

Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee Minutes

**May 21, 2015, 1 to 3pm
Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre, Board Room**

Chair: Eric Van Egmond, MCFD

Minutes: Louise Smith, ACYC Coordinator

Attending:

Cheryl Unger	Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Bev Olfert	Abbotsford Youth Commission
Simone Maassen	ACS – Youth Resource Centre
Brian Gross	IMPACT
Colette Squires	Colette Squires and Associates
Denise Thandi	Children First – AECC\
Monica Unger	Kids Matter
Elaine Ryans	FVACFSS
Andrea Senft	SD 34
Anna McWhinney	Central Abbotsford Community School
Pamela Jones	YRC, ACS
Aimee Beauchamp	VYPER
Irene Wesenberg	MCFD – Youth Probation
Kimberley Laing	Sumas First Nation

Meeting called to order at 1:00pm.

1. Round table – introductions and upcoming child, youth, and family focussed events/workshops

Colette Squires – Colette Squires and Assoc – Workshop on evidence based program design and program evaluation. Darryl Plecas is supporting this workshop and will attend. Registration information at www.collettesquires.com.

Bev Olfert – Abbotsford Youth Commission – new summer staff have begun and will begin programming June 19th at the ARC, which will include free drop-in from noon to 5pm. There will be a variety of programming and where there are costs, these can be covered by JumpStart. AYC also recently received a grant from the Abbotsford Foundation to support a nutrition program.

Andrea Senft – SD 34 – Early Years Centre is being opened in partnership with the AECC on the first floor of the Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre. There will be a soft opening on July 2nd.

The Youth Centre at SNC is being moved into the Abbotsford Secondary.

Rick Hansen Secondary has launched its overhaul and is hosting a luncheon on June 3rd as part of consulting with business community and other interested community stakeholders.

Andrea has been given funds to develop a toolkit for SD administrators that will provide them a database of all community services. Andrea will be seeking information from community programs in the near future.

Brian Gross – IMPACT – Several groups are running.

Aimee Beauchamp is the VYPER Coordinator for Abbotsford. Works with youth 12 to 24 years who want to work on pathways to move from isolation to belonging. She can be reached at aimee@vyper.ca

Brian shared that IMPACT is developing research exploring resiliency factors as predictors of youth health versus high risk behaviours.

Youth Health Centre is having to change its location. AYHC has just joined the Provincial Network on Youth Health Centres.

Youth Advisory at Youth Health Centre. This is also an iPad test site.

Fraser Valley Youth Society – drop-in for LGBT youth – have been discussing HIV testing.

Pamela Jones – Youth Resource Center, ACS – May 25th – YRC is hosting a conversation on Aging Out of Foster Care.

June 16th – Hosting landlords to discuss renting out suites to youth. This also coincides with discussions with Mayor Braun about available rentals for youth.

Simone Maassen – Youth Services, ACS – research on Autumn House was recently finished. Confirmed good outcomes for youth at Autumn House due to the connections they make, the intensive support provided, and the skill building provided. A video sharing the results will be developed.

May 27th – Employee Fair at Apollo for any youth aged 15 to 25 years. Employers are actively looking for youth employees.

Louise Smith – CYC Coordinator – Louise will be reducing her hours over the summer.

Louise also reported that over 14/15, the CYC meetings drew 40 different participants to 5 meetings with 5 presentations from different community initiatives related to children and youth services.

Kim Laing – Sumas First Nation – Fraser Health has sponsored a free workshop on Death Protocols on May 27th. Willie Charlie will be facilitating a session for service providers to improve understanding of how death is approached and relevant protocols when working with their aboriginal clients.

Monica Unger – Kids Matter – provide fee based group sessions facilitated by clinical counsellors on issues such as anxiety. Third party funding is available to offset costs. Will also be running summer programs in Abbotsford.

Elaine Ryans – FV Aboriginal Child and Family Services – works on the prevention components of FVACFS by offering summer camps, cultural groups for teens. Will also be offering a Kids in Care camp through Kwantlen.

Aimee Beauchamp – Adult/youth Partnership, VYPER – works to connect youth to partner businesses and organizations. Majority of work is with contributions towards projects.

Irene Wesenberg – MCFD – Youth Probation – Working with organizations who are working with youth who are on probation and on restorative justice.

Eric Van Egmond – MCFD – 4.5 new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions coming to Abbotsford. Planning to establish a guardianship team responsible for all kids in care. Guardianship role will be exclusively focussed on child.

Also looking for a new site for Autumn House – requires enough space for 12 youth residents and a live-in mentor.

2. Approval of April 16, 2015 minutes

- *Approved*

3. Review of addition to Terms of Reference regarding how CYC Leadership is nominated and chosen (*added to 1. ACYC Committee Structure – ACYC Leadership Team*)

- *Approved*

4. Election of ACYC Leadership Team for 2015-2016

- Maple Melder-Crozier is stepping down from Leadership Team – Eric thanked her for her work with the CYC
- Remaining on Leadership team is Eric Van Egmond, Shairose Jinnah, and Lila Weber.
- Nominations to be added to the Leadership Team are:
 - Heidi Enns – City of Abbotsford
 - Andrea Senft – Abbotsford School District
 - Karen McLean – Fraser Valley Child Development Centre
- All nominees accepted have accepted their nomination
- All nominees on slate *approved*
- Eric confirmed that funding from MCFD to support the ACYC Coordinator position for 2015-2016 has been approved

5. Committee Updates

Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee (AECC)

- Family Fun Day had 2500 people attend and it went very well. However, inspired by a conference in March where organizations were challenged to ask “why are we doing this?” – it has been decided to not run Family Fun Day again and will be reviewing priorities over the summer.
- Early Years Centre will be having a soft opening in July.
- Storytime in the Park is being run from support by Fortis BC.

Middle Years Table – no recent meeting.

Youth Networkers – June 10th will be last meeting before summer. Focus will be on youth aging out of care.

Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) – most recent meeting focussed on how to store a child's information onto 1 portal

Trauma Informed Community Practice – next meeting is June 2nd. Lots of people have been attending. Expectation is that Committee will continue to profile trauma informed practice in 2015-2016.

6. Presentation

Cheryl Unger, Director of Programs, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley – (serving Pitt Meadows to Agassiz)

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters is considered a primary prevention program most effective if started in the middle years (8 to 11 years old). Program ages out at 18 years.
 - Not as successful an intervention is child is overwhelmed or fragile
- Provides a stable role model for the child outside the family home
- Historically 55% of the BBBS' clientele came from single parent homes
 - In Abbotsford 65% come from single parent homes
 - 24% are children in foster care
 - 2% live with both parents
- Two program types – school-based and community based
 - School based program – teen or adult mentor meets child at school – in 2014, 125 children in 8 elementary schools and 5 middle schools
 - Community based program – matches an adult mentor with child for an average of 2 years
 - Waitlist is greatest for boys (1 to 1.5 years waiting for a match)
- Research by National BBBS
 - The community based program provides two times the protective factors to vulnerable children regarding addiction and mental health as compared to unmentored children.

More information at - <http://www.mentoringworks.ca/en/Home/default.aspx>

Next ACYC meeting is TBD