



May 2016

Affordable Housing – Public Safety-Mental Health- Healthier Lifestyles

Housing First Task Team

Special points of interest:

- Housing First
- Opening Doors
- Community Connections
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Annual Public Forum
- Communications
- Monthly Information & Networking Events
- Partnership Development & Funding

Chilliwack Healthier Community
Annual Public Forum
Mental Illness, Substance Use, and Crime: Treatment and Prevention
Best practices and what this means for Chilliwack
Chilliwack Healthier Community is a network of 42 local partners focused on affordable/accessible housing, mental health, public safety and healthy lifestyles. Partners include government, community agencies, law enforcement and business.

May 26, 2016
Registration 6:30 pm
Presentation 7:00 pm
Rotary Hall, Chilliwack Cultural Centre
This event is free, refreshments will be provided.

Please join us as we hear about, and discuss, the links between public health and public safety with Dr. Julian Somers. Dr. Somers is the lead for the "At Home" study in Vancouver, a research demonstration project on mental health and homelessness which investigated the effectiveness of the "HOUSING FIRST" approach, where people are provided with a place to live and then offered recovery-oriented services and supports that best meet their individual needs.

Dr. Somers will describe the results of the At Home study, and will present additional research connecting public safety with mental health.




A **Landlord Strategy** is being developed to reduce barriers for renters. The creation of a housing registry, programs to support landlords, and tenant training is planned and will require startup and ongoing funding. Potential funders will be approached in the coming months.

Various **housing proposals** are being discussed to address priorities identified in Chilliwack's Homelessness Action Plan, including:

- Affordable rental housing for families (Ruth & Naomi's);
- Low Barrier Supported Transitional Housing based (Salvation Army & PCRS); and
- Multi-partner service hub/mixed youth housing project (Chilliwack Community Services and others)

All projects require capital funding, and in some cases, operational funding from senior levels of government.

A recent proposal call from BC Housing for Affordable Rental Housing has been issued, (for capital funding only) and ongoing grants for CMHC seed funding (for project development) are being considered, in addition to multi-agency partnerships

Increased **Outreach coordination** – amongst agencies and increased outreach has been identified essential for a Housing First strategy to be successful. Fraser Health Mental Health is leading the development of a reduced version of a

case management team, with the hiring of a new full time nurse that will coordinate a team of existing outreach workers from Salvation Army, PCRS, Fraser Health, RCMP, and the Ministry of Social Development. While this is not a full version of an ICM team, it will provide greater coordination of existing supports in the community

Communications – having recently completed a 3 part newspaper article series on homelessness and Housing First, this committee is currently exploring opportunities to engage students through UFV in a new initiative to raise awareness and encourage community dialogue on effective ways of addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing.

Homeless Action Plan – extensive input and review of the City's Homeless Action Plan has been provided, to ensure all housing and support needs are accurately reflected and actions are achievable.



CHILLIWACK HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

Establishing a Comprehensive Community Response System that Helps People Obtain and Retain Safe, Affordable, Appropriate Housing





Opening Doors Task Team

Historical Impact Workshops – 4 half day workshops are being hosted and organized by Xyolhemeylh (Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society) and Sto:lo Service Agency to build understanding of the historical impacts on First Nations as a first step in developing better relationships between aboriginal and non-aboriginal agencies and communities.

Community Connections Task Team

Info Chilliwack Update – CHC is partnering with the City (IT Department) and the Chilliwack Social Research and Planning Council to improve the InfoChilliwack.ca website, to increase access to information on available services for the public and service providers. The new website will feature drop down menus, improved search capabilities, and will be mobile friendly. It is expected to be complete in Summer 2016 with an Official Launch planned for Fall 2016.

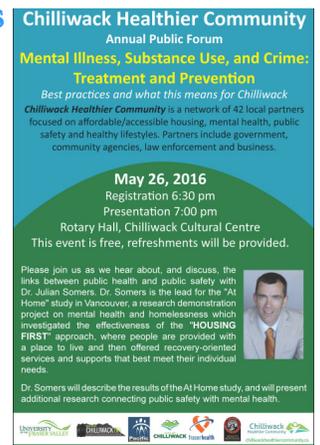
Mental Health & Addictions Task Team

The development of a mental health guide, and a pilot project for mental health in the workplace is currently being explored. A funding request was recently made to BC Healthy Communities but was unsuccessful. The group continues to seek funding to support this.

Measurement & Monitoring: Forums

CHC is holding two public forums this year:

1. May 26th at 7pm at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, guest speaker Dr. Julian Somers, a lead researcher from SFU, who has worked extensively in Housing First and the connections between Public Safety, Mental Health & Housing will speak on the results of the At Home study in Vancouver and other research connecting public safety with mental health.
2. May 24th at 8:30 am at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre, this event will feature a CHC Year in Review presentation highlighting the work and progress of CHC in implementing its strategic plan, offering an opportunity for service providers and interested community members to access and provide information on upcoming programs and events, and provide feedback on CHC initiatives.



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Communications and Promotions

Fraser Health recently provided a \$5,000 grant to CHC to produce video clips to promote CHC partnerships and the effect CHC is having on building a healthier community. A brochure describing CHC is being finalized, and the new CHC website, www.chilliwackhealthiercommunity.ca is being continually updated with information on CHC events and initiatives. A partner login enables access to all committee meeting agendas, minutes, and plans. A weekly list of partner initiatives and events is circulated via email to all who wish to subscribe.

Monthly Information & Networking Events

A monthly information and networking event takes place at the Neighbourhood Learning Centre from 8:30 – 10:00 am. Each event features a themed presentation and speaker panel, information tables, and refreshments, and regularly draws 30-50 attendees. The purpose of these events is to raise awareness about programs and services in the community and serves as a first step to inter agency collaboration and coordination, a key goal in the CHC Strategic Action Plan. A calendar has been developed to theme monthly events and is online at www.chilliwackhealthiercommunity.ca.

Partnership Development & Funding

This month the partnership welcomed 2 new members: Correctional Service Canada and the Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy Association. Both partners will present at the November Information and Networking Breakfast, which will be themed "Public Safety", to highlight Restorative Justice Week (November 20—27).