

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 23, 2017

1:00 – 3:00PM

ACS Boardroom – 2420 Montrose Ave

**Present:** Jelisa Fast, Becky Moore, Sharon Crowley, Amanda Claeys, Maple Melder Croizer, Simone Maassen, Irene Wesenberg, Cheryl Unger, Ben Vegt, Joyce McElhoes, Laszlo Kovacs, Kim Riddell, Bev Olfert, Chrissy Borseth, Shairose Jinnah, Cheryl Havens, Sue Federspiel, Reg Unrau, Maria Cagnelli, Jessica, Karly

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

---

### 2. Collective Impact – Sue Federspiel

---

Collective Impact was created to look at health initiatives throughout the province as a collective group. How do we create an upstream mental health wellness? Recent surveys show that 42% of Abbotsford doesn't feel socially connected to the community. Four pillars of focus: exercise, resiliency, relating and acceptance. If you want more information on the Collective Impact initiative, please email [Sue Federspiel](#).

### 3. Walk Abbotsford – Chrissy Borseth

---

There will be a series of weekly 30-minute self-paced walks throughout Abbotsford, starting in January 2018. Starting locations will be at Bateman Park, Garden Park Tower and Mill Lake. There is also a possibility to have walks start at businesses throughout the community if there is interest. This will give businesses a chance to get involved, as well as walk participants to learn more about these businesses throughout the community. Running Room is a partner who will provide the walking routes, making sure they are close the amenities throughout the route. Volunteers will be trained and provided a toolkit. Abbotsford Community Foundation will be providing these toolkit backpacks for the volunteers. Training will involve First Aid, CPR and Standard First Aid. A Walk Abbotsford Coordinator has been hired to get the process going and to get this program off the ground. Training for volunteers will start in January. There will also be a website and phone number to call for walk information and updates.

### 4. Community Education on Adolescent Sexuality (CEAS) Panel – Maria Cagnelli, Reg Unrau, Jessica and Karly

---

CEAS is a panel of past and present New Beginnings student. This panel speaks to grade 7/8 classes about being a young parent. Last year, the group spoke to 700 students. Each audience member is provided a general description on the CEAS panel, as well as a feedback form to submit after the presentation. The audience also gets a chance for Q&A. Depending on the audience, the group can be very interactive or not so interactive. This ACYC group was taken through mock questions of the two students and Q&A.



### *Listening to the Voices*

It was suggested that FH nurses and UFV nursing students come to New Beginnings and Cyrus Centre to see the students/individuals to get the experience and build a relationship with them before giving birth. This will give them a better experience at the hospital.

#### **5. Program Updates and Upcoming Events/Workshops**

---

**Abbotsford Restorative Justice:** Lunch n' Learn presentation went very well on November 22. Program is doing very well and busy in the schools. ARJ applied for a grant to bring the work done in schools into other partnerships throughout the community. Connect Parent Program hoping to start in January; waiting for the needed funding.

**West Abbotsford Community School:** Moved from John Maclure to the Sweeney Centre. Fall programs are ending soon and are now advertising for the winter camps with 24 spots available. Direct sign-ups and further information to [www.westabby.org](http://www.westabby.org).

**Cyrus Centre:** Very busy with the extreme weather program. Youth up to age 24, sometimes families can come for shelter at Cyrus Centre. Volunteers and staff are dispatch for Salvation Army, picking-up individuals and bringing them to the shelter for night. From 8-10AM, there is also a shelter at Salvation Army for individuals to use. When the shelters are closed, youth up to age 24 can come (3 days/week) from 10AM-12PM to shower and wash their clothes. There are also guest speakers and breakfast available. There is also a warming centre from 12-8PM for youth up to age 24 to come during the day.

**Xyol:** Recently, the ED has stepped down and there is an acting ED and an Operations Director who are working well. The board will make the decision on who to appoint the new ED. The team are getting the caseloads down and more organized. There was an overnight program called *Visions and Voices* for children in care from Agassiz to Langley that just finished. Guest speaker Mike Scott told the group about his experience as a child in care that was well received. There are lots of kids that want to be in Youth Agreements, but it's tough to find affordable and appropriate housing.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters:** There is a boys and girls program at Blue Jay Elementary. The goal for 2018 is to have a part-time South Asian Mentoring Coordinator. The posting will go out in the New Year. The waitlist for girls is going down and currently working on bringing down the waitlist for boys.

**Restorative Youth Justice:** Pre-sentence conferences will be starting soon. Needing to re-focus the clients just before sentencing. The youth get to put in the recommendations for their sentencing, which is great because its more influential and beneficial for them and more likely for them to follow their sentence. RYJ is creating closer relationships with different reservations and their elders. Youth participate in healing circles and restorative justice circles with the elders.

**Community School:** Fall programs are ending and registration for winter programs are available.

**University of the Fraser Valley:** There is lots of change going on and looking for a new President, which is causing some challenges. CYC department is working on succession planning and looking for an Assistant Professor; more positions available to come in the next few years. There are plans for a Labyrinth and a community garden to be built at UFV to welcome the community. New elective courses



### *Listening to the Voices*

will be offered at UFV: Grief and Loss, Policy and Politics, Activity Planning, Mindfulness and Building Healthy Relationships.

**Youth Resource Centre:** The LifeChats group have been making organic candles, lip balms etc. for various markets throughout the valley. Will be at Maan Farms December 2-3. The monies made go back to the youth. There was a parenting workshop on November 20 and will have another one in January. Foundry has an Activate Health & Wellness group Wednesdays from 7-8PM (6-week segment) for youth 12-24. Foundry renovations start November 27.

**Volunteer Abbotsford:** Send Chrissy your community needs/events so they can go into the volunteer database. This database reaches a large number of individuals.

**Abbotsford Community Services:** The rezoning for MQHS and Autumn House has been approved for 2020. If you'd like to get involved with our active Seniors Programs, please contact [Christina Ragneborg](#).

**Abbotsford Youth Commission:** Upcoming events, please see our [events page](#).

**Hand in Hand:** Before and after school programs are busy. Daycare programs from 7AM-6PM are also available. Children aged 5-12 are having issues and conflicts in the daycare who haven't been diagnosed and no support is very hard on staff, and it's difficult to provide information and care for parents. In 2018, there will be more overcrowding in schools with some preschools and programs shut down, so it will be very difficult for parents.

**Abby Dads:** The program has expanded to a Punjabi Dad Chat with 2-4 men consistently attending. For the Dad Chat, there are usually about 15-20 men coming each week to talk about life and come for support. We are creating relationships with different partnerships and also helping the dads supporting their children. In March 2018, there will be an 8-week Men in Violence training program available for dads.

**New Beginnings:** Program is at full capacity, with lots of young parents wanting to complete their grade 12 education. Upgrading is also available.

**CCRR:** The 2018 Training Calendar is now available. Attached in email.

### **6. Updates from ACYC Tables**

---

**Early Years Table:** Shakira Miracle came to the last meeting to discuss living wage and Louise Smith from ACS came to inform the group on their work on living wage. In early December, the strategic plan will be more confirmed and will then be put into place.

**Middle Years Table:** Middle Years forum in Chilliwack on February 7, 2018. More info to come.

**Literacy Matters Table:** Alexander Elementary will have an Aboriginal Literacy program run from January 2018 to school year end in 2019. This school was chosen as it has the largest amount of Aboriginal students in the district.

**Youth Networkers:** There is a renewed energy because meetings are at various locations and the team are learning more about what each organization's work involves.



### *Listening to the Voices*

**Special Needs Advisory Committee:** For more information, please use the [Facebook page](#). The website will be phased out.

#### **7. Upcoming events**

---

- **November 30** | Involve Abbotsford Symposium @ MCA Auditorium from 9:30-3:15
- **December 2** | FVACFSS Children's Christmas party at the Cadets Hall for children in care.
- **December 9** | Breakfast with Santa
- **December 13** | Suicide Prevention Awareness event
- **December 14** | YRC Christmas Party 3-5PM, ACS Jasbir Saran Room
- **January 13** | Winter Fest, free community event and pancake breakfast from 9-10AM
- **January 27** | Literacy Matters Pancake Breakfast for the community reading challenge.
- **February 7** | Middle Years Forum at Chilliwack Cultural Centre, more info to come
- **February 28** | Pink Shirt Day from 3:30-4:30PM at the Youth Centre ARC
- **May 1 – 3** | International Conference (UFV), call for proposals ends November 30. This is a practice-oriented conference for everyone to share their knowledge.
- **March 2** | SNAC Annual Transition Period event. This is a chance for parents to get more information for their children on the transition period. It is a free event from 12-4PM with RSVPs on Event Brite. There will be vendors and refreshments available.

***Next ACYC meeting: Thursday, January 25 from 1:00 – 3:00PM (location TBD)***

***[www.abbotsfordchildand youth.ca](http://www.abbotsfordchildand youth.ca)***