

Upper Fraser Community Council
Date: January 13th/ 2015
Address: Abbotsford Garden Park Towers
2825 Clearbrook road, Abbotsford, BC
Time: 6:00pm

Attendees: Dawn Robertson (PAC Rep), Brenda Gillette, Dan Collins, Sylvia Dirks (co-chair), Kerry Lawson (CPD manager), Maggie Metcalfe (chair), Natalie Fortin, Jerry Laidlaw, Donalda Madsen, Kelly Nowlan (minutes), Britney Ellingson (CLBC facilitator)

Regrets: Judy Garrett

Agenda Topics	
Topic	Discussion
Introduction/ review of agenda	The agenda for the evening was reviewed. Motion to begin the meeting: Approved by Sylvia and seconded by Jerry. All in favour
Topic	Discussion
PAC (Dawn): asked if there is anything the council would like brought forward to the PAC meeting.	<p>Kerry & Dan: brought up issues around supporting individuals to have their own place rather than automatically being directed towards living in a home share.</p> <p>Dan: on Feb. 17th LACL is hosting a forum on providing support to aging adults with a developmental disability.</p> <p>Dan & Brenda: brought up concerns that housing is not a part of CLBC's mandate and that home share dollars cannot be converted to housing dollars. There are limited options outside of home share and little room to be creative or innovative within the limitations of policy. Being creative results in risks to the organization/home share provider (issues with basement suites and revenue Canada.) BC housing is not mandated to help individuals with disabilities and does not have funds available. Debt for non-profits is growing as grassroots agencies look to other options for housing. BC housing has a higher finance rate than the commercial banks.</p>

	<p>Donalda: brought up the fact that BC housing is not what it was really created to be and with CLBC not funding housing either, grassroots agencies are looking to other options.</p> <p>Brenda: mentioned that families are beginning to turn to cluster living as an option because they feel like it is the only safe option for their loved ones at this time.</p> <p>Dawn will bring forward the housing issue to PAC and address the fact that there are inconsistencies between the funding from region to region in how the dollars are used (some regions are more flexible with the home share dollars, it seems to be a structural issue that varies from region to region.)</p>
Topic	Discussion
<p>Family Conversation Event: review notes from Julie Unger; next steps</p>	<p>The events purpose was to begin to support families in leadership skills.</p> <p>Britney: brought up that some of the feedback around families experiences with CLBC and facilitators would be important to bring back to the teams of analysts and facilitators at CLBC offices. Maybe in the form of a training event.</p> <p>Kerry, Donalda & Brenda: discussed that several council reps had organized a meeting between families and CLBC facilitators in the past that had not resulted in a positive collaboration between both sides.</p> <p>Mike: brought up family support workers as a possible resource that families could be referred to. Mike also discussed the possibility of facilitators having a checklist that families could sign off on stating that essential information was explained to them at the initial meeting (ex- “ I was informed that if I have an agency in mind that I would like to work with, I can choose that agency.”) Mike also discussed developing an individual contract in the initial meeting between facilitators and families.</p>

	<p>Maggie & Brenda, Dawn & Dan: discussed the fact that families need consistency during the transition process. It is often difficult to navigate the system and families get tired of needing to tell their story several different times to several different people. Families are sometimes unsure of what services they want because they do not know what is available and by the point of the initial meeting they are either grateful for whatever they are offered or so completely worn out by the system that they accept whatever is being offered. Concerns were brought up that family funds are decreasing and families are happy today with much less than what they would have received years ago.</p> <p>Mike, Dan, Brenda & Dawn: brought up the confusion with the procurement process. Families who may already have a service in mind think that they are required to explore all three services that are offered to them and eventually select from only these three services. It needs to be better explained to families that they can select a service they already know of and have been working with.</p> <p>Kerry: suggested the council have a group look at the orientation package and procurement handout and make suggestions for how these could be more helpful to families. Kerry also expressed interest in the idea of developing individual contracts between families and facilitators at the initial meeting.</p>
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p>Workplan: Housing</p>	<p>Dawn: will bring the issue of inconsistency between the regions with how the home share dollars are spent to the PAC meeting.</p> <p>Kerry: will bring this issue to the manager meeting.</p> <p>Maggie: will discuss this issue on the conference call</p>

Topic	Discussion
<p>Other: Council’s purpose and mandate</p>	<p>Donalda & Kerry: discussed the fact that the community council’s mandate has been changed too often and is unclear. Power is given to the council and then taken away.</p> <p>Family members and self advocates attending CLBC job interviews was discussed and Britney stated that she felt this was an important aspect of her interview because it felt like she was being interviewed not just by a panel of people that represented a larger bureaucracy but by a panel that included the people that CLBC’s services are designed to support.</p> <p>Donalda: expressed the need for the council to have more structure. The expertise in the room should be used towards a measurable outcome. The council could potentially bridge the gaps between CLBC, service providers and families creating good communication and positive collaboration.</p> <p>The changes within CLBC with the new CEO coming in were discussed. Kerry should have more information about CLBC after the managers meeting.</p> <p>Kerry: suggested the council could be responsible for finding improvements for the orientation package, procurement handout and initial meeting process.</p> <p>Kerry: suggested the council could be responsible for developing and supporting advocacy training for families and self-advocates.</p>
Topic	Discussion
<p>Other: Transition Fair</p>	<p>Dawn: there is a transition fair called “Bridging the Gap- Transitioning from Child Services to Adulthood” at Abbotsford Middle school on March 7th from 1-4pm. There will be tables set up but people can also make</p>

Other: Transition Fair	speeches. The council should take advantage of this opportunity and set up a table. Dawn will e-mail out the information to the council.
Topic	Discussion
Other: Wow Award	An employee in Chilliwack has received the Wow award. The presentation is Feb. 19 th . Kerry will attend the presentation.
Topic	Discussion
Closing remarks	Everyone was thanked for coming. The next meeting will be Thursday Feb. 10 th .