

Social Planning Council of Williams Lake & Area Community Members Meeting Agenda - Draft

Date: June 27, 2022 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

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

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 June 27, 2022

Motion 1 Shannon Thom

Motion 2 Marnie Brenner

Review & Approve Minutes for May 30, 2022

Motion 1 Marnie Brenner

Motion 2 Shannon Thom

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent

Guest Speaker(s):

Anne Burrill, SPC Consultant - Urban Matters: provided Plan H COVID Survey results

- A partnership between the City of Williams Lake and the Social Planning Council
- Funded by Plan H Social impacts response grant
- Almost 400 people (mostly from Williams Lake) completed the survey over six-weeks
- Not as diversified as hoped for, but good age distribution and diverse incomes (many over \$100,000)
- Approx. 1/3 couples, 1/3 without children, and 1/3 single people answered 36 questions
- Results show broad impacts on agencies and community and how to support the community
- Highlights focus on Mental Health & Wellbeing, Economic Impact, Physical Health, & Community Support and Resources
- Mental Health and Wellbeing saw significant impacts
 - The highest impact on the younger population
 - Alcohol and marijuana use increased
- Economic impacts indicated ½ of respondents reduced personal household spending
 - For many housing and food, costs increased, and people still feeling the impact of this
 - Housing was relatively stable but big uptake in rental housing affordability

- Increased demand for food security, 31% indicated food affordability declined
- Physical health highlights indicate it was hard to access health care across
 - Shortage of doctors
- Community Supports and Resources indicated 1/5 of community members didn't know where to find services – online, local doctors, direct-to-service agencies, word of mouth
- Frustration with impacts of services available – shortage of doctors, internet challenges, agency closures, shortened hours
- Many youths (15-24yrs) indicated they did not feel comfortable accessing services online and showed they were not
- Overall social isolation, loss of contact with family/friends, mental health, and financial security were the most challenging to deal with
- How is your mental health now questions showed that ¼ of respondents saw no change, a few people doing a little better, and 25% struggling significantly since the pandemic?
- Key concerns:
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing overall and specifically to the loss of connection
 - Economic – Housing and food affordability
 - Physical Health – interruptions in services available
- Next steps:
 - Release survey results to the community
 - Convening a working group
 - Map out a plan
 - First meeting mid-summer, second meeting early fall

Questions, Answers & Comments:

Silvia: Thank you, the report will be on the city website and SPC at www.wlspc.ca/community-covid-response.html Contact Silvia or Anne if interested in being part of the COVID Recovery Working Group

- **Marnie:** Thank you for all the work you put into this, it creates a picture. Interesting the younger group accessing services online and raising questions about what the group does next, looking at it with a lens of curiosity.
- **Michael:** Is it 43% or 31% of youth not comfortable accessing services online?
Anne: 31%
- **Beth:** This report should be considered an appendix to the Thrive project. The themes fall within the pillars of Thrive and provide weight to show Thrive is working in the right direction. Keeping both reports shows what we need to continue within our community
- **Anne:** The issues of accessing services go hand in hand with the work Carla has done with Navigation training and “every door is the right door”
- **Carla:** It is overarching work endorsed by many agencies and the City

- **Irene:** Would like to be part of the working group. It's a great opportunity to come together and move ideas forward. **Anne:** Irene will be added to the list of contacts. It is a short timeline and not a huge commitment.
- **Beth:** It is one of the first communities to do a COVID survey during and post-pandemic. Outside Interior Health (IH) is really looking at data from this
- **Marnie:** (in chat) Add me to the working group

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

Irene Willsie & Eileen Alberton – Women's Contact Society (WCS): Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) is having an open house two-year-old birthday party in mid-July and mid-August to help people reconnect. There will be a "Power of One" Zoom meeting, contact Eileen if interested at e.alberton@womenscontact.org Good Food Box is still available. Have food coupons for the Farmers Market. Lunch and Learn and Singing group on hold over the summer. Advocacy programs continuing – many directly related to housing and affordability; moving is not solving issues. Helping more people resolve conflicts with landlords. When a house becomes vacant landlords can set the rent to whatever they like.

Michael Moses – Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Board: Nothing to share at this time, will send in SPC membership soon.

Anne Burrill – Urban Matters: Nothing more, nice to see people's faces

Rosanna McGregor – Cariboo Friendship Society (CFS): Happy to hear about Minister Simons. Attended a poverty reduction Zoom meeting last week. Issues about lack of childcare training, and no education are problematic. Continue with Diabetes telehealth group work, applying for funding for the group. Running the Myth Busting Campaign on toxic drugs – overdose not just from IV use, a high number from smoking drugs filled with down and fentanyl. Naloxone kits are still the go-to for overdoses. Consumers are talking to City about smoking in public areas – bus shelters, and other spaces, it needs to change. More info needs to go to the community and what they need to know. Ongoing concern around admissions to Gateway, it is unruly – long waits at ER. Summer break will still see the Aboriginal Headstart program continue.

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Programs not running over the summer months. A new program running through the Union of BC Municipalities – Seniors Support at the Senior's Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays is facilitated by Eva Navrot. A Seniors Emergency Preparedness workshop is scheduled for July 13

Silvia Siebert-Dubray – City of Williams Lake: Community Policing & Minor Hockey will be hosting the Red Nose Program. The Situation Table has assisted 194 vulnerable people to date, 28 since the beginning of 2022 with 20 connected to services – helping

people where they are. Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is reviewing housing for homeless individuals. Working on Red Cross grant for long-term recovery Mental Health and Psychosocial Services – may be more navigation training out west. Restorative Justice is on pause, but still taking cases.

Sheila Boehm: City of Williams Lake: City working on housing – 0% housing now – where development can happen, Boitano and Jubilee House. Resolution to City Council & UBCM on mental health – need more housing for individuals with mental illness and the homeless population. Riverview is closed and there is nothing to replace it, can't send them to Kamloops Need housing with long-term care, not just rehab, all communities are feeling this. Skyrocketing rents and nowhere to intertwine mental health, housing, and homeless. 1st Stampede in three years.

Beth Veenkamp – City of Williams Lake: Supporting Central Interior Rural Division of Family Practice round-up physicians/nurses. Competing with other areas and no permanent doctors to hire. The system has rural communities using locums, we're trying to be more competitive by offering travel expenses and housing. Job opportunity - Health Care Landing Coordinator: 25 hours per week. Provide support, plan outings, and showcase positive local activities for physicians, locums, specialists, etc. who are new to the area. Funding was provided by Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District (CCRHD). The system is in crisis – work was done to increase trades and missed the academics, which needs a localized solution. The Stampede song was re-recorded and is available now.

Marnie Brenner – City of Williams Lake: Housing cheat sheet now available to help with legalizing secondary suites, more accessibility, and providing creative ways to housing. *Personal point of view – it's important to support RCMP relational style, boots on the ground, to shop owners and communities like Saskatoon. The lens of opportunity and curiosity, using what's working.* The chair of Indigenous Relations will have a truck in the parade for National Indigenous Day and a booth featuring indigenous cleaning products. Partner and meet with the chief at Toosey and report back to larger communities – relationship building.

Shannon Thom – Horton Ventures (d.ba. WorkBC Centre Williams Lake): Nothing new, we support employers, underemployed, unemployed individuals, in getting into the workforce. Lots of free services, postings, and training assistance. Shannon will send the list of workshops to Bree, see the list [here](#)

Hayley Guichon – Jordan's Principle, Denisiqi Services Society: Rebecca Rochon, located out of Three Corners Health Services, is Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator. Cynthia has been working on stats for over a year. Started out as First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) employee, housed out of Denisiqi. We can now help everybody, assisted over 130 clients – 68 off reserve, 28 on. Assisted 17 communities, and families

from up north, including northern Alberta. Jordan's Principle helps First Nations peoples on and off reserve, from 0-19 years of age with all kinds of services, and community engagement. Community engagement in the community takes place once a month. Substantiative quality is important in not having to re-ask the traumatic questions. Meeting clients where they are. For more info contact Cynthia, Haley, or Rebecca.
Silvia: Huge thank you for helping my grandson.

Barb Jones – Communities That Care (CTC), B Jones Mediation: Hosted community event in May. Working on presenting the data from the event. Thank you to all who attended it was a collaborative energy-filled day with lots of brainstorming. Networking meeting earlier this month working on projects to move forward. Beauty From the Inside Out is being rebranded and will be more inclusive, many partners stepped up to assist. The playboxes will be revitalized, repaired, and restocked with new free activities. Families can get the code from the City or the rec centre to use the playboxes. CTC network meetings will be paused for the summer, process meetings will continue.

Chris van der Mark – School District #27 (SD27): Return to grad, three different ones: Peter Skene Ogden Secondary (PSO), Skyline, and Lake City Secondary – Williams Lake Campus (LCS-WL), it was long but nice to get together. Good vibes and relearning how to organize it. Recruitment is a challenge; we have robust incentives including engagement and long-term housing. The Day Care project is underway with architects. Irene will be meeting with Beulah to discuss ideas. Working on sale of Poplar Glade. Highlight the District's learning series, robust educational leaders teaching staff. Kevin Lamoureux was the most engaged. Monique Gray Smith will be a speaker in September.

Brianna van de Wijngaard – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Attended two Farmer's Markets to work on a food recovery initiative, collecting \$150 worth of food donations. Food from this went to the Women's Contact Society and Salvation Army. Working on Local Food Infrastructure Fund.

Larry Stranberg – Community Futures Cariboo-Chilcotin (CF): Attended meeting with Minister of Jobs, Ravi, who has lived in rural communities. There were seven questions covered at the meeting, it was a good, and interesting dialogue on Regional District Economic Development. Still busy with business succession planning, 48 clients are ready to sell.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:57 pm **Motion** Chris van der Mark