

## Upper Fraser Community Council Meeting

**Date: May 17, 2012**

**Address: Garden Towers, Abbotsford**

**Time: 6:00pm**

Present: Maggie Metcalfe (chair), Kerry Lawson, Dawn Robertson, Sylvia Dirks, Kathie MacDonald, Cathy Bonnett, Jerry Laidlaw, Tiffany McCurdy (minutes)

Guests: Donalda Madsen

Regrets: Bryce Schaufelberger, Heidi Schneider, Brenda Gillette

Agenda Topics				
Topic		Discussion		
Review of agenda and review of previous minutes dated April 18, 2012.		Minutes accepted by Dawn Robertson, seconded by Sylvia Dirks, all approved. Agenda accepted by Cathy Bonnett, seconded by Sylvia Dirks, all approved.		
Topic		Discussion		
Business Arising from Previous Minutes		Membership Terms & Recruitment: there are two individuals who do not have to have their memberships reviewed: Kathie MacDonald and Dawn Robertson.		
		Education Training Committee met on May 1, 2012. Education Training Committee members include: Sylvia Dirks, Dawn Robertson, Kathie MacDonald, Maggie Metcalfe and Kerry Lawson.		
		Nominations Committee has been formed and includes: Jerry Laidlaw, Dawn Robertson, Maggie Metcalfe and Kerry Lawson. Nominations Committee plan to meet at the MSA Society on Thursday, June 14 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. MSA Society is located on 2391 Crescent Way.		
		Action	Person Responsible	Deadline
		Invite Lisa Porcellato, Community Liaison for the Fraser & Interior Regions, to Community Council meeting.	Kerry Lawson	June 28, 2012
Topic		Discussion		
Community Living BC Update		The Upper Fraser Region is short staffed both on the Facilitator side as well as the Analyst side.		
		Action	Person	Deadline
		Bring copy of strategic plan	Kerry Lawson	N/A
Topic		Discussion		
Nomination Forms/Attendance		Nomination forms have been handed out to all. Attendance was discussed. Committee members permitted to miss up to three meetings. Recruitment Committee plans to look for another self-advocate to join the Upper Fraser Community Council. Annual report		

	to be written by Maggie Metcalfe and Kerry Lawson and submitted to Jai Birdi.		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	Make a decision as to dates and times for future Community Council Meetings for the fall of 2012	Committee	June 28, 2012
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Employment Opportunities Society (Jerry Laidlaw)	<p>Mission has struggled with employment initiatives and therefore self advocates in Mission have decided to form their own society. The group did some brainstorming to come up with a name of the society and finally settled on “The Employment Opportunities Society.” Possible future directors and board members were discussed and identified as follows: Jerry Laidlaw as President, Bryce Schaufelberger as Vice President, Laura Laidlaw as secretary, Treasurer – possible community member. This society is focused on empowerment and ownership. “The Employment Opportunities Society will be made up of 75% self advocates. The society plans to contact Linda Perry and request that she send sample copies of the by-laws and constitution. The desire to form a society came out of unhappiness with not getting proper employment opportunities. MACL has started to address issues with the BRIDGE program.</p> <p>Jerry Laidlaw read the society’s statement: “We are a group of individuals in the process of setting up a non-profit society for the purpose of creating employment options for individuals with disabilities. We are looking for creative and skilled individuals willing to participate in a grass roots community initiative at the board level. The initial time frame of involvement would be once a month with the exception of the first few months. This is a very unique initiative, offering a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs and business people to become involved in creating more inclusive employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the community of Mission.” Unfortunately other agencies told the society that they would be “double dipping” if they received services from two different agencies. CLBC Analyst, Manager Kerry Lawson and Society President Jerry Laidlaw plan to meet with the Executive Director of MACL.</p>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Council Chair attended CLBC Staff Meeting	<p>Maggie Metcalfe attended the Upper Fraser Region’s all team staff meeting. Maggie stated that it is important for the council to learn about the work of CLBC staff as well as for CLBC staff to learn about the work of the Upper Fraser Community Council. Developmental Disability Mental Health presented at the staff meeting. Maggie reported that it was interesting to hear staff talk about difficult situations as well as to hear what staff deals with: suicide, drug addiction etc. Maggie reported that the staff was very welcoming. Bob Youssef asked Maggie to join him to interview a potential employee. It is nice for the council to be given an opportunity to give another perspective – that of the family. Having a family member present in an</p>		

	<p>interview also sends a message to employees of family involvement. Facilitators showed an interest in visiting the Community Council. It has been suggested that education events be co-hosted. When money is tight how do you bring families and staff together? It should not be “us” versus “them” or families bullying staff. Discussion arose around the fact that separation is so deep that respect is diminishing. Creativity of families coming to the table in a supportive and enabling way, to create ways to meet the needs of families is needed. It is important to improve relations between families and providers. How do we talk so parents will listen? How do we listen so parents will talk? Members from the council can take turns attending CLBC staff meetings. Staff meetings take place once a month. A reminder to Council Members about confidentiality when attending staff meetings.</p> <p>It would also be a great idea to have self-advocates present when potential employees are interviewed. Jerry Laidlaw reported that Jessica Humphrey is involving self-advocates to help train CLBC staff. Over all, Maggie reported a very positive experience.</p>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Parent Support Group Collection for Upper Fraser	What does this look like? Families pooling resources. This may be an opportunity for transitioning families.		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	CLBC to send notice to parent support workers and service providers to have joint meetings and info sharing sessions.		N/A
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Work Plan for this Fiscal	<p>Education and training ideas include: Path Training, Communication, Housing Forum, Tax Detective, Family Governance/Support Networks/Pooling Resources, Developmental Disabilities Mental Health, Service Quality Advocate, Self advocate and her story in pictures, Sister and her play regarding her sister who has Cerebral Palsy, CLBC staff training on working with families. Community Council members took a vote on their top three choices. Proposal was made to have one event every other month or to have two events in the fall and two events in the spring.</p> <p>Workshops already scheduled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment Forum (Mission): held by the Mission School Board. Planned for June 1, 2012.</li> <li>- Families Promoting Employment (Abbotsford): June 9, 2012.</li> <li>- Self Advocate Forum (Langley) March 2013. Usually 100 people attend. Power to Change building may be a potential location</li> </ul>		
<b>Adjournment</b>			
8:50pm			
<b>Next Meeting</b>			
June 28; 6:00pm Garden Park Towers, Abbotsford			