

Date: June 22, 2026

Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Interim Chair: Marnie Brenner

Notes: Bree Odd

In attendance: Marnie Brenner, Bree Odd, Michael Franklin, Jean Oke, Florence Achari, Dana Hamblin, Angelika Selleck, Kylie Thomas, Sherry Yonkman, Liselle Pierce, Carla Bullinger, Emma Swabey, Hannah Diether

Land Acknowledgement

The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area would like to acknowledge this meeting is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation and the T'xelcemc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for June 22, 2026

- Agenda approved as presented. Moved by Sherry Yonkman; seconded by Carla Bullinger.
- Previous meeting notes available by email while SPC website rebuilding continues.

Member Introductions: Members shared their names and organizations represented.

Guest Speaker: Marnie Brenner - Community Health Facilitator, Interior Health Healthy Communities Development

- Outlined Healthy Communities work connecting local environments, planning, policy, and population health.
- Shared Interior Health and BC Housing resources for extreme heat and wildfire-smoke readiness.
- Higher-risk groups include older adults, infants and young children, pregnant people, people with mental-health or chronic-health conditions, unhoused residents, and outdoor workers.
- Encouraged organizations to prepare heat and smoke response plans, staff messaging, alert sign-ups, cooling or cleaner-air spaces, and wellness check-ins.
- Highlighted overnight heat risk, limits of fans during high indoor temperatures, and value of air conditioning or access to cooler locations.
- Resources include heat-illness signs, medication risks, low-cost cooling strategies, response planning, and tenant/client check-in tools.
- Offered additional presentations and resources for organizations and outdoor workers.

Guest Speaker: Dana Hamblin - Director of Supportive Mental Health Services, Canadian Mental Health Association Cariboo Chilcotin Branch

- Reviewed no-fee, self-referral programs offered through CMHA's Second Avenue location; referrals may also come from physicians or community organizations.
- Family Solutions supports families and caregivers connected to children and youth ages 5-24 through system navigation, school and MCFD support, diagnosis pathways, and Connect parenting groups.
- Counselling serves adults 19+; current demand is about 30 new intakes monthly with an approximately six-week wait.
- Two counsellors starting July 1 will restore the counselling team to three; family-counselling gaps remain a future priority.
- Sexual Assault Services and Community-Based Victim Services support people affected by intimate-partner violence or other power-based crimes, whether or not a police report has been made.
- Victim services can assist with hospital, court, legal-aid, and Crime Victim Assistance Program processes.
- CMHA participates in the volunteer-based Interior Crisis Line Network; website information has been updated.

Discussion

- Victim services are confidential; mandatory reporting applies when a vulnerable adult or youth is at risk.
- Crisis-line training runs several times yearly. Current shifts are covered, but volunteers remain welcome.
- TRU invited CMHA to provide student-orientation outreach on services, violence awareness, and available supports; CMHA agreed to explore a tailored presentation.
- Members suggested including healthy-relationship awareness alongside information about unhealthy relationships and violence.
- CMHA is updating programs for men and women who may be at higher risk of offending, or who have offended, in intimate-partner relationships; rollout anticipated in fall.
- Members emphasized continued heat awareness, especially for seniors, residents without air conditioning, and smaller communities.

Revive Thrive and Food Hub Updates

Angelika Selleck - Revive Thrive

- Post-secondary survey reached 315 responses across organizations, community groups, Indigenous communities, businesses, and residents.
- Report emphasized strong community interest in shaping local post-secondary education and keeping access in Williams Lake.
- TRU Board acknowledged the report; community engagement will continue while the campus decision remains deferred until December.
- Survey remains open through summer; continued sharing encouraged.
- Revive Thrive plans outreach to City Council, Cariboo Regional District, and provincial representatives.
- November forum will support an update to the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy, first released in January 2021, using accumulated data and community input.

Emma Swabey - Central Cariboo Community Food Hub (CCCFH)

- Donation station active at Tuesday and Friday farmers markets for vendor surplus, public donations, and home-garden produce; Food Hub spokes rotate pickups for local food programs.
- Cariboo Seed Project distributed free seed through the library, recruited dedicated seed growers, and began building a regional seed bank.
- Summer Soup Series facilitator identified; first youth-and-senior session expected with BGC in July, followed by possible Foundry participation.
- Food Hub grant application for the Soup Series was unsuccessful; team will regroup and continue available sessions.
- "We Don't Waste Good Food" outreach surveyed more than 15 businesses about surplus food, compostable scraps, barriers, and possible partnerships.
- With increased demand and reduced funding, current priorities are reviewing data, connecting businesses directly with spokes, expanding outreach, and developing a practical food-recovery pledge and contact process.

Lightning Round - Share an Organizational Update, a Challenge, or a Success

Kylie Thomas - Thompson Rivers University, Williams Lake and Regions

- TRU Board deferred the decision on campus closure and disposition until December.
- Approved a consultant-led community process to reimagine local post-secondary education, with final recommendations expected in spring 2027.
- Acknowledged SPC, Revive Thrive, Communities Ending Poverty, and community members for survey work presented to the Board.
- Fall registration open; commencement celebrated graduates and their achievements.

Liselle Pierce - Gibraltar Mine

- Gibraltar Mine transitioning from Taseko Gibraltar to Trekor Gibraltar, effective later that week.
- Extensive rebranding underway across signage, buildings, vehicles, equipment, and clothing.

Dana Hamblin - Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

- CMHA staff participated in the Indigenous Peoples Day parade as part of renewed focus on community events and awareness.

Michael Franklin - Foundry

- Golf-ball run installed at the community garden to engage families, daycares, and children in food growing; donations of golf balls welcome.
- Summer programming will focus on outdoor and light-physical activities for young adults ages 18-24 who face mental- or physical-health barriers.
- Activities will be promoted through Foundry Facebook and Instagram.

Jean Oke - Scout Island Nature Centre / Williams Lake Field Naturalists

- Marsh Magic attracted approximately 300 participants.
- Otter Point bridge project continuing; archaeological survey completed, with further work required.
- Weed-removal work completed; summer programs beginning after school programming ends.

Hannah Diether - Central Interior Rural Division of Family Practice

- Two physicians leaving Atwood Clinic in September and November; three internationally trained physicians expected in fall under return-to-service contracts.
- Return-to-service contracts require physicians to remain in the community for two or three years, contributing to ongoing turnover after contracts end.
- Four local nurse-practitioner students being recruited for Williams Lake or 100 Mile House; two graduate this summer and two in 2027.
- Interested candidates identified for vacant registered-dietitian positions in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House; services may resume by late summer or fall.

Florence Achari - WorkBC Centre Williams Lake

- WorkBC hosted an information table at Indigenous Peoples Day.
- IMM+ program launched to help people facing multiple barriers build confidence, address life challenges, and prepare for future employment.

Carla Bullinger - Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL)

- July summer hours: Tuesday-Friday mornings and Monday, 3:00-5:30 p.m.
- CCPL participated in the well-attended Indigenous Peoples Day event.

Sherry Yonkman - Downtown Williams Lake BIA

- Carol Gagne joined the office following staff turnover.
- Clean Team operating four mornings weekly; current focus includes parade route and Stampede grounds. Organizations may request help with areas behind their buildings.

Community Members Meeting Notes

- Two \$5,000 public-art grants awarded; mural panels behind the CRD/library building will continue this summer.
- Art Walk includes 26 artists and 26 locations, running August 7-September 2.

Bree Odd - Social Planning Council

- Capstone student completed research on guiding frameworks for nonprofits, focused on SPC; report available by request.
- Community forum and AGM scheduled November 23; timing and details to follow.
- Kathryn from Tamarack Communities will attend and support discussion on poverty reduction, Thrive Strategy updates, and service gaps.

Marnie Brenner - Interior Health

- Interior Health team continuing heat work and internal planning during financial constraints.
- Developing a strength-based community scan grounded in social determinants of health, including an approach for Indigenous communities.

Possible Connections/Gaps in Services/Alignments

- Extreme heat and wildfire smoke require coordinated planning, cooling and cleaner-air options, clear communication, and check-ins for vulnerable residents.
- CMHA services, TRU outreach, relationship education, and crisis-line training offer opportunities for earlier support and stronger referral pathways.
- Local post-secondary access remains connected to workforce development, health-care recruitment, poverty reduction, and community stability.
- Food programs face higher demand and reduced funding; market donations, business recovery, seed saving, and shared cooking programs can strengthen local food access.
- Physician turnover, rural recruitment challenges, and vacant dietitian positions continue to affect local health-care access.
- Foundry, community-garden, Food Hub, and BGC initiatives create complementary opportunities for youth and young-adult connection.

Actions / Next Steps

- CMHA and TRU to explore student-orientation outreach on services, violence awareness, and healthy relationships.
- Bree and Angelika to share the post-secondary report; members encouraged to continue circulating the survey.
- Revive Thrive to continue municipal, regional, and provincial outreach and prepare for the November forum and Thrive Strategy update.
- Food Hub to review business-survey data, continue outreach, connect participating businesses with spokes, and develop a food-recovery pledge and contact process.
- Community members may donate surplus produce through farmers-market donation stations and golf balls for the community-garden activity.
- Organizations may contact Marnie for heat and smoke presentations or resources, and Downtown Williams Lake BIA for Clean Team support.
- Members asked to save November 23 for the SPC community forum and AGM.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:37 p.m.

**Community Meeting Notes: During website transition, community meeting notes will temporarily not be accessible through the website. If you would like copies of meeting notes, please email info@wlspsc.ca.*