

**Network Minutes**

**Thursday June 8, 2017 Ramada Silver Bridge- 5:30 pm**

**Present:** Denise Williams Chair, Rob Hutchins, Cindy Lise Regional Facilitator, Melie De Champlain, Robin Routledge, Denise McKinlay, Kate Marsh, Gretchen Hartley, Jennifer Yee Fairweather, Jennifer Jones, Anita McLeod, Danita Senf, Tara McCaffery, Leslie Welin, Diane Pope, Sheila Service, Jan Tatlock, Colleen Fuller, Michelle Staples, Linda Roseneck, Aimee Sherwood, Jane Hope, Jane Osborne, Valorie Masuda, Douglas Hardie, John Elzinga, Jodie McDonald, Melaina Patenaude, Joyce Behnsen, Bob Day, Laura Court, Kayla Clarke, Pam Alcorn, Douglas Hardie,

**Regrets:**, David Robertson, Amy Trippe Brophy, Alice Gelpke, Dave Ehle, Chris Hall, Terri Dame, Rhoda Taylor, Robert Calnan, James Tousignant,

**Guests:** Marilyn Johnnie Cowichan Housing Foundation

**Welcome to new members**: Pam Alcorn and Kayla Clarke

1. **Welcome and introductions.**
2. **Adoption of Agenda-** Moved/second

**Celebrating Network Members-** **Cowichan Hospital Foundation** -the total amount raised at our April Dinner Auction was $160,000 net. These funds were allocated to purchase 3 new surgical tables with specialized attachments for orthopedic, gynecology and urology services. As well as a palliative family room at CDH and 20% of the funds raised was dedicated to the new hospital building fund. A Raffle is in progress for a 1930 Ford Model A and the tickets will be $100 each with the draw taking place August 27, 2017.

1. **Delegations – Cowichan Schizophrenia Society-** Danita shared that a branch of the Schizophrenia Society is operating within our region. There has been support for other larger communities but now services and supports can be offered here closer to home.

British Columbia Schizophrenia Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 by families and friends of people with schizophrenia. Since then, BCSS has grown into a province-wide family support system. We are dedicated to supporting each other, educating the public, raising funds for research and advocating for better services for people with schizophrenia and other serious and persistent mental illness.

**1. Family Centred** We provide education and caring support for families affected by serious mental illness. The family unit is our first responsibility and primary focus; the person with the illness is always included in the definition of family.

**2. Partnership and Respect** We do not work in isolation. We seek to build a broad range of dynamic partnerships through open and timely communications based on respect and appreciation for all those we serve and work with.

**3. Innovation and Improvement** We are committed to innovation through ongoing learning and improvement to meet the changing and diversified needs of families with mental illness in today’s society.

**4. Accountability and Transparency** We measure our performance and follow a process of continuous improvement.

**The society is currently offering: Direct support to families, the Strengthening Families Program and the Partnerships and Education Program. For more information contact Danita Senf at** [vimanager@bcss.org](mailto:vimanager@bcss.org) **or call 250-709-2985** [www.caringlink.ca](http://www.caringlink.ca) **1888-888-0029**

1. **Spotlight Speaker-** Overdose Crisis, Overdose Prevention Site, Needle Response and Stigma Update on the current state in Cowichan.

Following through with the presentation from Dr Paul Hasselback on May 13 a significant effort has been made to address the number of overdoses and the establishment of and Overdose Prevention Site here in the Cowichan Region. With the direction from Island Health to establish an Overdose Prevention Site a team of community partners including, Dr Hasselback, Island Health leadership, MHSU, communications, Canadian Mental Health Association, RCMP, BC Ambulance, Community organizations First Nations partners and local governments have been meeting. Our Cowichan has been providing the stewardship and facilitation of the Community Response Team. There are many challenges with this work as it is complex and highly emotionally charged. The community is angry and fearful due to the number of needles and open drug use that has now become more evident that before. The social media sites are rampant with miss information and inappropriate postings that are adding fuel to the challenge. The fear, anger and lashing out are further contributing to the stigma regarding substance use and addiction that also impacts the ability to impact change in our communities. At this time the first concern of the Community Response Team is to keep individuals alive and to provide a continuum of services that open doors to recovery. Site selection and the contract for services for the Overdose Prevention Site are currently underway and it is anticipated that the service will be opening its doors soon. Within the contract proposal is a piece to address the needle response and collection and it is also anticipated that the needle collection will start immediately once the program is in operation.

Community engagement regarding the Overdose Crisis, Stigma and education are currently underway.

* Stacy Middlemiss will be hosting a session on Stigma on June 13
* A session for parents will be held on Monday June 19
* A community Open House is in progress and will be announced soon
* We hope to bring addictions specialist Gabor Mate’ to Cowichan in the Fall
* This session will be followed up with a full day forum

The Opioid Crisis is a community wide challenge that requires community efforts to address. OCCHN members were broken into groups to discuss what we can do as a Health Network, what individual organizations can do or may already be doing; and how we may work together during this challenging time. Responses included:

* Focus on a community strengths based approach
* We do not need more research but now require an inventory of possible solutions
* Identify low hanging fruit and start
* BC 211 is an example of and information system that is compressive
* Everyone is responsible for solving and addressing the issue
* Teach the community how to pick up needles and educate community, families and children on how to do so safely.
* Provide incentives for those who consume substances to return used sharps and needles
* Remove the Us and Them and begin talking with a world view
* Celebrate things together and get to know each other i.e. Block Parties
* For communities such as gated communities who are not facing the challenges but where conversations can happen to learn about what they can do to be a part of the solution
* To increase programs such as restorative justice
* Forums to talk about the solutions and increase community dialogue with facts not stories from social media
* Connect via recreation and sports teams – talk about substance use (prevention versus reaction)
* Hold meetings/ gatherings in parks where needles are found and perhaps solutions will come from within
* There is already a lot going on within organization re: needle response. Staff are being trained and needle sweeps are common with in the community and the school settings
* We do need to increase the awareness and understanding of the harm reduction strategy versus needle exchange.
* Opioids are found in many homes not just on the streets so finding ways to provide compassion and hope for families struggling in silence
* We can work together to identify high risk children and youth and work closer together to ensure that the child and families have the support they need to succeed. Increasing a sense of belonging and attachment before substance use begins. When a child is identified at risk we can do more than refer them to the Ministry of Children and Family Development we can work with them too
* Provide MHSU support within the school setting for youth who may be at risk as well as remove stigma and make resources accessible when needed

1. **Collective Impact**

**EPIC (Eldercare Project in Cowichan)** – The EPIC video was shared with members. <https://vimeo.com/206195536> The EPIC project has now been in progress for just over a year. The Collective Impact Framework has been the guiding force behind EPIC and has provided the tools with which to engage in this complex work.

To date over 70 different project partners/departments/organizations are working together on multiple projects across 4 streams of work to improve how our community cares for seniors and provides them and opportunity to age in place with Cultural Safety, Respect, Opportunity and Choice. Our community has gone from working in isolation to aligning visions, shared measurement, continuous communication and many joint activities. With Island Health operating as a backbone organization with Our Cowichan and the Cowichan Division of Family Practice results are being seen across the board. We can also celebrate the success of receiving funding for a community stream project lead that will now engage in more community based projects.

1. **New Business**
   * Multi Cultural Day- Members were invited to join the Cowichan Intercultural Society for a multi cultural event on June 27 from 6 to 7 pm. Cindy to circulate the poster in the June 9 Health Matters Newsletter
   * July 13 OCCHN meeting will be to review the strategic plan. More information will be sent to members prior to the meeting

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY July 13, 5:45 pm Dinner served at 5:15**

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