



Upper Fraser Community Council Meeting
Date: October 15, 2010
Address: Garden Park Towers, Abbotsford
Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Brenda Gillette, Kathie MacDonald, Cheryl Lewis, Sylvia Dirks, Maggie Metcalfe, Kerry Lawson,

Regrets: Jerry Laidlaw, Heidi Schneider, Bryce Schaufelberger

**Guests: Megan Verheyden, Micheal Anhorn (Regional Operations Manager of BC Housing)
 Deana Bhandar (Senior Project Officer Development Services of BC Housing.)**

AGENDA TOPICS	
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Review of previous meeting minutes & Introductions	<p>Meeting minutes examined by the council, and Maggie Metcalf expressed the need for correction. It was noted that the quote "It was agreed that families need to better understand the policies" should be corrected to "It was agreed that agencies should work collaboratively with families to ensure the policies are direct and comprehensible to the general public to warrant accessibility for all."</p> <p>This correction was motioned by Sylvia and second by Cheryl. Agenda accepted by all.</p>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION

BC Housing

Brenda Gillette requested BC Housing's presence at the meeting to foster worthwhile communication regarding how to receive social housing assistance and receive info. regarding new development in social housing. Deanna Bhandar, the senior project officer of development services spoke about the community partnership initiative (CPI) whereby BC Housing has partnered with non-profit societies, government agencies and community organizations to increase the supply of housing options for low and moderate income households across BC.

Brenda Gillette inquired about rental subsidies that some individuals were historically receiving, and not able to obtain anymore. Brenda also expressed concern regarding high risk individuals who do not meet CLBC criteria, yet still require residential support.

Micheal Anhorn, regional operations manager of BC Housing replies he is unaware of any current rental subsidies and may have been sporadic support that no longer exists. Kathy MacDonald asks if there are currently subsidized housing through BC Housing. Micheal replies there is very few rental subsidies available.

Micheal explains the rental assistance program provided through BC housing for single adults or families is a good resource for individuals, and the amount is determined at 30 percent of one's income. Micheal states the two key issues include long waitlists and eligibility issues (people receiving income assistance are not eligible for Rental Assistance Program.)

Deanna expresses the need to get creative in order to provide residential services. For example she has connected with Kate Lister at Creative Center Society in Chilliwack which is in the process of building an 8 unit apartment building in Chilliwack. This was achieved through real estate grants and funding through BC Housing.

Brenda Gillette and Maggie Metcalf also expressed concern regarding the negative aspects of placing marginalized individuals in one building which ultimately increases the stigma of those with developmental disabilities. Micheal agreed and says BC housing is creating memorandums of understanding with individual buildings in hopes to tackle this issue.

Maggie also expressed the issue of vulnerable individuals having unsuitable living arrangements which poses a safety risk.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Nominations and Voting for Provincial Community Council (PCC) and Vice Chair	Maggie Metcalf nominated Sylvia Dirks for Vice Chair, Brenda Gillette seconds the nomination. Sylvia Dirks accepts nomination and position for vice chair. Cheryl Lewis nominates herself for Provincial Community Council. An executive decision is made and all vote yes.		
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	E-mail nomination form to Cheryl Lewis.	Kerry Lawson	asap
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Social Media Feasibility Study	A student research design is being conducted to gain input from self advocates regarding which social media networks benefit them, and which require improvement. More information will be sent to self advocate groups in the upper Fraser area.		
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
	Forward e-mail re: research to Brenda, and possibly Jerry, Kathy and Arlene.	Kerry	asap
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Next Meeting Agenda	Agenda for next meeting: Kim Lyster to talk about the Aging Project, for both parents and self advocates who are aging.		
ADJOURNMENT			
8:45 p.m.			
NEXT MEETING – November 17, 2010			
6:00 p.m Garden Towers, Abbotsford			