

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 19, 2018
1:00 – 3:00PM
2420 Montrose Ave – ACS Boardroom

Chair: Andrea Senft

1. Presenter: Nancy Bergen

Nancy is a part of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Special Needs Advisory committee. She helps youth with developmental disabilities. Nancy advocates for parents and helps them through their stress, worry, anxiety, financial worries. When you have a child with special needs, you are the one advocating for them. This impacts the family dynamics (relationships). This also causes trauma for the children involved. Nancy loves connecting parents with one another for mentorship and support.

Nancy shared her story on the journey with her daughter Hannah. At the time when Hannah was diagnosed, there weren't very many specialized programs and services so they couldn't get all the needed help. Hannah is now transitioning from high school to Community Living.

- Language matters at organizations. **
- It is difficult having to inform each service provider your child's story (grieve it every time)
- You need to receive a diagnosis before you can access funding services

2. Welcome: Round table introductions

3. Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities Presentation (STADD) Candice Morgan & Matt Klassen

STADD has also launched in Mission and Chilliwack. STADD has had a lot of growth over the past while. STADD steps in with services when youth are eligible with CLBC at age 16. They are partnered with MCFD, CLBC, schools, School Districts, Health Authorities and WorkBC. They help clients navigate through services (help guide the family and youth). This promotes communication through government services. STADD navigators want to work directly with youth (and their families). There is an information sharing system called *Collaborate* that gives access to all parties involved. This is a great way for parents to only have to tell their story once and not have to relive it each time.

Candice and Matt have provided brochures and their business cards if there are more questions.



4. Upcoming Events/Workshops

Abbotsford Youth Commission: the spring brochure is now available for the April – June programs. There is a leadership opportunity for 2 reps/school for grade 10-12 students. Be sure to email Bev Olfert if you have any students in mind. AYC's Annual Report is available for viewing. Youth Week is coming up on May 1 with a schedule of events! Be sure to attend the U Roc Awards – it's a very casual event and lots of fun. A paint night is scheduled on May 5th from 12-2pm at ARC and the cost is \$20.

West Abby School: Summer camp registration for students K-6 is now open. Cost is \$85/week.

5. Table Updates

Early Years Table: the leadership team met last week, as there are funds to allocate in the community for basic needs, marketing, kindergarten readiness and training. There are professional nights and parent nights coming up with a CDC psychologist. There are lots of great things happening and lots of transition within the EY table.

Middle Years Table: their last meeting went great! There is a MY forum planned for early October at Eugene Reimer with MCFD, APD and the school district partnering. This is a parent info night for programming/services available for their children. Community partners are welcome to have info tables at the event. There will also be break-out sessions available.

Youth Networkers Table: there have been great meetings over the past few months! Some of the discussions were on anxiety, LGBTQ and youth crime. There was a recent training with Cindy Ramage and they played the brain architecture game.

Special Needs Advisory Committee | Bridging the Gap event: there was a lot of great feedback and lots of great speakers. There were children, parents and service providers in attendance. There is a plan to create a job readiness program.

Literacy Matters Abbotsford Table: there is a Food Skills for Families group starting in July. There is a Fortis Book contest available for children up to age 12 to write a book on gas conservation. APALS session on May 24th at Alexander Elementary School. Trivia Night on September 26th at the Canadian Brew House at High Street.

Please review the ACYC Terms of Reference document that was sent out last week and bring your questions to the May 24th meeting.

Next ACYC meeting: May 24 from 1:00 – 3:00PM (Abbotsford Community Services Boardroom)

www.abbotsfordchildand youth.ca