

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING

**Date:** January 22, 2024

**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Location:** [Zoom](#)

**Chair:** Larry Stranberg

**Minutes:** Liane Nunn

**Present:** Larry Stranberg, Laurie Walters, Liane Nunn, Lindsay Sidor, Shannon Thom, Amanda Schulz, Kylie Thomas, Michael Moses, Carla Bullinger, Pat Biblow, Wylie Bystedt, Madi Rushton, Sherry Marsh, Kylie Greene, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Chris Vandermark, Darlene Doucette

### 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'exelcemc people.

### Review & Approve Agenda for January 22, 2024

Motion **Lindsay Sidor** Seconded by **Carla Bullinger** Carried

### Review & Approve Minutes for November 27, 2023

Motion **Shannon Thom** Seconded by **Michael Moses** Carried

**Member Introductions:** Share your name and the organization you represent.

### Guest Speaker(s): Carla Bullinger: Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

- New program launched last year – Just-in-Time Tutoring for Children and Youth
- Grounding the tutoring service with the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy as literacy was identified as a key action item.
- Social Planning Council highlights/history
- Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy
  - o Received 3 years of funding form Vancouver Foundation
  - o Lead by stewardship group and people with lived experience
  - o Hosted Community Game Changer Events such as:
    - Business at it's Best
    - Poverty Simulation
    - What Works Summit
- When Thrive first got started in 2016 the poverty rate was 14%.
  - o 20% children, 27% youth
  - o Half of those living in poverty have employment income.
- Thrive – Six Building Blocks for Action to identify actions under these themes to tackle some of the complex issues.
  - o Child-Care Spaces

- Accessibility to rent banks and rent supplements.
- Food security and maximum use of local food – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub
- Tutoring services for Children & Youth
- What does literacy mean to you? What does it mean to be able to read/write, apply for jobs, read/manage balances...
- BC Literacy Stats adults aged 16-65
  - 45% may have difficulty with everyday reading and writing tasks.
  - 52% may have difficulty using math in a wide range of situations.
  - 20% reported no previous computer experience.
- Literacy skills help lift people out of poverty because:
  - It is connected to higher education.
  - Better chance of being employed.
  - Associated with earning higher wages.
  - Linked to more success at work.
- Literacy Stats of children:
  - 27% of kids start grade 1 without some skills they need to be able to learn to read.
  - 25% of children can't read at grade level by grade 3.
- No structured tutoring in place to help kids outside of school time.
- The Just-in-Time service:
  - Goal of the project is to build literacy and numeracy skills.
  - Fee for service but do provide sponsorship for families.
  - \$40.00 an hour
  - Tutoring is offered in locations that students are at.
- Community investment for Lasting Impact from agencies and businesses
  - Received \$30,000 to launch this program.
- Currently tutoring is available at two school locations and the CCPL office.
- Providing secondary drop-in tutoring sponsored by TNG.
- More than 30 students have accessed the service since the pilot.
- Get Involved:
  - Sponsor a child.
  - Share the information.
  - Become a tutor.
- More Information:

- [info@caribooliteracy.com](mailto:info@caribooliteracy.com)
- [www.caribooliteracy.com](http://www.caribooliteracy.com)

### **Lightning Round**

#### **Sherry Marsh, WL Hospice Society**

- Working on volunteer base as numbers seem to have gone down. Looking at re-structuring to bring in some more volunteers.

#### **Shannon Thom, Work BC**

- Nothing new to note so far in the new year.

#### **Lindsay Sidor, CIBC**

- Client still looking at taking equity out of their property to help combat basic expenses.
- Lots happening with planning – focusing on helping clients reach general financial goals i.e. emergency funds, budgeting, savings.
- Full focus on getting people prepared for taxes.

#### **Amanda Schulz, Williams Lake First Nation**

- Community Event in February - Cultural connections event to community and surrounding communities – linked towards family day and cultural connection. Activities and food.
- Seeing a lack of safe, affordable housing – numbers aren't jiving, and a large population are being underhoused or in unsafe houses – a priority service right now.

#### **Carla Bullinger, CCPL**

- Reminder, we provide a wide range of free programs for adults for literacy, numeracy, computer tech and financial services.
- English as a second language as well.

#### **Wylie Bystedt,**

- Hired someone for entrepreneur training program starting in February.

#### **Pat Biblow, Thompson Rivers University**

- New programs starting at the end of the month for trades, health care assistance, welding foundational program – not too late to sign up.
- New food provider – Krust and Krumbs Deli and Bakery

#### **Chris Vandermark, SFD 27**

- Learning opportunities for our staff over the last few years, seeing some good engagement and getting some new staff positions filled
- About to reboot strategic plan – in the last year of three.
- Budget planning cycle is starting – in good shape, no concerns.
- The new daycare is a big feature project and seems to be on track.
- Housing is a challenge for new people coming in here as well.

- Project going on that should have the industrial kitchen up and functioning at Columentza to help with food provision.

### **Kylie Thomas, TRU**

- Working on opening at ECE program, with first intake this fall, working with ECE providers in our community. Almost through the internal process and looking forward to welcoming new students.
- It's obvious there is a need, but sometimes it's challenging to meet the need in the community with learner interest, please share the training available and encourage them to call the campus for more information.
- Trying to find qualified faculty to teach in the program. Please encourage anyone to connect with Pat Biblow: pbiblow@tru.ca
- Looking at doing post-secondary needs assessment – if you want to be a part of the focus group, connect with Kylie ([ktthomas@tru.ca](mailto:ktthomas@tru.ca)) to be added to the focus group invitation. Goal is to complete in March/April

### **Darlene Doucette, BC Royal Purple Association**

- Hosting 30<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting in Williams Lake. May 24-26 at Seniors Activity Centre.
  - o Members from throughout BC will be in attendance.
  - o Would like to invite public to take part in a walk-a-thon fundraiser in Botanio Park on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Looking at ways to make it fun for everyone, including children.
- Further plans will be provided shortly.

### **Brianna van de Wijngaard, Central Cariboo Food Hub**

- Food Hub Project did a holiday hamper sponsor in December 2023 – provided 160 registrants with food hampers to families and individuals.
  - o Focused on providing more perishable food as well as a mix of shelf stable foods.
  - o 60% of those that accessed these hampers were not registered with other hamper programs.
- Check out SPC Facebook page for updates and upcoming events:
  - o February 27<sup>th</sup> – Seed Saving workshop.
  - o March - Workshops for Single Moms and Youth

### **Laurie Walters, Social Planning Council**

- Recently received a grant from CCAS to help with the poverty reduction and anti-stigma video.
- Focus into the next fiscal year will be poverty and poverty reduction.

### **Madi Rushton, WL Community Action Team**

- Currently putting on an event for free hair cuts at the Hamilton Shelter
- Team focuses on International Overdose Awareness Day in August

- An international annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. With the ongoing Toxic Drug Supply Crisis, the Williams Lake Community Action Team will be hosting an event for the Cariboo Chilcotin community to come together to support each other and raise awareness for the international campaign and goal of the WL CAT.
  - o If you want to be involved, reach out to Madi at: [wl.cat@cmhacariboo.org](mailto:wl.cat@cmhacariboo.org)
- Ongoing waitlist for the Connect Parent Group Program. We are currently running the January to March session, and will be looking at having another Connect Parent Group in the Spring - contact: Dana Hamblin, CMHA Family Solutions Manager & Counsellor, [dana.hamblin@cmhacariboo.org](mailto:dana.hamblin@cmhacariboo.org) or 250-305-4487.

### **Michael Moses, City Council**

- NCLGA is hosting a conference on the poisonous drug epidemic to hopefully include all forms of government from our region to come up with an actionable list to put into effect and make a dent in this epidemic.
- UBCM – made some amendments on a motion regarding 911 calls to be able to have mental health crises offer into 911 call as a fourth option.
  - o In addition, a sub question after the first four options if a person will need a culturally safe person answering the call
- Federation of Canadian Municipality
  - o Advocacy to federal minister to for financial support to help reduce the amount of grant roulette for non-profit organizations.
  - o If funding sources aren't able to maintain organizations like ours, it would be a massive detriment to our community so will continue to push to help with funding opportunities.
- Locally, starting a Cariboo Chilcotin Podcast to interview movers and shakers in our region and to highlight positivity in our region. Would love to have guest from this call.

### **Kylie Greene, Seniors Activity Centre**

- Fraud and Scam workshop this afternoon, 3pm – 5pm no registration needed

### **Liane Nunn**

- Focus on our Facebook page for updates and resources and we will be sharing your organizations information through that platform.
- Revive Thrive Poverty video has wrapped up the interview segment.

### **Larry Stranberg, Community Futures**

- Self-employment program has been slow.
- People trying to sell their business and/or buy business.
- Loans are picking up a little bit, but because of the high interest rates, people are borrowing less.

### **Meeting Adjourned: 1:00**