

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday January 10, 2019 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:45 pm**

**Present:** Rob Hutchins Co- Chair, Denise Williams Chair, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Rhoda Taylor, Denise McKinlay, Valorie Masuda, Sheila Service, Christy Wood, Chris Hall, Leslie Welin, Rosalie Sawrie, Amanda Marchand, Laurie Beverley, Douglas Hardie, Terri Mattin, Aimee Sherwood, James Tousignant, Jan Tatlock, Jane Osborne, Linda Roseneck, Robin Routledge, Lynne Smith, Debra Toporowski, Kristine Sandhu, Carolyn Austin, Elizabeth Croft

**Regrets:** David Robertson, Alice Gelpke, Jodie McDonald, Gretchen Hartley, Gus Williams, Michelle Staples, Faye Gilbert, Alistair MacGregor, Jane Hope, Melaina Patenaude, Bob Day, Jessica Curtis, Tara McCaffery, Diane Pope, Kate Marsh, Anita McLeod, Pam Alcorn, Lynn Weaver, John Elzinga, Stacy Middlemiss, Arlene Robinson, Vicki Holman,

**Guests:** Sandra Bjola, Stephanie Von Hehn

**On Leave**: Robert Calnan,

**Welcome to new members**: Kristine Sandhu Town of Lake Cowichan, Carolyne Austin Town of Lake Cowichan, Debra Toporowski CVRD, Elizabeth Croft School District 79, Lynne Smith CVRD

* **Welcome and introductions.**
* **Adoption of Agenda Approved** Moved/second
* **Adoption of Financial Statement**

Moved/ second **Approved**

* **Correspondence-** A card from Volunteer Cowichan as well as a Thank You card from the Sea Squirts small grant recipients were circulated

**Delegation- Cindy Lise** – facilitator presented the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan highlights, accomplishments and changes. Members were provided with copies of the presentation that will assist them in the next phase of strategic planning. Members were asked to determine when time could be allocated to a longer strategic session. The majority voted in favour of a week day over a weekend or two evenings. The administration committee will work to find possible dates and a doodle poll will be circulated to the members. The administration committee will also work to find a facilitator and begin planning for the next phase of strategic planning.

**Spotlight Speakers- Island Health – Regional Health and Care Planning in preparation for the New Cowichan District Hospital. Sandra Bjola and Jan Tatlock-** The utilization of our acute care hospital is not sustainable. Currently a hospital designed to hold 115 has housed up to 172 (as reported in the week of January 7-10 2019)! Many of the individuals who are in the hospital and who are unable to be returned home are frail seniors and individuals with multiple complex chronic diseases. Often the reason they are unable to be cared for in the community is the result of even more complex challenges such as housing, poverty or support. In designing the new hospital our region is being asked to look at measures to support those who are frail or have multiple chronic diseases better in the community. Our Cowichan has been approached to see if we are able to work with Island Health to determine better ways to do so.

There is an urgency to develop this plan so that aspects of it can be implemented before the new hospital opens. If we are unable to care for our citizens in the community in better and different ways we will never be able to build a hospital large enough to meet the demands of our citizens.

Finding ways to keep people at home, focus on prevention and health promotion is a priority, not only for Island Health but for Our Cowichan as well. The timing of this works well as it coincides with our strategic planning. A series of meetings and planning sessions will be held in the coming months. Members from Our Cowichan will be informed and can choose to attend the topics that best fit within their mandate and work in the community.

Concerns were posed from members regarding the lack of funding to support existing programs and to develop new community programs moving forward. Concerns were also posed regarding the disproportional gaps in funding of services for our region in comparison to Nanaimo and Victoria. We face higher rates of poverty and health concerns without the ability to address them in our own communities. Barriers such as transportation are magnified in the Cowichan Region.

Questions were also asked about what we can learn from the building of two new hospitals in Comox and Campbell River. How can we improve our build and avoid mistakes?

How can we increase our access to funding and programs? Be able to demonstrate that there is a return on investment and that what we are able to do in community prevents or significantly reduces the costs related to accessing the service or the need for service within Island Health.

**New Business:**

**Employees Health Benefits Tax-** A new employee health benefit tax is having a devastating impact on some of our local not for profit or social service organizations. For larger organizations the impact is significant and can result in the closing of programs or reduction in staff. Clements Centre Society and Canadian Mental Health Association for example are facing such a dilemma and are seeking the advice of others on who they may contact regarding raising the awareness of the unintended consequence of the tax. It has been reported that school districts and government agencies are not required to pay the tax yet not for profit agencies are. As of yet organizations have not been able to determine who they can contact or where they can go to voice their concerns. Our Cowichan has offered to support with a letter if it can be determined who to send it to. We will await further word on this issue.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY March 14, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm