

Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee

Meeting Minutes: for September 22nd 2016

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Sweeney Neighborhood Centre, Abbotsford

Chair: Andrea Senft

Minutes: Jennifer Tully

Attendees:

- Whitney Sundman, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Cheryl Unger, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Lindsey Dyck, Youth Unlimited
- Jessica Gill, Impact Youth and Family Substance Use Services
- Simone Massen, Youth Resource Centre, Abbotsford Community Services
- Susan Fedespiel, City of Abbotsford
- Anna McWhinney, Central Abbotsford Community School
- Sharon Crowley, Literacy Matters
- Shairose Jinnah, Child, Youth and Family Services, Abbotsford Community Services
- Lisa Florence, Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society
- Danielle Edwards, Abbotsford Division of Family Practice
- Lindsey Byrnes, Abbotsford Division of Family Practice
- Margaret Sigsworth, BC Responsible and Problem Gambling Program
- Dave Weibe, Youth Unlimited
- Denise Thandi, United Way of Fraser Valley
- Maple Malder Crozark, University of Fraser Valley
- Maureen Thompson, School District 34
- Irene Wesenberg, MCFD, Youth Probation
- Kim Riddell, Abbotsford Justice
- Laszlo Kovas, West Abbotsford Community School
- Kimberly Laing, Sumas First Nation

Community Updates:

City of Abbotsford, Susan Fedespiel: Mind Exercise Nutrition (MEN) program starts October 8th 2016. This new program is for the entire family (families or members that are over ideal body weight.) The PRC Advisory Committee received a financial contribution from the Fire Fighters Foundation for a playground Exhibition Park.

West Abbotsford Community School, Laszlo Kovas: Currently have lots of programs running and they are all full.

Abbotsford Community Services, Youth Resource Centre, Simone Massen: Photo Voice event was very good with highlights of spoken word performances. The Integrated Youth Hub project is keeping everyone very busy. *Sensus and Soap Making*, Sponsored by the Local Action Team (two more spots left) for youth ages 15 to 18: focus on self-care and mental health education regarding services available.

Impact Youth and Family Substance Use Services: Jessica Gill: The Parent MERGE GROUP is starting next week. There are still a few spots left. Please contact Jessica if you are interested.

Youth Unlimited, Dave Wiebe: lots of support and involvement at a variety of schools from sports to serving pizza.

Responsible & Problem Gambling Program, Margaret Sigsworth: Project received funding for year two of mental health wellness youth project previously funded by Vyper. Intake will happen soon. The Youth for Balance project will take eight youth from all over the Fraser Valley. Youth team will come together to plan and host wellness workshops at a variety of schools all over the Fraser Valley. Please contact Jennifer Tully for more information.

MCFD Restorative Youth Justice, Irene Wesenberg, provides restorative youth justice conferencing services as well as victim-offender mediation to adjudicated youth and their victims throughout BC. Referrals are obtained from the Youth Justice Court, Defence and Crown Counsel, other Youth Probation Officers, Social Workers, victims and offenders themselves with participation based on a voluntary willingness and suitability to participate.

Restorative Justice, Kim Riddell: running programs in all middle schools and are now heading into the elementary schools. Also running a Connect Parenting Program (this is full.) Ben Kroffman is leading. This is held at Restorative Justice office.

Central Abbotsford Community School, Anna McWhinney: Pre-teen drop in starting Friday nights. Looking for volunteers for book buddies and afterschool programs.

Literacy Matters, Sharron Crowley: recently hosted a great trivia event in the community. Soon there will be a reading challenge.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cheryl Unger, Whitney Sundman: Big success with the recent; YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE, BE YOU GIRL event. This was the first year of many to come. BBBS is now incorporating MIND UP in afterschool and school based group programs for grades 5, 6 and 7. BBBS is always looking for more volunteers and mentors for programs.

Abbotsford Community Services, Shairose Jinnah : Health Centre is now on Townline Road.

University of Fraser Valley, Maple Malder: Screeanagers; A film about appropriate screen usage, Oct 17th 6pm at UFV B101. On the following Monday at 7pm there will be a panel of four young people and parents that have grown up with autism. Both of these events are free.

Abbotsford School District 34, Maureen Thompson: If anyone knows any students that are not in school please contact Maureen and she can try and help. School District is working towards being more LGBTQ inclusive. The District will be putting in gender neutral bathrooms at all the high schools. At the Pride Festival the District hosted a great booth.

Table Updates:

Early Years Table:

ACCEPT is coming together in early October. Hosted an open house on Sep 21st2016. The Fall schedule is up and full.

Middle Years:

No meeting has happened yet. Updates to come through the ACYC regarding upcoming meeting dates and times.

Youth Years:

On September 14, 2016 the Youth Table had 21 Youth Serving Professionals in attendance. During meeting everyone shared about summer successes, updated each other on fall programs and services, and planned for what we would like to do in the upcoming school year. Gaps identified are employment for youth under 15 – and over 15 with significant barriers, increasing and younger drug use, and youth at loose ends in the community. There is an upcoming free training: Building Community Awareness of Youth Sexual Exploitation in Abbotsford presented by, Fraser Valley Community Action Team against the Sexual Exploitation of children and youth. DATE: October 27th 9:00 – 12:00, Register on Eventbrite.

Special Needs Advisory:

The next SNAC meeting is on November 23, 2016 at 304, 32463 Simon Avenue. This is the year end meeting where planning will take place for the 2017.

Every Door is the Right Door:

Update to come from the ACYC executive team.

ACYC Guests:

Lisa Florence, Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society.

Lisa Florence provided an overview of the main changes/updates that have recently happened with Xyolhemeyh. *Please see the attached document that outlines this in detail.* The agency has changed allot in the last little while. The agency is governed by Board Chair, GWEN POINT. There has been a restructure of management.

There is also now a Collaborative Practice Team: three traditional family planners and youth workers working to help youth transition to adulthood. Lisa also highlighted how the agency now has an *OUT OF CARE team* that will be working with the cases that are not IN CARE. They will work with the family and the home the children/youth are in.

Local Action Team Overview, Danielle Edwards & Lindsey Brynes

The Abbotsford Division of Family Practice is a local non-profit that supports physicians. One of the ADoFP's projects is the Abbotsford Local Action Team (LAT) of the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative (provincial initiative). In January 2015, The Abbotsford Local Action Team started. The LAT includes youth, parents, ACS, Child, and Youth Committee, MCFD, police, Youth Commission and more that are working to connect youth, families, and providers to one another and to support access to care. The next LAT meeting will be held on Oct. 20th 2016.

The LAT is supporting the following projects:

- Lunch and learn sessions with GPs
- Ignite mental health event on Oct. 3
- Day treatment promo video
- Post-partum depression support
- Eating disorders workshop for GPs
- Suicide prevention training for GPs
- Child and Youth Committee mental health and substance use webpages project
- Abbotsford Mental Health Forum on Nov. 19: This event focuses on providing information about supports and resources in the community, and to connect youth and families to these resources and to support access to care. The event is on Saturday, November 19th at Abbotsford Middle School. Event times are 9:00 to 5 pm. The keynote speaker is Stephen Lytton, Governor General Award Winner, writer, and residential school survivor. Stephen will speak about resiliency and moving forward together. There will be a youth/parent and service provider panel. This is an ignite style presentations, workshops, and music and spoken word by youth. Please contact Danielle Edwards

(dedwards@divisionsbc.ca) if you are interested in attending the forum (please note that space is limited).

Additional Comments/Questions:

Question was posed to the ACYC attendees, on behalf of Laura Dawn Matta with MCFD: What might be needed, if anything, to develop and support our CARE teaming in Abbotsford and in East Fraser actually?

- Would be helpful to send out reminders and info ahead of time to teachers.
- Parents need to know they are allowed to have support.
- Youth need to be empowered to know they are at the center and that they are heard and heard/listened to.
- Parents and youth need more education regarding care team planning.
- The meeting should be held before school starts or closer to the beginning not after things get out of control and maybe more focused on prevention.
- Why do so many adults need to be there? Maybe not all have to go, this can be traumatizing or trigger students, research was done that this can cause trauma (re trauma).

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next ACYC meeting is on Thursday November 24th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm at SNC.

(Minutes prepared by, Jennifer Tully, ACYC Coordinator)