

## ACYC Meeting Minutes

### *Caring for Ourselves*

June 17, 2021 @ 1pm-3pm

Via Microsoft Teams

**Attendance:** Janice Germaine (chair), Matthew Brown, Corinna Landsberger, Donna Simon, Jennifer Watson, Abigail Kaptingei, Kim Riddell, Lauren Pegg, Maria (Youth Unlimited), Reg Unrau, Sharon DeLalla, Simone Maassen, Tamara Harder, Eric Van Egmond, Whisper, Banger, Sharon Crowley

<b>Acknowledgement of unceded territory</b>	Janice	<b>Acknowledgement of unceded territory</b> (turn mics off for speaker)
<b>Welcome / Introductions</b>	Janice	<b>New Members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamara Harder – Coordinator for Children and Youth Respite Services at Communitas Supportive Care Society</li> <li>• Matthew Brown – Community Health Specialist for the Municipality of Abbotsford</li> <li>• Abigail Kaptingei – Community Health Specialist with the Healthy Living Program in Abbotsford. Works with the ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) portfolio.</li> <li>• Robbyn Bennett – Director of Counselling and Student Wellness at UFV</li> </ul>
<b>Group Dialogue</b>	Eric	<p><b>Group Discussion:</b> Open space for acknowledgement, sharing, reflection and action in response to the discovery and indignity of the unmarked graves of Indigenous children and the recent murder of the Muslim family due to the unthinkable hate for people of the Muslim faith.</p> <p><i>Resources Shared:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video (How some children at the Kamloops residential school died): <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fP90HOp08Mc">www.youtube.com/watch?v=fP90HOp08Mc</a></li> <li>• Poem (The Power of Tension and Hope): <a href="http://www.luudisk.com/2021/06/06/the-power-of-tension-and-hope/">www.luudisk.com/2021/06/06/the-power-of-tension-and-hope/</a></li> <li>• Author: Doreen Manual</li> </ul> <p><i>What is our responsibility?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak up and speak out, especially every time racism or an ignorant comment is made. Every Canadian should speak up every single time and kindly address it.</li> <li>• As agencies we all need to promote, endorse and implement strategies around reconciliation. Make sure that when we acknowledge the lands that we're on is not done out of obligation or tradition, but because we have a genuine acknowledgement of the need for reconciliation.</li> <li>• When we vote for our politicians, we need to make sure that their agendas clearly address policies around racism and reconciliation.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In all of our circles, especially youth as they're the future, as Canadians we have an obligation to talk to our children and create spaces for them to talk about and process this part of our history. We need an understanding that when children are removed from a community, the community implodes; the time to recover from generational trauma is lengthy and we need to "nurture our own gardens" when working with the youth in our circles.</li> <li>• Ongoing education is important and supporting the different Indigenous organizations and residential schools societies. We must be cognisant of what is being said in the federal government and what is being done.</li> </ul> <p><i>Other resources for our own development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraser Health still offers the Indigenous Cultural Competency – excellent program</li> <li>• UBC and EDX provides free training</li> <li>• UVF provides training and resources</li> <li>• University of Alberta – Indigenous Canada – a rich course on history and today</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.orangeshirtday.org">www.orangeshirtday.org</a> has connections to other materials</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Indigenous Peoples' Day: Many Voices, Many Nations Virtual Event</a> (hosted by Archway Community Services)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agency Updates</b></p>	<p>All</p>	<p><b>Bikers Against Child Abuse</b> (Whisper and Banger)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconciliation is never not going to be on our mind. As Covid is starting to relax and phone is ringing more. We're out there 24/7 and thank you for any child referrals that you have.</li> <li>• Found out this week that we're able to move ahead with holding a community party at Mill Lake Park. The city reached out to ask if we could put this on since restrictions are starting to lift so we're excited about that. Will be by the waterpark/swimming pool on Sunday, August 15.</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy Matters</b> (Sharon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winding down for the summer. A new storybook walk will be at McDonald Park to honour a newly written book. Hoping to have it ready by July 3. REACH will also be offering an illumination of the book.</li> </ul> <p><b>Abbotsford Restorative Justice</b> (Kim)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's been a very busy year in the schools program. We've been doing safe relationships program, regular school programs for MS and did a pilot project which gets kids engaged and interested in discussing social justice issues. Students then picked a different area and developed projects that can make change in their communities. Kids presented to different organizations and was very cool to see kids embrace restorative justice.</li> <li>• Still busy with community dialogue and part of the Hey, How Are You dialogue in Abbotsford.</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Smart</b> (Corinna)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This month was focused more on how to make summer better. These talks are happening thought BC right now and are looking at blended</li> </ul>

models for the fall where parents can attend online or in person. We've seen mental health challenges on the rise with kids.

**Fraser Valley Child Development Centre (Lauren)**

- We are as an organization looking forward to planning how services are going to look in a more open world. Are hoping to continue providing a blended services model with online and in-person.
- As families are spending a little more time in the community and away from home, we're seeing an increase in referrals. We're seeing more kids now that we weren't aware of before and a greater demand is seen across communities.

**Archway Community Services (Shairose, Simone, Reg, Sharon)**

- June 21 is the National Indigenous Peoples Day: from 1pm-2pm Archway will be doing an online event.
- **Family Connections:** We're really seeing complex cases and the number of supervised visits is very high. All of our programs are in very high need of counselling, especially for men's supports (coming to the group right now is not enough). We're needing more supports across the board, especially for parents (kids, financial burden, affordable housing).
- **Youth Resource Centre:** Extremely busy. The family and youth who come through the door have very complex needs. We're not best suited to help with their needs, but there are not always other resources available. Our waitlists are very long and are getting longer. Are successfully finishing up the Stepping Stones Program; the virtual service model helped us to serve kids from Mission to Hope that we might not have been able to help otherwise.
- **Abby Dads:** a feeling of helplessness among the staff sometimes as the complexity of cases grows. We're finding places to refer, but Covid stopped some of the m
- Developing a community partnership with UFV. Finding ways to get cultures to come together to eat, grow and learn together helps with reducing hate of different people groups.
- **Foundry:** the youth that are coming in are increasingly complex. Most of the youth coming through the door now are falling more into the moderate-severe category. Two youth came before clinic hours desperate to talk to someone; the need to trauma counselling is very real and we're in a situation where we need to find access to trauma counselling for youth. Five youth were turned away from counselling this week due to the high volume. We're working at adjusting our schedule to have more people on and prevent this from happening. Are also looking at what it's going to look like when we re-open and are looking to keep some kind of virtual component for the few youth who are not able to attend in person. We're anticipating space and capacity pressures once reopened.
- Foundry Works program just hired a vocational specialist and are going to be offering a new youth employment program launching this fall.

**MCFD (Eric)**

- Provincially, even though Indigenous children and youth are over-represented in care, there's been a 33% reduction in the number of Indigenous children and youth in care. For the East Fraser Region the

reduction is 36%. Strategies promote out-of-care options and this is very prevalent in communities that provide services to Indigenous families. It's still a concern that they're overrepresented in a variety of places (often referred to the modern day residential school system) but it's good to see that this trend is on the decline.

- Services to young adults for youth who have aged out of care: this service is provided centrally. A new AYA worker has a caseload of young adults who have aged out of care. This is one of the ministry's strategic initiatives to bring this to another level.
- Emergency measures: for kids who turn 19 and do not have a plan to transition into adulthood, we now have resources to support them through to 2022. Especially during Covid, we're able to support them a little better.
- Anticipating a slow transition to bring more staff back into the office once we're in Phase 3 of the provincial restrictions.

**Monarch House (Jennifer)**

- Continuing to support families in-person and virtually; also seeing an increase in the complexity of cases. Currently not staffed to support the demand but working through that.

**Municipal Community Health Specialist (Matthew)**

- Abigali is going to be focusing strategically on adverse childhood experiences.

**ADAC (Theresa)**

- Every spring we have a transition fair; haven't been able to have that this year and had a virtual fair instead. Had up to 39 attendees and everyone was able to give a speech of what they were able to provide for children. We always have a young presenter who is going through the process of transitioning from child to adult services. Hoping that next year we'll be able to have a face-to-face fair.

**Gambling Supports BC (Donna)**

- Lots of stigma with the gambling name and people tend to disengage, but other supports are offered as well.
- Donna has budget available for teaching (7 sacred teachings and Metis culture); if your program would like to access teaching but does not have much of a budget, please contact Donna and she may be able to help.

*Indigenous teachings shared by Donna (Elder on Xyolhemeylh's advisory council):*

- Language is very important. There are three recognized in the Canadian Constitution: First Nations, Inuit, Metis. All three groups are distinct and different. Either Indigenous, Aboriginal or Native when referring to more than one group.
- The Sacred Teachings workshops help people understand the Indigenous world and ways of being.
- Respectfully listen and know that respectful silence is comfortable.
- Indigenous ways are to think very thoughtfully and then to say it in a few words. It's in their culture and teaching to be asked first.
- There is a social development worker in every band community.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In every Indigenous concept for the rest of our lives, we need to continue to be open, respectfully honest, and learn.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Health (Janice)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largest priority is case and contact management. Still dealing with migrant workers and vulnerable populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Round Table Updates</b>	All	<p><b>Early Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report – will reconvene in September</li> </ul> <p><b>Middle Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a UFV practicum student who is doing a great job. Currently developing a campaign that will include social media; goal is to launch in the fall. The focus is on sleep.</li> </ul> <p><b>Youth Networkers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p><b>ADAC (Abbotsford Diverse Abilities Committee)</b></p> <p><b>Community of Practice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kim Hetherington has sent an invitation that she is reinstating the Community of Practice. If anyone is interested in joining this please contact Cynthia (<a href="mailto:cyc@archway.ca">cyc@archway.ca</a>) and she will pass your contact information to Kim.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Discussion Items....</b>	Janice	<p><b>Review Meeting Time:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preference would be to still offer the meeting virtually to help provide balance.</li> <li>Maybe once a quarter or twice a year in person could be a good balance.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Meeting</b>		TBD: early fall

**\*Calendar invites have been sent out, if you did not receive them, please contact [cyc@archway.ca](mailto:cyc@archway.ca)**  
***\*Minutes will be approved and posted within a week after the meeting***

[www.abbotsfordchildandyouth.ca](http://www.abbotsfordchildandyouth.ca)