

Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee Minutes

**November 20, 2014, 1 to 3pm
Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre, Board Room**

Chair: Eric Van Egmond, MCFD

Minutes: Louise Smith, ACYC Coordinator

Attending:

Carrie Yargeau	Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Sharon Crowley	Literacy Matters
Shairose Jinnah	ACS – Child, Youth and Family Services
Andrea Senft	School District 34
Denise Thandi	Abbotsford Early Childhood Committee/Success by Six
Maria Cargnelli	ACS – New Beginnings, Child Care Resource and Referral
Bev Olfert	Abbotsford Youth Commission
Pierre Welbedagt	West Abbotsford Community School Society
Kimberley Laing	Sumas First Nation – Education and Community Development Coordinator
Irene Wesenberg	MCFD – Youth Justice/Restorative Justice East Fraser
Ajay Kaushal	Fraser Health – CYCP Fraser East
Anna McWhinney	Central Abbotsford Community School
Kathleen Praxl	CYSN – MCFD
Lila Weber	FVACFSS
Brian Gross	IMPACT/VYPER
Rick Brown	Fraser Health

Meeting called to order at 1:00pm.

1. Introductions

All in attendance went around the room and introduced themselves:

2. Presentation by Andrea Senft, Manager Community Partnerships, School District 34

Looking Back to Move Forward: Abbotsford's Child and Youth Friendly Strategy.

- Andrea's Powerpoint presentation covered the timeline of Abbotsford's Child and Youth Friendly Strategy development from a commitment made by the Abbotsford Social Development Advisory Committee in 2005 to the release in 2009 of the strategy paper.
- As Andrea reflected on the movement that has been made on those strategies over the past 5 years, she highlighted the challenges associated in securing community buy-in, and ensuring the stated strategies or goals are limited in number and realistic.
- Clear success connected to the 2009 report, has been the development and delivery of an Abbotsford Youth Health Centre – where the community worked proactively with key service partners to deliver a needed service.

- Andrea also shared that she senses a shift in the Abbotsford community towards a greater will to collaborate between a wider range of organizations.
- Andrea handed out pages 34 to 39 of the 2009 strategy document, and opened the floor to comments and questions focussed on: what else have we accomplished? How do we move forward? What do we see as successes? What are next steps for the ACYC?
- Discussion from CYC members indicated an interest in the ACYC supporting priorities that have large community impact, or that support inter-generational projects, or that incorporate the time so that the priority development is intentional and strategic towards working on 'one thing', or that the feedback from children, youth, and families be used to determine best ACYC priorities. However, it was also raised as to whether the ACYC should 'own' any these priorities or strategies. Rather, are they the City's responsibilities? (not sure we want to add this as probably best to build a relationship with the newly appointed..

Action:

1. In the upcoming week Louise will summarize some key points from Andrea's presentation and the questions that the Table's are requested to discuss and send to their Chairs.
2. Tables will discuss at their next meetings priority areas the ACYC could explore to reinvigorate the intention of the 2009 Abbotsford Child and Youth Friendly Strategy.
3. These top priority areas will be sent to Louise by Jan. 20th, 2015 for collation and discussion at Jan. 29th CYC meeting.
4. January CYC meeting will discuss Table suggestions with possibility of defining focus for further discussion at ACYC Forum to be held in June

3. Round table - upcoming child, youth, and family focussed events/workshops

- Eric – MCFD - Safe Relations, Safe Children – registration closes Nov. 21st. Almost full with nearly 150 registrants. Expected to be an amazing networking event with child and adult serving organizations.
- Pierre –West Abbotsford Community School- is the local Coordinator for the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program. Currently accepting applications for the spring/summer season for children and youth living in Abbotsford and Aldergrove. Applications are accepted for children ages 3 to 18 years who need a subsidy to participate in sporting, cultural or other group activities (e.g. hockey, dance, Scouts). Up to \$175/child is available. Pierre can be contacted for more information (pierre@westabby.org).
- Sharon Crowley – Literacy Matters – Annual reading challenge will be held January 24th. Aboriginal Parents as Literacy Supporters (APALS) will have a community launch on Jan. 21st.
 - Sharon requested consideration by other CYC members of supporting an adult learning centre to fill the gap for those people unable to meet Bakerview's entry criteria.

- There is a need for a consistent, dedicated space for such a centre, as well as support for resources that could provide childminding, life coaching, and parenting. Shairose suggested Sharon connect with Abbotsford Works.
- Bev – Abbotsford Youth Commission – Girls Night Out/Boys Night Out –an 8 week program that introduces youth to different activities in a supportive environment. Youth must find own transport to the different activity venues. This programming qualifies for Canadian Tire Jumpstart funding.
- Maria – CCRR, Abbotsford Community Services – a large selection of inexpensive workshops (\$10/workshop) will be offered January to March, 2015. Topics include self-regulation with Debbie Macnamara, and Mother Goose with Jane Cobb.
- Denise – Success by Six/Abbotsford Early Childhood Ctte – Will be working with school district to deliver the Middle Years Info Night on Feb 19th. The Early Years Info Night has been postponed as not enough vendors could be secured.
- Brian – IMPACT/VYPER – 8 week long parent groups will start again in January. Provides a connection between youth and parents. VYPER is accepting mini-grant applications. VYPER staff are available to assist in developing grant applications and there is now a cohort of youth available and interested in supporting community projects. University of Fraser Valley is hosting a social work conference April 28th to May 1st – a component will have a youth led session.
- Shairose – Abbotsford Community Services – ACS is hosting the extreme weather shelter for December, and looking for volunteers. Shifts run from 7pm to 7am. Contact is Neil Stark – neil.stark@abbotsfordcommunityservices.com
- Kimberley – Sumas First Nation – Kim offered their Boardroom and community room to CYC organizations. If interested, contact her at Kimberley.Laing@sumasfirstnation.com

4. Updates from ACYC Tables

Early Years Table (represented by Abbotsford Early Childhood Ctte) – Denise Thandi, Maria Cargnelli

- Next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 9th with a presentation by Abbotsford Works.
- Sharon Crowley also shared about First Books which provides free, brand books for ages 0 to adult. Organizations with 70% of their clientele in poverty, can access new books for their programs. Sharon will send Louise more information.

Middle Years Table – Denise Thandi, Pierre Welbedagt

- Next meeting Dec 17th
- Working on confirming MDI
- There will be a shared learning session being held for parents on Thursday, February 19th at 7pm at the Abby Arts Centre regarding self-regulation
 - Expecting around 600 parents to attend
 - An opportunity for organizations to share information with community
 - SD 34 is hosting event, Andrea Senft is the contact.

Youth Table – Bev Olfert

- December 10th is next meeting.
- There has been good attendance at meetings. Tonya from APD who spoke at October meeting was well received.
- Abbotsford Works spoke at November meeting on hard to employ youth.
- Interested in connecting with VYPER.

Special Needs Table (represented by Special Needs Advisory Cttee (SNAC)) – Kathleen Praxl

- Meet every two months. Last meeting on November 19th and next meeting will be on January 21st at Pivot Point at 10am. SNAC has parents involved in its Committee and these parents have been providing critical energy in the work of SNAC.
- SNAC is sponsoring a Transition Fair (similar to the Connection Fair) on Saturday, March 7th from 1 to 4pm.
 - Service providers who work with special needs youth who are transitioning to adult services (e.g. clients are those with mental disabilities, FAS). Each provider will show 5 slides in 5 minutes to provide information on how they serve youth with special needs.
 - They also have space for 10 organizations to participate with information tables. All are asked to provide a \$25 value door prize in lieu of a table fee.
 - Audience for the Fair are expected to be families with youth who will be transitioning soon, but Fair is also open to families with special needs children so they can be introduced to some of the considerations and services needed by special needs youth as they transition to adulthood.

Community of Practice Table – Ajay Kaushal

- Next meeting is Dec 2nd.
- Well attended meetings

5. ACYC Terms of Reference – Eric

- Eric highlighted that draft terms of reference have been distributed and are encouraged to be discussed at Tables.
- To ensure all Tables have a chance to review draft TORs and submit feedback, approval of the draft TORs has been postponed to January 29th meeting.
- Please send feedback to Louise to incorporate.

6. ACYC rack cards - Louise

- Louise explained that she had been asked to produce an ACYC brochure, but she is proposing a double sided, colour rack card instead as they are cheaper to produce and that the CYC promotion is primarily to briefly inform to prospective CYC members and then send them to website.
- ACYC membership was asked to comment on the look and content of the draft rack card. Support for the rack card concept was positive and it was suggested to include a sentence on who attends a CYC meeting – what a participant's

representation involves. Service Providers providing services to children and families in Abbotsford and those benefiting from receiving the services?

7. Revised CYC Forum proposal - Louise

- Louise outlined a revised proposal that had been submitted to the United Way of the Fraser Valley for funding to support a 2015 CYC Forum. This forum is proposed to be to a smaller audience, focussed on the follow-up regarding the 2009 Abbotsford Child and Youth Friendly Strategy, and a half-day offering.
- Louise asked for the CYC membership's preference for session to be held on the May 8th or June 1st Pro-D days. June 1st was chosen.
- Louise asked for participants for the Organizing Committee – Denise suggested herself and Andrea. Louise will follow-up with them in January.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Next ACYC meeting will be held Thursday, January 29th, 1-3pm, Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre