

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Date: February 28, 2022 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Larry Stranberg **Minutes:** Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Anne Burrill, Barb Jones, Shannon Thom, Bree Odd, Marvene Layte, Marni Brenner, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Darlene Doucette, Sherry Yonkman, Carla Bullinger, Beth Veenkamp, Sheila Boehm, Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Cheryl Lenardon

Regrets: Craig Glover, Nancy Colton, Krista Harvey

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'exelc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for February 28, 2022

Motion 1 Carla Bullinger

Motion 2 Beth Veenkamp

Carried

Review & Approve Minutes with Amendment for January 24, 2022

Motion 1 Carla Bullinger

Motion 2 Beth Veenkamp

Carried

Member Introductions: Members present shared name and organization associated with.

Guest Speaker(s)

Anne Burrill – Executive Director of the Social Planning Council (SPC) and Thrive Project Lead, presented information on the Prevention Needs Assessment Community Profile.

- Communities That Care (CTC) focuses on promoting positive healthy children and youth behaviours, while working to understand root causes of negative behaviours, such as substance use and mental health concerns such as depression.
- CTC uses the Social Development Model based on four domains: 1) family 2) individual/peer 3) school 4) community. Building bonds, attachment, and commitment following all four pillars with healthy adult connections.
- There is a 5-step process for the collective impact approach: community readiness, mobilization, assessment, priorities implementation, and evaluation.
- The process owned by the community focuses on local protective factors, it is evidence-based, with data-driven decision-making to increase the 11 protective factors and

decrease the 20 risk factors. See [2021 Community Profile](#) for more info on the protective and risk factors.

- Research on risk factors and probability underpins the social development process. With a focus on underlying factors, we can address more than one risk factor at a time.
- The [2021 Community Profile](#) will be released this week and posted to the SPC website for review.
- The Prevention Needs Assessment was anonymous and went to all students in grades 7-12 in School District #27 (SD27).
- We have comparative data results from the youth themselves for 2008, 2015, and 2021.
- Risk factors contribute to increased high-risk amongst youth in that the higher the number of risk factors the higher the risk for the youth, numbers change based on grade:
 - Grades 7-9 → 6 or more risk factors
 - Grades 10-12 → 7 or more risk factors
- Protective factors necessary to stay safe are like risk factors in that the higher the protective factors, the less the risk.
 - Grades 6-7 → 3 or more protective factors
- Risk factors have decreased among youth (not necessarily statistically) in the areas of perception of drug use, rewards for anti-social behaviours, and depressive symptoms.
- Protective factors have decreased overall with anomalies, such as community involvement declining due to COVID
- Community risk shows laws and norms favour drug use and perception of availability
- High risk grade by grade shows a loss of ground for grades 8 & 9's. Grades 10-12 risk factors are down but protective factors are down as well.
- **Marnie:** Are the definite differences in cultures in the schools and grades related to the differences in risk/protective factors? **Anne:** There is not a clear answer, there are some cultural differences by grade. The school district is doing good work in the schools and seeing improvement. **Cheryl,** we have to dig into it more. It is funny times right now not "normal circumstances" with the pandemic and all. We may look at changing school configurations in the future, right now we will work with what we have. **Barb:** Older students who have been through programs that came about from previous community profiles may have more protective factors now. **Carla:** The First survey saw a highly involved community-based approach to integrate all aspects in the community. 2015 saw a huge change in community leadership and things came into play.
- Data does not show a typical development curve from kindergarten to grade 12, it shows a curve that goes up then down. Typically, the curve is low then goes high.
- **Silvia:** With COVID, high-risk students may not have been in attendance to submit the survey, and that may be why we are seeing risk factors going down. There are different factors and all we can do is look at the factors, numbers and interpret them as best we can to explain what we are seeing.
- Data benchmarks decided by CTC with a focus on anti-social behaviours and initiation of alcohol and drug use. More likely to be involved in risky behaviours if using substances started by age 15. Look for was to get them past this age before using substances.
- Violence dropped from 15% to 8%. Gang involvement dropped from 8.3% to 2.7%

- Grade 8 binge drinking dropped from 21% to 10%
- **Brianna:** Are these numbers significantly higher than provincial numbers? **Silvia:** Binge drinking not going up.
- Depressive symptoms have gone up consistently. The pattern shows grades 7-10 increases and levels out in grades 11-12
- Important to note and be aware of data for Indigenous students.
- **Question:** Can depression symptoms data be validated as stand-alone data? **Anne:** Yes, it is a good indicator of rates for youth depression.
- There is a doubling of referrals for services for depression/anxiety symptoms
- There will be a CTC outcome planning session in late March.

Questions, Comments & Answers:

- **Marnie:** is there a session booked to present to the city council? **Anne:** Not at this time, it will be good to do this after the planning session. **Carla:** The planning session is important, would be good to have more than one person from each organization attend and rally together.
- **Beth:** When reviewing, did you think “hopeful” or “oh my gosh” **Anne:** Mixed, some concerning data. With all that is going on now and over the past three years, it is understandable to lose some ground. We are doing good in many areas and kids are rallying in the schools to do well. Recommendations work for social development and building skills and increasing protective factors. It is important to celebrate the collaboration that has taken place and continue to build collaboration ground. **Carla:** Risk factors go down when we come together in collaboration, and we are ready to build the energy and engage again. **Marnie:** It is good to report as an opportunity to work together, be aware, share leadership and responsibility for the kids. We need to be truthful, honest about the data and empower the community to come together.
- **Silvia:** using previous data and getting together again is exciting, collaborating on the same targets/goals for kids to move forward from here.
- **Carla:** Acknowledge the SD’s involvement and willingness to do the survey during tough times, embracing, leading, and championing the work being done. **Anne:** CTC is one of the only programs to complete three surveys in the province and partner with schools.
- **Cheryl:** A little disappointed in the number of completed assessments, especially those underrepresented as high-risk. **Barb:** 70% completed in 2015 and 66% completed in 2020, which is better than the national average. **Anne:** We did well to get to that level. **Pat:** Proud to be a part of a community so invested in the wellbeing of our youth, celebrate this. **Carla:** Glad to see Darlene with Royal Purple, really inspired by CTC work and community sponsor of Play Boxes (an initiative from previous planning sessions) **Darlene:** Appreciate all the work at SD

Lightning Round Organizational Updates: Remember you only have 2 minutes :)

Darlene Doucette – Royal Purple: President for all of BC Royal Purple. A local sponsor presented a \$500 donation to fill play boxes sometime in March. Some boxes need repair. Hosting Purple Thursday in October to bring awareness to Domestic Violence, donations go to Chiwid Transition House, an average of 120 people use this shelter every year.

Beth Veenkamp – City of Williams Lake: Looking at the housing market crisis, it is fully on our radar, and working on it. Boitano Mall developments are ongoing but not a definite start date yet.

Brianna van de Wijngaard – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Wrapping up the first year of Food Hub and planning for next year. Looking at projects to execute this summer and food projects to work on.

Sheila Boehm – City of Williams Lake: Finished 2nd round of COVID restart grants. Working on events: stampede, parade, dry grad parade (stampede ground tentatively booked for it). Attended, an in-person, joint conference with Cariboo Regional District (CRD).

Shannon Thom – Horton Ventures (d.ba. WorkBC Centre Williams Lake): WorkBC has a new app, found at the Apple store and on Google Play, log in as a guest or create a profile to log in. Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) employment obligations have been re-instated for Income Assistance folks

Silvia Seibert-Dubray – City of Williams Lake: 167 required team support last year, 63% attached and supported. 67% this year offered treatment and housing support. Restorative Justice now has two extra facilitators. There are 11 people signed up to take the next training. Community Policing has RCMP back on board with Darren Dodge. Wellness and Safety Community Prevention looking at upstream prevention plans with Darren Dodge.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA): If you have anything to add to our newsletter, contact [Sherry](#) Working to promote businesses, not a lot of non-profit services on board yet.

Marvene Layte - Northern Interior Communities Association (NICA), Gaming Grants: Upcoming webinars March 3rd, from 10 am -12 pm, March 10th, from 2 pm – 4 pm. AGM on March 17 via Zoom. Planning to visit communities in person in May.

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Looking for volunteers for Digital Literacy training (mostly seniors), once a week for an hour or as available.

Pat Biblow – Thompson Rivers University (TRU): Posting up for part-time science and math tutor. Health Care Assistant, Welding, Electrical programs have started, all are full. The learning commons is used often. We wrapped up reading week, and had 120 girls from SD 27 attend the Girls in Trades program (support from local industry)

Cheryl Lenardon – School District 27 (SD27): Working on capacity building for mental health. Hosted E-day Anxiety (researched based common approach) for educators in K-7 and working 8-12 curriculum. Trained 108 teachers so far. Privileged to have Canadian Mental Health (CMHA), Interior Health (IA), and BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) host Beyond The Blues (BTB) for 65 people. Planning another BTB for admin staff in April. For the three weeks heading into spring, we are hosting a Thrive, Not Just Survive wellness challenge.

Marnie Brenner – City of Williams Lake: Hoping for more support of the stampede parade, and there may be an indoor rodeo happening. Pleased to have completed the UBCM Poverty Reduction funding stream application for this group. Will follow up with the recreation department for PlayBox repairs. Attended first Committee of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation group. It is important to be aware of Indigenous people in communities and in Williams Lake. Building a foundation for respectful and mutually benefiting relationships. Provide sincere land acknowledgment, at all meetings. It is an election year, and it is important to do the work, laying a foundation for creating safe places, not so divided.

Barb Jones – Communities That Care (CTC), Rental Subsidy Assistance: Re-wrapping Payboxes in cold weather is hard to do, will contact Darlene next week to update her. Continuing support for Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for working families.

Bree Odd – Social Planning Council (SPC), BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): Williams Lake Rent Bank is going well, had another assessment come in. Completed BC Rent Bank application for next year's funding and submitted last week. We will have Darren Dodge as a guest speaker next month.

Anne Burrill – Social Planning Council (SPC): Working on COVID Survey data analysis now.

Larry Stranberg – Community Futures (CF): Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:00 pm

Motion: Barb Jones

Carried