

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday September 14, 2017 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:45 pm**

**Present:** Denise Williams Chair, Rob Hutchins, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Gretchen Hartley, Jennifer Yee Fairweather, Valorie Masuda, John Elzinga, Joyce Behnsen, Robert Calnan, James Tousignant, Faye Gilbert, Aimee Sherwood, Colleen Fuller, Douglas Hardie, Jennifer Jones, Seamus Wolfe

**Regrets:** David Robertson, Alice Gelpke, Dave Ehle, Chris Hall, Linda Roseneck Michelle Staples Danita Senf, Tara McCaffery, Denise McKinlay, Anita McLeod, Jane Osborne, Jodie McDonald, Melaina Patenaude, Kayla Clarke, Pam Alcorn, Robin Routledge, Kate Marsh, Diane Pope, Sheila Service, Jan Tatlock, Jane Hope, Bob Day, Terri Dame, Rhoda Taylor,

**Guests:** Rory Allen Island Health

**On Leave**: Amy Trippe Brophy,

**Welcome to new members**:

1. **Welcome and introductions.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second
3. **Overdose Prevention Site- Update**
   * The Overdose Prevention Site is now open 7 days a week from 2 pm to 8 pm at 715 Canada Avenue.
   * It is staffed by two CMHA Cowichan Valley Branch workers with Occupational First Aid Level 2 certification, Narcan and O2 Therapy training
   * The site is equipped to stabilize an individual in the event of an opioid poisoning until the arrival of BC Ambulance services
   * Site set up includes a staff office, waiting area and two use stations
   * Harm reduction supplies are available on site
   * The site also has direct access to a methadone physician

Mental Health and Substance Use Minister Judy Darcy visited the Cowichan Valley in August. She toured Warmland and Ts’ewulhtun Health. It should be noted that the collaboration and efforts underway in Cowichan are impressive. The process of how we work together and share the responsibility is having an impact. The Community Response team is monitoring and evaluating the Sobering Program, needle response and now the Overdose Prevention Site. The team is able to identify gaps and bring partners together to do something about it.

In the coming weeks, more community dialogue regarding the opioid crisis will be planned

It is hoped that the January OCCHN meeting will be a special night that will entail inviting Island Health leadership, MP, MLA, Minister Judy Darcy, Mayors, First Nations Chief and Council to come together to hear about the journey of the Community Response Team and the resources designed and implemented by the team. It will also include reports on the cost benefits and social return on the investments to date in regards to lives saved, recovery, jail cell days, Emergency beds, BC Ambulance etc.

1. **Delegation- Cowichan Valley Hospice Project**
   * Hospice Palliative Care is different care. Currently there is only one Hospice bed serving the entire Cowichan Region. For many their final hours are spent in a 4-bed ward or in a makeshift coffee room turned into a private room. Many are supported at home. Over the past two years the Hospice Task Force which includes 4 OCCHN leads has been working on the development of a Hospice House Centre of Excellence. A centre where families can spend their final days with those they love around them, including pets and important cultural traditions has been long overdue for the Cowichan Region. The facility will be a new build and will be located on the Cairsnmore property.
   * The project has now gained traction and a fundraising campaign is underway. Fortunately for Hospice a new fundraising society established by Purica, which is a local business, has committed to take on the task of raising funds. On November 4th, the first Gala Dinner will be held at Mellor Hall. Tickets are $125 and include a roaring 20’s evening of fun and fundraising. Purica is also selling canvas totes for $25.00. Anyone wanting a ticket can get one at Cowichan Hospice Society or contact [tickets@puricafoundation.com](mailto:tickets@puricafoundation.com)
   * Denise Williams was the lucky winner of the ticket to the gala dinner and $120 was raised for Hospice.
2. **Spotlight Speaker-** Rory Allen Concept Planning for a new Cowichan District Hospital
   * A concept plan for the New Cowichan District Hospital is currently underway. The Concept plan is the first of 5 stages in the process of opening the doors to our new hospital. Stages include:
     1. **Concept plan**
     2. Business Case
     3. Procurement
     4. Design and Construction
     5. Operation
   * The concept plan is the high-level business case for why we need this project in Cowichan and includes:
     1. A demonstration of need and justifies the required investment
     2. Provides options for proposed solutions
     3. Recommends a direction
     4. Highlights the current state of the existing hospital
     5. Provides a high-level description of the proposed future site
     6. Provides options for the resources included in the new design
     7. Estimates the future needs of beds
     8. Estimates the total space required
     9. Estimates the estimated cost

The aim is to have the Concept Plan completed and submitted to Island Health Leadership by November. The next step in the process would be that it goes through the finance department and to Government for a decision some time in December/ January. Consulting with the Cowichan Communities is an important part of the process beginning at a high level now and becoming more specific over time as the project moves forward. For today Rory has asked some questions of the membership which will help at this stage of the process. The questions will be emailed to members who are requested to provide feedback by October 1. Cindy to distribute questions to the membership.

It was also recommended that delegations from Cowichan travel to the new Campbell River and Comox hospitals some time in January to get a better sense of what is possible and what may or may not work for our region.

When asked if there were any surprises to date in the process Rory replied that the Cowichan area is in a good place. We have strong community buy in, well established networks including Our Cowichan and a prime piece of property already purchased. There is no guarantee that the project will be approved but from learning from the two-new hospital builds on the North Island we have a strong proposal.

1. **New Business**
   * **Small Grants-** This is a reminder that the call for Small Grants is still in process and closes on Saturday September 30 at 12 noon. Members were encouraged to distribute the information regarding the grants to community partners and colleagues

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY November 9, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

Minutes taken by Cindy Lise- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm