

Vancouver CLBC Community Council Meeting
March 10, 2010
Minutes

Present: Ernie Baatz, Richard McDonald, Rita Leedholm, Deanne Ziebart, Tina Stagnitta, Peter Swayne

Regrets: John Davies, Mara St Duek, Theresa Huntly, Mark Perry, Liz Cochran, Yuko McCulloch, Rachelle Czerwinski, John Tsang, Yaming Chen,

Minutes from Dec. 9, 2009 and Jan. 20, 2010:

Minutes were reviewed and carried with some minor corrections

Reports:

Transition Support Group

The 2nd, East Side Transition support group held its first meeting

There was a satisfactory turn out; a 2nd meeting is planned in March

Chinese Family Support Group and Gwen Lee's Family Support Group – nil report

Self Advocate report:

Richard is featured in Courier article highlighting lack of compensation for people who left Woodlands before 1974

See: <http://www2.canada.com/vancouvercourier/news/story.html?id=bb9bb6a3-5b7c-470e-98e9-72a733d8c930>

Efforts continue to seek compensation

Service Agencies:

Earnings exemption allowing only first \$500 to be earned by PWD benefit recipients without claw back is significant deterrent to greater employment for the recipients

All earnings beyond \$500 result in \$1 for \$1 deductions from benefits, recipients must earn \$1400 before extra work = extra \$\$

This undermines MHSD's employability programme

Removal of funding for birth control to income assistance recipients also counter productive; no birth control = more births = (likely) more demands on social services

Government has ended funding for augmentative communication quality of life is severely impaired for those in need of such

Social Life Subcommittee

Council approved the letter and questionnaire (appendix A and B) developed by this subcommittee and approved its dissemination to clients living West of Cambie – a drop-in programme exists on the east side

Letter and questionnaire = 1st step in goal of providing more recreational opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities

Peter will work with office to conduct mail-out

CLBC Update (appendix C); Highlights:

Staffing: Vancouver CLC is fully staffed

Budget: details unknown at this time

Many financial stressors incl. increased numbers, aging clients, Health and safety = primary concern;

CLBC Service Plan: 63% of clients on file Jan. 31, 2009 were receiving service by March 31, 2009

MCFD and CLBC have an operational agreement for transition process for youth moving to adult, CLBC services

Personalized Supports Initiative (PSI) – designed to support adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Autism whose adaptive functioning is assessed at > 2 standard deviations below normal – has received 15 applications from Vancouver Coastal Region, none approved so far, additional documentation is required

Guidelines for Collaborative Service Delivery for people with developmental disabilities who also have health needs have been developed to ensure that relevant department – Min. of Health / CLBC – pays for its share of service

Aboriginal forums to discuss service to aboriginal people who have developmental disabilities have been postponed while funding issues are settled between CLBC and Indian and Northern Canada (INAC)

Family Independence Fund has funds to pay for home renovations needed by families supporting a member with disabilities

Provincial Advisory Committee's transportation report recommends Councils make efforts to ensure schools provide bus training

WOW awards – CLBC's awards recognizing self advocates, family members, service providers, organizations that further good lives in welcoming communities for people with developmental disabilities.

Council to nominate Richard McDonald, John Tsang and Rachelle Czerwinski
Nomination forms available at

http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/what_we_do/wow!clbc_recognition.htm

“You, Me and CLBC” meeting with CLBC's family and self advocate support personnel – March 27, 1:30, Mount Pleasant Community Centre, all welcome

Council's Annual Report to Board to be submitted prior to March 31st Provincial Advisory Committee meeting, was discussed and is attached (appendix C)

Highlights:

Council members run 2 support groups and engage in other supportive activities

Sub committee is working on providing recreational activities

Summer recreational programme helped by Council support

Issues and Challenges:

Effective communication with CLBC clients

Lack of CLBC materials for Councilors to disseminate

Difficulties obtaining statistical information e.g. how many clients are receiving what service how or from whom

CLBC website is dull and lacks useful information in plain language, Resource Data Base provides very little help in finding resources

Recommendations:

Provide materials, improve provision of statistical info., make website more user friendly, ensure search for resources turns up useful information

Appendix A

Vancouver Community Council

#4 - 210 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2

T: 604-660-3323

E: vancouver@communitylivingbc.ca

March 2010

Hello from the Vancouver Community Living Council,

The brochure that comes with this letter tells you who we are. We are writing to you because you are someone who can get help or is getting help from CLBC – Community Living British Columbia – and the agencies that are funded by CLBC.

We want to plan social / recreational / leisure activities for people with disabilities – things for you to do. We want to plan for people who live on the west side of Vancouver as there are few services on the west side. There is a drop-in centre in southeast Vancouver.

Would you like to be in a group that does things together? If the answer is “Yes”, please fill in the form “What do you like to do?” that comes with this letter. Please send the form back in the envelope. The forms will tell us what activities we should try to plan.

We hope we can make plans for people to do things. But we must say that this letter does not promise that we can!! We are hopeful we can find a place and money to do things. Now we need your help to find out what people would like to do.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra at 604-660-3254, ask for Peter Swayne and Sandra will forward you questions or message to Peter. Then he will get in contact with you.

Sincerely,

**Peter Swayne for:
Vancouver Community Council**

Appendix B

What Do You Like To Do? – Questionnaire

Are you looking for more things to do in your life? Yes No

If the answer is “Yes”, please fill in this form.

If the answer is “No”, please send us the form anyway – thank you.

What would you like to do?

Please all boxes of things you would like to do, add other things you like

- Yoga Music / Singing Crafts
- Sports / fitness Movies Board games / Card games
- Hanging out Wii / Computer games
- _____ _____

To help us plan, please tell us:

(the best box or boxes to answer each question)

How old are you?

- 19 to 30 31 to 45 46 to 60 older than 60

How much help do you need? Which group is best for you?

- 1 helper for 10 people 1 helper for 5 people
- 1 helper for 2 or 3 people 1 helper just for me

What time(s) and day(s) are best for you to do activities?

- 12:00 (noon) to 3:00 3:00 to 6:00 6:00 to 9:00
- Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
- Friday Saturday Sunday

What are the number and letter in your postal code after V? V ___ ___
(this will help us plan locations for activities)

Are you doing things with another group or groups? Yes No

If your answer is “Yes” and if you want to, please tell us the names of the other group or groups and the other things you are doing:

Appendix C

Vancouver Community Council

#4 - 210 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Y 3W2

Report to the Provincial Advisory Committee to the CLBC Board of Directors

Reporting Period: June 2009 to February 2010

Current Areas of Focus

Vancouver Community Council have identified four areas of concern:

Transition from youth to adulthood

Isolation

Waitlists

Aging and seniors care

In addition, based on the new terms of reference, Council has adopted the following action plan:

Initiate projects and initiatives to:

1. Improve awareness and support for inclusion and full participation of people with developmental disabilities in community by:
 - using CLBC provided materials (when available) to inform the public – posting notices; handing out brochures; etc.
 - personal contact with friends and members of the public
2. Improve understanding of local issues within the larger community by:
 - regular reports at Council meetings of issues arising from: parent support group meetings; service provider meetings; school experiences; business contacts; etc.
 - holding an annual, Council run meeting with families
3. Improve the ability of the community to include and informally support people with developmental disabilities to live good lives in welcoming communities by:
 - creation of a subcommittee, comprised of those members able to participate, which pursues a specific initiative developed by the Council as a whole
4. Improve the identification of province wide barriers to inclusion and citizenship by:
 - reporting to the Board any issues that arise in Vancouver that seem to be of a provincial nature

Activities and Accomplishments

Regular Council meetings are held every 6 weeks to advance the action plan, and sub-committee meetings are held in the intervening weeks.

Council members continue to run 3 parent groups, to organize an inclusive community block party, to participate in self-advocate meetings and organizations. From these situations, from other support groups and, from service providers, we gather information about the community we serve.

In the summer of 2009, Vancouver Community Council assisted and supported a summer, recreational programme for recently graduated CLBC clients. Contact with the Parks board is ongoing.

To address the issues of both isolation and transition, a Social Life Sub-committee was formed. The committee researched availability of social, inclusive activities and subsequently drafted a

questionnaire for CLBC clients the results of which will direct the intended provision of broader social and recreational opportunities for them. A service agency is engaged in the process and a Neighbourhood House has said they have space and volunteers available.

The Council reviewed new regional boundaries and decided to maintain the Vancouver Community Council as an independent council within the Vancouver Coastal region.

A Family Meeting to gather more grass roots information is planned for the spring.

Issues and Challenges Experienced

Effective communication with CLBC clients continues to be a challenge

Matching the expectations that the management of CLBC might have of councils with the level of commitment that most Council members are able to make is a challenge. Susan Veit's Draft Review of Terms of Reference CLBC Community Councils recommends that Councils promote community engagement, advise CLBC and be innovative. Few of our Councillors have the time or resources to meet these expectations, particularly the first, in any substantive way.

Detailed information of the number of clients in different situations – fully served, receiving respite only, receiving no services – has not been easily available. Such information would help to direct our activities.

Council members lack materials that tell about CLBC and its endeavours, materials that they could give to their contacts and colleagues and hand out at meetings they attend.

CLBC website is not very user friendly: there is no “plain language” section; resource database does not identify (in Vancouver) any support groups for families of people with developmental disabilities or self advocate groups; resource database does not have a return to home button; etc

Recommendations Arising from Work Undertaken

We recommend that we receive:

Help with designing an effective system for communicating with CLBC clients

More information about the numbers of CLBC clients in different situations within our region

More materials that enable us to act as ambassadors for CLBC – e.g. pamphlets explaining who CLBC is and what it does.

An improved CLBC website