community Action & Employment Plan. Have also developed a “Dream-boarding Action Plan” and an over-size Game of Life.
- They have presented to 6 self advocate groups
- Suggest they videotape their presentation to share with more groups
- **Family** – are meeting with family groups over the next 2 weeks.
- **When a larger Council is present at next meeting, would like the Council to review the Action Plan and give input on how we would like to participate**
- Question: Are there numbers on employment?
- Service providers know of 100 individuals who are currently working. But think there are many more that are not accounted for.
- Target is 57 new jobs per year for the next 3 years.
- Question: How can the Community Council become more involved in making change – not just listening to information on what is being done

6. Discussion on Housing

- Different housing options include a group home, a home share, clustered living (a set of apartments with supports), independent living, semi-independent living (including contracts with BC Housing)
- People can receive funding through a microboard, through individualized funding, or through a Community Living agency.
- There are housing gaps in Maple Ridge – very little affordable housing there. Many end up moving to Surrey to find housing.

- How can we ensure housing is safe?
- Council wants to see what we can do to help make change happen.
- Need to work together to find common definitions of what safety is, what good service provision is, etc.
- Would like us to start developing that community dialogue, and in particular dialogue with parents.
- Think we should approach BOSA Development in Coquitlam to see about density bonus opportunities.

7. Draft Survey

- The plan is to get this to as many gatherings as possible during Community Living Month
- Question: Do we need this Community Council? Think that organizations like InclusionBC do similar work.
- Building trust is key.
- There are several CLBC events during October that the survey could be distributed, if Council is interested in attending and distributing:
 - i.e. October 2, from 11:30 – 2:00 pm – CLBC Family BBQ (up to 200 people there) at Maple Ridge Act Theatre;
 - October 2, 6:00 pm – 8:00 – Employment Forum with Guest Speaker (\$20 each and dinner is included). For employers and service providers, and the Minister. Also at Maple Ridge Act Theatre. If Council members are interested, can attend with costs covered.
 - October 5, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – CLBC, Service Providers, School District at Dogwood;
- Comment that the Council Chair/Council should be made aware of when CLBC is contacting individual members of the council (i.e. for informational purposes).
- Comment: Look at employment equity legislation in Alberta, and see if there are any legislative opportunities in BC.
- Comment: Don't think we need a survey to determine direction of the council. We can start with identifying 2 directions of the council, and can always add to that later.
- At some point, we have to make a decision, see what is being worked on, and how do we fit in? What can we work on ourselves, and how can we fit in to complement other initiatives?
- One does not exclude the other.
- We need to decide on something and run with it.
- And we need to be in places of visibility as much as possible – in our own community – and talk to people.
- If you've got people talking to you, it's a much more effective way to get feedback than surveys.
- This is not the time to come up with a recruitment strategy. There has to be something identified to work on.
- Agenda-setting – some things can be set at the meeting. 2 or 3 weeks before the meeting, Carol can send out an email asking what people would like to add to the basic agenda.
- Question – are we interested in developing committees?
- Question – do we go ahead in organizing meetings for parents to share ideas, stories, concerns, etc.
- **Request that Council consider supporting part of the Oct 2 event – table for the October Council meeting.**

- Comment: It would be helpful for Council to be informed earlier about these events.
- Deb Appleby is part of LASH (Life After High School), so is part of that event's organizing committee.
- Suggest – have a meeting with the parents who are interested in meeting together.
- **Decision: Will not send the survey out this month.**
- Suggest request incorporating some Council questions into the CLBC survey, and ask for results.
- Will plan a meeting for parents – ask them what their priorities are – get their feedback.
- Maxine, Vera, Diane, Deb. Carol can provide back-up support.

Agenda Items 8 to 13 were not addressed, due to time constraints.

Next meeting date: November 20, 4:30 pm at Executive Inn in Burnaby – meeting with CLBC CEO

14. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

- Next regular Council meeting in November. Date TBD.
- Will meet with interested families in October in a neutral location.
In the meantime, will get the committee together to organize the format.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.