



## Health Matters Newsletter February 9, 2017

### Today's Health Matters Includes:

- Meeting Schedule
- Community Meetings and Events
- Data/ Research –
- Community Action Teams in Response to Opioid Crisis
- Cowichan Service Providers Network Meeting
- From The Homeless Hub
- Fundamentals of Boards Workshop
- Cowichan Housing Association Youth Housing First



*Happy Valentines Day!*



#### **Our Cowichan- Network Member Meetings-**

- ✓ Next Admin Committee Meeting- **March 1, 4:30-6:30** CVRD Committee Room 2
- ✓ Next Our Cowichan Network Meeting at **March 8 TO BE DETERMINED** Light dinner at 5:15 pm Meeting starts at 5:45 pm.



#### **Community Events- Meetings**

- **Community Response Team Meeting** February 18, 9 am-11am Meeting Room 213 at the CVRD
- **EPIC-Community Steering Committee** February 15, 1:30 -3:30 pm Ts'i'ts'uwatul' Lelum
- **VIU Opioid Dialogue-** February 14 1:30 pm- 3:00 pm in Lecture Hall

**Local Data and or Research-** No new research this week



## Community Action Teams in Response to the Opioid Crisis



The B.C. government is sinking \$1.5-million into the fight against the opioid crisis.

The province announced Thursday it is funding community action teams in 18 cities.

The program is part of its new **Overdose Emergency Response Centre**, unveiled in December.

"The role of the community action teams is to intervene early to provide support to people at risk of overdose before it's too late," said Mental Health and Addictions Minister Judy Darcy.

The program will focus on four key tasks: expanding harm reduction services, increasing the availability of Naloxone, addressing the unsafe drug supply and connecting people to support services for treatment options.

### 'Boots on the ground'

"Each community action team will play a crucial role in targeting resources where they're needed most," said Darcy, describing it as a "boots on the ground" effort.

The program will include representation from municipal governments, first responders, front-line community agencies local health authorities and Indigenous groups.

Communities receiving up to \$100,000 in one-time funding to create the teams include: Vancouver, Richmond, Powell River, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, Maple Ridge, Chilliwack, Victoria, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Duncan, Port Alberni, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon, Prince George and Fort St. John.

News of the program comes a day after the B.C. Coroners Service revealed **a record number of overdose deaths in 2017**.

---



### Service Providers Network

Many of you on this email list are part of the (unofficial) Cowichan Valley Service Providers Networking meetings, and for others... well we thought you might be interested.

We are an informal group of service providers who get together once per month to discuss our programs and services with each other or to discuss particular challenges or successes with clients/client care or within our larger community. It is an opportunity to let other organizations know about any events/programs you may have. Anyone who wishes to do a short presentation on their organization is welcomed and encouraged. It is a great place to bring new staff to allow them to meet other service providers and learn about the referral process at different agencies.

We aim for the **second Wednesday morning of the month**. Most of the time our meetings are held at Sands Memorial (corner of Ypres and Trunk Road, upstairs meeting room, entrance on Ypres). Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are supplied by Sands with our booking. The meeting officially runs from 8:30-9:30am but we book the space from 8am until 10am to allow people some social networking time before and after.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 14th**. Global Vocational Services will be presenting about their organization. If you haven't met their new General Manager, Brian Siff, this is a great opportunity to do so. March's meeting will be Wednesday, March 14 and April's meeting will be

Wednesday, April 11th. Please note that April's meeting will be held at House of Friendship and most of the meeting will be Lucy Thomas giving our group a tour of their space. Please feel welcome to attend our informal meetings and connect with others. Also, please let me know if you wish to be taken off this list so that you don't receive unwanted future emails :)

Some notes of possible interest for you and/or clients:

Global will be holding its Job Fair on Wednesday, March 7th between 10am and 2pm. See Global for further info.

Literacy Now Cowichan is seeking volunteer tutors, please see their website or Facebook page.

Hope to see you at our meetings and please pass on to other staff who may be interested.

Wendy Montgomery

Ready to Rent Facilitator, Cowichan Housing Association  
Counsellor, Cowichan Valley Youth Services Association  
Case Manager, Horizon's Pre-Employment Program (CWAV)

Cowichan Housing Association  
Homelessness Prevention and  
Ready to Rent Community Educator  
[wendy.montgomery@cowichanhousing.com](mailto:wendy.montgomery@cowichanhousing.com)  
250-597-1376 Extension 105

---

## From the Homeless Hub...

### **THIS is Housing First for Youth:**

#### **A Program Model Guide**

*by Stephen Gaetz*

In recent years, policy-makers and service providers have expressed concerns about whether and how Housing First can be applied to the population of young people who experience homelessness. In response, **A Safe and Decent Place to Live** was developed to provide a workable framework for Housing First for Youth (HF4Y). It is important to note that the development of this framework was the result of a collaboration between the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (formerly the Canadian Homelessness Research Network) and two bodies that work with young people who are homeless: The Street Youth Planning Collaborative (Hamilton) and the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness. Young people with lived experience of homelessness were an important part of this process, and provided necessary and valuable input. Much has changed in a very short time. Since the report was released, communities in Canada and elsewhere in the world (including the U.S. and several countries in Europe) have begun to implement HF4Y programs consistent with this framework. A downside of the growth in interest in HF4Y is that in many contexts, people are using the term "HF4Y" but not following the framework, by either simply applying the mainstream Housing First approach without adapting it to the needs of young people, or having unrealistically large caseloads and strict time limits.

[Read The Guide Here...](#)



In partnership with



Presents

***"I'm a board member, now what?"***

## ***Fundamentals of Boards Workshop***

By the end of this workshop you will be able to:

- Define the roles and responsibilities of board members
- Distinguish between operational and governance decisions
- Recognize three key modes of governance – fiduciary oversight, strategic direction and generative visioning
- Identify practices that increase the effectiveness of board meetings

5:00 pm Wednesday February 28, 2018

Clements Centre

5856 Clements Street Duncan, BC

Refreshments provided, \$25 person

Register with Volunteer Cowichan

250-748-2133 or

[vc@volunteercowichan.bc.ca](mailto:vc@volunteercowichan.bc.ca)

Please bring copies of your community social benefit organization's vision, mission and values statements.



**Cowichan Housing Association through [The Close To Home Project](#) has developed a Youth Needs Assessment and Youth Homelessness Action Plan...Stay Tuned for more!**



**Do you have a resource, event or information you would like to share?**

Send it to [cindylisecchn@shaw.ca](mailto:cindylisecchn@shaw.ca) and it will be included in the weekly

**Health Matters Newsletter**