



## MEETING MINUTES

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Thursday, April 11, 2019

1:00 – 3:00PM

2420 Montrose Ave – ACS Boardroom

**Chair: Sue Federspiel**

**1. Welcome: Round table introductions**

**2. Bikers Against Child Abuse Presentation (1:15 – 1:45pm)**

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BACA is a safe environment for children, with the goal of taking away childrens' fear of their offender. BACA works with local agencies, creating partnerships in order to keep our children safe. There is a 24/7 helpline (604-807-4340) that gets regular calls from Victim Services, parents, grandparents and children. The team needs to verify the parent/guardian, having the child's consent. Once confirmed (with the child and parents/guardian), a home visit will take place with at least two BACA volunteers (who will be the child's primary contacts). There will be an introduction to one another; with the child receiving a teddy bear, denim biker vest and dog tags with their primary contacts' names and phone number included. There will never be just one BACA volunteer with the child, and the parents will always be informed when a meeting is taking place. BACA wants the child to start choosing for themselves, and BACA focusing completely on the child's success.

**BACA is looking for referrals, trying to help as many children as possible.**

- Cases range from children age 3 – 18 years old
- There are 7 chapters in BC
- BACA is in 13 countries, with over 300 chapters world-wide
- BACA was formed in 1995 in the USA

If you'd like to be a BACA member, there is extensive training:

- 39 webinars, as well as quarterly training
- Criminal Record Check (has to be done once per year)
- Attend meetings
- There is a minimum of 15 months training before full board approval to become a member

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – BACA is having their annual 100 Mile Ride to raise awareness for child abuse

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** – BACA is having a free community party at Mill Lake to introduce themselves to the community, and would love to have agency tables at the event to showcase the services available in Abbotsford. If you'd like to have a table, please be sure to email [banger@fv-can.bacaworld.org](mailto:banger@fv-can.bacaworld.org)

3. Opportunity to highlight your upcoming child, youth, and family focused events/workshops.

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**Abbotsford Community Services**

- ACS is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year! Walter Paetkau has written a book on the 50 year history of ACS, with a Book Launch event on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00pm at the Reach Gallery
- **Youth Resource Centre:** Parent of Teen group starting early May, and are now taking referrals. Healthy Relationships group is in the works, and will likely run in the summer with activities as well. YRC is have discussion with AYC and the schools to bring their groups there in order to reach more youth. Bridges funding has ended, and there is no ability to serve youth out of care with outreach-based individualized services anymore.
- **Foundry:** YMind is looking for participants 18-30 years old, coping skills for mild to moderate anxiety, depression, etc. based on mindfulness. There is a new peer support worker, so there are now 3 youth working as Foundry peer supports, and will soon be posting for a family/parent peer support worker. Foundry has an activities Forecast on their [Facebook page](#).

**Abbotsford Restorative Justice**

- ARJ have partnered with UFV to create a healthy relationships program into the schools, with topics on consent, skills-based, etc.

**Monarch House**

- Monarch House are looking for more therapists to join their team.

**City of Abbotsford**

- A new Culture Coordinator has been hired, with a goal to provide inclusiveness/engagement to work, live and play together within this diverse community.
- If you'd like a booth at the Canada Day event, please go to [www.abbotsford.ca/canadaday](http://www.abbotsford.ca/canadaday) to reserve a space for your organization.
- There were 50 Neighborhood Spirit Grants submitted, and about 30 will be funded, so be sure to watch for their upcoming events!

**Literacy Matters Abbotsford**

- LMA have hosted the Learn About Series workshops for people who are new to the community/country and they have been successful. Some topics included are, volunteering, composting, healthy eating, understanding the health system, etc.
- First Book will be giving away free books for families that are a lower level income. You can sign-up online. If you have any questions, contact [sharon@literacymattersabbotsford.com](mailto:sharon@literacymattersabbotsford.com)
- Fortis will be having a book writing competition, with the topic of conservation of gas and energy. More info to come!



#### 4. Updates from ACYC Tables

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- **Early Years Table**
  - The committee will now be meeting three times per year, discussing frontline issues, funding etc. Maria Cargnelli and Paul Enns will be co-chairing the Executive table.
- **Middle Years Table**
  - The Middle Years Expo will be held at Clayburn Middle on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Joanna Sheppard from UFV will be the guest speaker.
  - There are plans to have another expo in the fall for Central Abbotsford.
- **Special Needs Advisory Committee**
  - The March Bridging the Gap event went great! The committee is looking for more parent advocates to join and be a part of the committee. If you know parents who would be interested, please send an email to [dorothygazzola@shaw.ca](mailto:dorothygazzola@shaw.ca)

#### Upcoming Events

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- **April 15<sup>th</sup>** – Middle Years Expo at Clayburn Middle School
- **May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Abbotsford Community Services' 50 Year History Book Launch from 2:00 – 4:00pm at the Reach Gallery
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Literacy Matters Abbotsford will have their Learn About Series featuring enjoying the outdoors and being outside. This will be at the Clearbrook Library.
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Indigenous Days event at Mill Lake – more info to come!

**Next meeting:** Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00pm | ACS Boardroom

**Website:** [abbotsfordchildandyouth.ca](http://abbotsfordchildandyouth.ca) | **Facebook:** search Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee