

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 24, 2018
1:00 – 3:00PM
2420 Montrose Ave – ACS Boardroom

Chair: Shairose Jinnah

1. Welcome: Round table introductions

2. Re:Humanize Presentation – Nadine Willis

Nadine is the Canadian Programs Manager with the [Youth Wellbeing Project](#) in Chilliwack, studying, informing and teaching others the effects of child and youth pornography.

Facts:

- Pornography usually links/connects to what is popular in the media, which increased the risk of children seeing porn too early in their development
- Pornography is related to sex trafficking
- BC is the sexual tourism destination in all of Canada (children as young as the age of 7)
- Hyper sexualized images are used to sell everything
- Commodification is used with child actors (use them for what you need)
- Culture is sexualizing children at a younger age and we need to help children navigate through this with critical thinking skills. Public outcry makes a huge difference!
- Nearly one in ten 12-13 year olds are worried they may be addicted to porn

Signs to look for:

- Depression, anxiety, withdraw from activities they used to enjoy, changes in behavior, taking devices into the washroom, change in language and demeanor, awareness and mimicking of adult behaviors and concepts

What parents can do:

- Always offer open communication, keep an eye on their behavior, be your child's Google, install internet protection software on devices, be proactive, support initiatives and no devices in the bedroom
- Provide a safe place for children to ask their questions without judgement

Solutions:

- Legislation/policy solutions, digital solutions and education solutions

Resources:

- Over 18 Documentary: <https://protectyoungminds.org/2018/02/27/over-18-documentary-porns-impact-kids/>
- Resources for Pornography Help and Education document (attached in email)

3. Terms of Reference Discussion

The table all agreed on the Terms of Reference and that no changes need to be made.

4. Table/Organization Updates

ACYC Executive Update: This was a good year for ACYC, as there was a middle years forum to get back on track with this age group. MCFD has given one-time funding for middle years resources. There are books, games, CDs, DVDs etc. that focus on the mind, wellness and self-regulation. These resources will be available to the community, but will need more time to figure out how the process will work. ACYC executive also felt that having guest speakers at the meetings was very meaningful and this will continue into the upcoming year.

City of Abbotsford: There are 20 neighborhood spirit grants given out in Abbotsford from the Abbotsford Community Foundation. There will be BBQs in these neighborhoods and bring the community together.

Fraser Health – Healthy Schools Program: Diane Davies met with 2 principals from the focus schools to see what the needs are. Diane will take the summer to do some more research and have more info for CYC (and the principals) in September. These plans will be put into place in Fall 2019. The reasoning for this program is to make mental health a healthy living priority.

Foundry: The ACS Foundry team has moved into the new space and some services are offered out of the site already (AYHC, EPI, START and ADTP). The grand opening will be mid-June. There has been great feedback from those walking through the doors; a welcoming and spacious environment for teens. Parents and teens picked out the furniture to suit their needs and preferences, which gave them that sense of partnership and kept the youth in mind, as this is a safe place for them to come and receive services in a judgement-free zone. The ACTIVATE program is now running out of the Foundry site for 16-24 year olds. Adult Mental Health will be onsite twice/month and there will be walk-in counselling (at least 2 clinicians and also bachelor-level counsellors) available for 12-24 year olds, which will offer getting help right away and not having to make an appointment to come back later (which could be too late in some cases). The hope is to increase Foundry and AYHC hours in the future!

Abbotsford Community Services: ACS is turning 50 next year! ACS is working with the City to develop a natural playground for Hoon Park. There were application videos submitted to receive funding for a BCAA grant. If ACS makes it into the top 10 to vote, Jelisa will send out info on how to vote!

Early Years Table: The team met a few weeks ago and played the brain architecture game (trauma informed practice). This is a hands-on opportunity to see how your early years impacts your future. The Early Years Basic Needs committee has their rack cards printed and available to distribute. The team is still working on the distribution process, but will inform everyone once there is a plan in place.

[Online resources can be found here.](#)

Middle Years Table: their last meeting went great! There is a MY forum planned for early October at Eugene Reimer with MCFD, APD, ACF and the school district partnering. This is a parent info night for programming/services available for their children (ages 6-12). Community partners are welcome to have info tables at the event. There will also be break-out sessions available.

Their next meeting is June 5th at 9:00am at the School Board office.

Youth Networkers Table: The team got to learn more about the Fraser Valley Youth Society, getting to know their drop-ins and the work they do in the community. FVYS are now coming into the schools to inform them of the [SOGI 123 curriculum](#).

Literacy Matters Abbotsford Table: There is a Fortis Book contest this summer available for children up to age 12 to write a book on gas conservation. The winner will become a published author!

Sharon has received 1700 books from First Books Canada and there are books available for families and children that are lower income if you have clients in mind. Please [email Sharon](#) if you'd like more info.

Literacy Matters Abbotsford received a grant in family literacy training. It will be a 2-day seminar to train the trainer, with little to no cost. Sharon will have more info to come.

5. Upcoming Events/Workshops

Literacy Matters Abbotsford

- June 21: Indigenous Day Event at Thunderbird Park from 12-7pm (see attached poster for details)
- July 3 - 31: Food Skills for Families group (see attached poster for details)
- September 26: Trivia Night at the Canadian Brew House, High Street (see attached poster for details)

City of Abbotsford

- June 23: Communities in Bloom event gives you a chance to have tours of Abbotsford residents' gardens. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at Tanglebank Nursery and the Tourism office. Half of the proceeds will go to the ACS Community Garden and the Auguston School Garden.

Central Abbotsford Community School

- There will be two 8-week summer camps for children age 6-10 at Abby Middle & Eugene Reimer

Youth Resource Centre

- June 7: YRC Closet is for youth to drop-in and pick out free clothes, shoes, purses etc. Each youth that attends will receive a free hygiene kit from Foresters Financial. (see attached poster for details)
- May 29: Parenting Today's Teen (see attached poster for details)

Next ACYC meeting: TBD

Website: www.abbotsfordchildandandyouth.ca | Facebook: Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee