

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

Date: July 25, 2022 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)
Chair: Larry Stranberg **Minutes:** Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Carla Bullinger, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Sherry Yonkman, Beth Veenkamp, Laurel White (guest speaker), Donna McKenzie (Guest Speaker), Sheila Boehm, Marnie Brenner, Walt Cobb, Eva Navrot, Kyleen Toyne, Hayley Guichon

Regrets: Laurie Walters, Barb Jones, Pat Biblow, Shannon Thom, Tammy Levesque-Holyk

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 July 25, 2022

Motion 1 Carla Bullinger
Motion 2 Beth Veenkamp

Review & Approve Minutes for June 27, 2022

Motion 1 Beth Veenkamp
Motion 2 Sherry Yonkman

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent

Guest Speaker(s):

Laurel White, Harm Reduction Coordinator – Canadian Mental Health Association - Cariboo Chilcotin Branch (CMHA-CCB) Community Action Team Lead. **Donna McKenzie**, outreach nurse - Interior Health (IH).

Guest speaker Laurel:

- Harm Reduction Coordinator and Lead for Community Action Team (CAT)
- Works with lived experience peers to raise awareness in the community
- Harm reduction is about overdose prevention and reduction
 - Providing clean kits – bubble pipes, clean needle tips (decrease spread of infection/disease), naloxone kits

- Purchased blue wagons (outreach bins) to enhance access to clean supplies
- Drug testing for toxic substances before and post use
- Alert shelters and community members of toxic drugs and associated risks
- Provides one-to-one support
- Drug toxicity increased during COVID, and people were unable to get supplies and started making their own with whatever they could find
 - Horse tranquilizer (Xylazine) has been found in local drugs, it is not approved for human consumption and can kill a person
- Increase awareness of harm reduction and drug toxicity by providing
 - Drug toxicity reports, advisories/alerts, symptom info sheets
 - Naloxone training for lived experience peers and service providers
 - [ASK Wellness](#) information
- International Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at Boitania Park, from 10:30 pm – 3:00 pm
 - Local service provider tables, peer speakers, naloxone training, music, open mic
- Important to understand individuals with lived experience are human and have human rights. They deserve to be treated as such and provided opportunities to make informed/better choices. think “I see you, I hear you.”
- Currently working with Esk’etemc to increase awareness in the community

Questions, Answers, Comments:

- **Carla:** Thank you, what age group do you work with? **Laurel:** BGC provides services for ages 5-24, she can provide services for any age group including, those at risk and those already using. Adults are not permitted at BGC when youth are there, only allowed in the front office.
- **Hayley:** Thank you. Working with Esk’etemc now, are you interested in working with other indigenous communities? **Laurel:** Yes, going into the community instead of having them come to me. Hayley and Laurel to connect.
- **Sherry:** How often do you provide naloxone training? **Laurel:** Whenever there is interest, group or individually.
- **Marnie:** Thank you. People don’t understand harm reduction, are you providing info to the City like new behaviours at the Hamilton, its history, and trends seen there? **Laurel:** No one noticed previously as people hid their use due to stigma. The behaviours are not changing it has always been there, just more people now. Being connected to the Hamilton makes it easier to find people when necessary and to provide support in one area. This connection has also increased positive outcomes for individuals and increased check-ins. Open to sharing harm reduction presentations with the City. People need to have an open mind and treat people like people. **Marnie:** Your role is all about relationship building, and sharing knowledge when people are ready to change. **Laurel:** Yes, with the CAT we connect with peers regularly, providing volunteer opportunities and various jobs.
- **Larry:** Good to learn about CAT, who’s on it, what it is. **Laurel:** Laurel is the team lead, Leah Martin is the manager and some peers participate regularly to help peer-to-peer and build awareness on harm reduction.

- **Sheila:** Will you be looking into “Clean Teams” like Quesnel has? Funding for it, increasing peer responsibilities by providing jobs to clean up areas of high use? **Laurel:** Currently working with CAT in Quesnel and looking into it. It is a matter of finding funding.

Guest speaker Donna:

- Public health nurse background started as an outreach nurse in April
- Works with a similar population as Laurel; transients, street youth, sex trade workers, others and family members connected to them.
- Still sorting out the role and providing harm reduction supplies
- Provide mini sharps containers to decrease sharps lying around, not a big uptake now
- Provide various types of tests and information for pregnancy, skin testing, birth control, immunizations, Hep A & B, others
- Assist in accessing services and connecting to nurse providers
- To connect with Donna, call 250.302.5000 ext. 5009 or cell at 250.305.9645. Currently working 8:30 am – 4:30 am, in 100 Mile House on the first Tuesday of each month

Questions, Answers, Comments

- **Carla:** Meeting people where they are
- **Marnie:** Thank you and welcome
- **Sherry:** Who takes care of sharps containers in high-use areas? **Laurel:** They are maintained by Jubilee Place. There are containers all around town, there is an up-to-date map with locations on it.
- **Walt:** There was a sharps container toward the Stampede Grounds behind the Ford dealership, it is no longer there. **Laurel:** Will look into it, and let her know if others are damaged or areas that need one.

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

Bree Odd – Social Planning Council (SPC) & BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): For SPC please provide png or jpeg formats for social media updates, the platforms often don't allow for pdfs. For BCSS facilitating Strengthening Families Together, a six-week program, starting Thursday, October 6 from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Eva Navrot – Partnership between CCPL & the Seniors Activity Centre: Provides seniors advocacy through the Seniors Support Program at the Seniors Activity Centre. Available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9-3. The Seniors Activity Centre is open Mon-Fri, 9-3. Currently working on seniors housing, and financial benefits applications on a computer. Supporting them in navigating seniors housing, and financial benefits applications via computer. Provide some outreach in the community. Provides referrals, and Emergency Social Services information, especially during heat wave cooling centres. Two volunteers help her in this role.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA): Focus on Art Walk from August 12 to September 7. Grand opening August 12 at 11:00-3:00. This year will host Battle of the Brushes on Friday, August 12 starting at noon.

Hayley Guichon – Jordan’s Principle, Denisiqi Services Society: Laurel thank you, lots of great information. Connect with Hayley if you know someone needing support with Jordan’s Principle. Denisiqi will be hosting a celebration on August 15 from 11:00-3:00 at the old TNG site.

Marnie Brenner – City of Williams Lake: Housing is an ongoing concern. Met with First Nation Chief and council group, technical advisory group re Poplar Glade and if plans come together. Looking at an age-friendly study on how seniors are doing with compounded traumas, in light of the stampede traumatic incident. Important to be gentle with each other right now, if someone is acting out, come alongside them to help, maybe they are dealing with a mental illness.

Sheila Boehm: City of Williams Lake: Focus starting in August on opening up for elections. Thank you for sharing info about the cooling centres.

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Non-profits are busy at this time of year. CCPL is open from 10:00-1:00 during the summer. Eva's seniors' support is funded by the Union of BC Municipalities, thank you Beth for writing up the application.

Beth Veenkamp – City of Williams Lake: The cooling media release will come out tomorrow. There will be cooling centres at Cariboo Community Church-from 9:00-4:30, Seniors Centre-during the day, Women’s Contact Society-throughout the day, Cariboo Friendship Society-during the day, Salvation Army- from 9:00-9:45 and 12:00-12:45, Pool- from 6:00-6:00. The City has applied for funding for Emergency Management BC Heat Threat Reports to better action plans and manage through heat waves. More deaths from heat than any other. Good to do home share for senior's feasibility study. Work on the second phase of Glenn Arbour was delayed by a year, so need to be creative in finding local solutions. All non-profits should apply for the Recovery and Resiliency Fund grant through the Vancouver Foundation. Beth is happy to help with grant support, unofficially. Employer Workforce Grants are available to cover up to 80% of staff training costs. It would be good to have their group do a talk at an SPC meeting. Orange banners are going up in August; a new Secwépemc flag is at City hall. **Eva:** happy to hear about the housing study. **Carla:** Note Resiliency grants will be approved randomly. It is important to check in on people up to two weeks after a heat wave, symptoms can show up after two weeks. Thank you, Marnie, for mention of stress and trauma, including those living paycheque to paycheque due to inflation.

Larry Stranberg – Community Futures (CF): Still busy with Laurie doing succession planning, over 50 businesses taking part. Going to 100 Mile House on Wednesday. Inflation makes it tough for businesses they either raise prices, add services or both.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:45 Carla Bullinger