

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WILLIAMS LAKE & AREA COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

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

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

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Anne Burrill, Craig Glover, Tammy Levesque-Holyk, Carla Bullinger, Shannon Thom, Michele Bebault, Barb Jones, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Rebecca Egilson, Sherry Yonkman, Krista Harvey, Beth Veenkamp, Darren Dodge (guest speaker), Sheila Boehm, Marnie Brenner,

Regrets: Laurie Walters

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'ixelc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for May 30, 2022

Motion 1 Carla Bullinger
Motion 2 Shannon Thom
Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for April 25, 2022

Motion 1 Shannon Thom
Motion 2 Anne Burrill
Carried

12:00 pm Stop Lightning Round for Guest Speaker

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent – all members shared.

Guest Speaker(s): Darren Dodge S/Sgt., Detachment Commander, Williams Lake RCMP

- Originally from Saskatchewan, he transferred from his seven-year role in Quesnel to his new role here in December 2021
- An acting non-commissioned officer (NCO) in Williams Lake for the last few years
- Working to build comfort in the community
- There have been changes due to the opioid and mental health crisis, with an inordinate amount of time spent with people on mental health, seeing a few people almost daily
- In Quesnel, there was not enough time for officers to dedicate to mental health calls
- Initiated a program where an officer and a psychiatric nurse meet high-risk individuals where they are, proactively, approx. two days/week. Seeing approx. 10-15 “highflyers” regularly to ensure meds are taken and medical care provided when needed.

- Mental health targeted calls decreased when dealing with the same people – less stress
- Not sure police are the ones to call in response to mental health concerns, but they are often the first called
- Society needs to acknowledge the need for increased mental health services.
- There is a challenge with shortages in HR
- Working to have a system in place in Williams Lake to meet people before a crisis
- He was the founder of the situation table in Quesnel after the WL table started.
 - Not here to arrest people but provide a wrap-around services
- Happy to see the food hub, important for those in crisis to connect with local services
- Happy to be in Williams Lake, great encouragement, and involvement in community meetings

Questions, Answers, Comments:

- **Larry:** Nice to see the police force being proactive
- **Sherry:** Thank you! Do you have any guidance for downtown areas about funding and cleaning up needles, stolen, property, and others? **Darren:** They have a clean team in Quesnel, where individuals living in shelters receive pay to clean up the downtown area. Contact Tanya Turner, Director of Planning for the City for more information on it. **Krista:** The harm reduction team, Laurel White, has needle bins placed around the city. CAT or BCG must clean up as the city will not. **Sherry:** This is more of a concern around stolen items and others **Darren:** Does the City clean up? **Krista:** The City will clean anything not dangerous. **Sherry:** I call the RCMP first then clean up myself. **Carla:** CMHA may have a team. **Anne:** Jubilee House may have a team. **Sherry:** CLBC may as well. **Sheila:** Love the idea of a clean team – people in need helping people in need.

*Shannon Thom chaired meeting from this point

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

Bree Odd – Social Planning Council (SPC) & BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): Nothing for SPC. Started Strengthening Families Together program last week with BCSS. Starting Wellness Exchange program on June 7, through PHSA

Craig Glover – Williams Lake and District Credit Union (WLDCU): Been busy with changes in interest rates. Busy with donations to various programs and initiatives. Supporting the Seniors Fair next month.

Anne Burrill – Urban Matters: Transition to Urban Matters doing the same type of work. Providing support to SPC to the end of October to assist with strategic planning. Writing COVID survey report for the end of June and presenting it back to the community. Showing shift in community needs around populations accessing/not accessing services.

Barb Jones – Communities That Care (CTC), B Jones Mediation: CCT event had forty-seven partners attend. Anne shared info from the Community Profile. Started process to identify projects to work collaboratively on. The next meeting is on June 14 at the Cariboo Arts Centre. Will review the summary of the event. Great ideas came from it – play box upkeep, Turning Beauty Inside Out (connect with Krista on this). There will be another large event in the fall, stay tuned.

Brianna van de Wijngaard – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Transitioning to fewer hours over the season, due to farm business. Overseeing projects coming up over the next 6-8 months. Hired Rebecca and another coordinator to continue while my hours are shorter. Looking at recovery pilots with the Farmers Markets & will attend as many as possible for food recovery. An event coming up on June 10 with the local conservation society. Seeking funding opportunities for new coordinators to work on. Building partnerships. **Question, Carla:** Thinking about leftover plants to plant elsewhere, is this included in food hub initiatives? **Answer, Brianna:** It is not, but it is a great idea. Would connect with local organizations to plant. Distribution becomes the hard part, getting donations for where they need to go. **Comment, Carla:** A job for the Food Policy Council

Rebecca Egilson – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Nothing to add. Cariboo Garden Groups may be doing that type of work. **Comment, Brianna:** Maybe First Nations communities working on it as well. **Question, Sheila:** Attended conference in Fort St. John, good workshop on Food Security with the Salvation Army and where to put the food, fridges, freezers, canned goods, and long-term food security. Any initiatives around this right now? **Brianna:** So many food security initiatives to take on, those are areas we are researching and where the greatest need is for our community. Taking on the lower-hanging fruit now. Long-term ideas, shared kitchen, more storage facilities, donated fridges & freezers.

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Provide literacy training one-to-one for adults. Financial and computer literacy programs. There are organizations that assist with filling out forms.

Krista Harvey – BGC Williams Lake: Mountain Biking – beginners Mondays 3-6, intermediate Thursdays 3-6. Need volunteers for this, program-based skill, not age. Summer Camp is open from kindergarten to 12 years. Looking for an affordable location in town for this, Cataline. NOOPA is continuing with themed programs each week. Summer rec program for 13-18 years, Chimney Lake, slip 'n' slide, others. Job posting for students, aged 15-30, through the Canada Student grant program, with one position for students over 19 – links on the website and Facebook. Necessity Nook needs supplies – personal hygiene products, frozen food, and others. We put together forty backpacks every week, which shows high need. Need

volunteers for hiking, biking, music, gardening, and others, see Krista for more info. Ball hockey on Wednesdays. We have a youth care team, assisting low to medium-risk youth. Those with high needs are referred to the situation table.

Michele Bebault – Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Williams Lake Campus:

Convocation was a success, with over sixty students in attendance. Drummed in by a local First Nations group. RCMP in attendance to stand at the stage. Dignitaries from the main (Kamloops) campus were in attendance. All programs are on the go for next year.

Marnie Brenner – City of Williams Lake: Out and about building relationships at the Stampede auction and dinner, and car show. Attended a meeting with Sheila and will be working on inviting community members to a First Nation meeting.

Sheila Boehm: City of Williams Lake: Thank you TRU, convocation, expanding the nursing program, and such. Attended the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) in Fort St. John. Sheila was voted in as first vice president and Marnie as director at large. This is for the whole north including Haida Gwaii. There were discussions on food security and mental health. Discussions re pre-payment and fee for service models for payment for health services. A combination of both. There are nine people applying for the surgeon role. The housing initiative at Boitania is taking place. Dry grad is coming up on June 11.

Beth Veenkamp – City of Williams Lake: Received \$3M from New Spaces Fund BC. Took four years of hard work to receive it. Reached out to all childcare providers. Shout out to SPC for all the work they did in making this happen, specifically Anne for writing the strategy and all the planning involved. The dorms at Columneetza will become a play and childcare center.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA):

Taking applications for window decoration contest. Free to enter with \$300 to the winning business. Ramping up for Art Walk, need more artists. There is \$5000 available to a local artist interested in creating a public art feature – can be a statue, mural, or sculpture, which can withstand 10 years outside. Bringing back the BIA Coffee Connection, starting June 8, a way for businesses and non-profits to network. **Question, Carla:** What is the purpose of Coffee Connection? **Answer, Sherry:** is a way to get together and look for solutions to issues arising in the downtown business sector. **Sheila:** Reach out to the Chamber of Commerce as well.

Tammy Levesque-Holyk – Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC): Attended the Children's Festival recently. Looking forward to networking and sharing info on all the services for Métis. Check out <https://www.mnbc.ca/> There is \$500 per child per month available for childcare, and

licenses are not needed. MNBC provides Métis culture workshops to interested organizations.

Question, Sheila: Are the scholarships still available? **Answer, Tammy:** There are scholarships for shortages of Early Child Educators. Need to have Métis citizenship or are in process of receiving it. **Sheila:** What about the other scholarships? **Tammy:** There is up to \$50,000 for post-secondary education for individuals who self identifies as Métis.

Shannon Thom – Horton Ventures (d.ba. WorkBC Centre Williams Lake): Nothing new, we support underemployed, unemployed individuals in getting into the workforce. Cannot help students, they can access the self-help area computers for resume writing, and cover letters.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:41 pm Carla Bullinger

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