



Whitevalley Community Resource Centre

Board Notes

October 18, 2023

White Valley Community Hall

Attending: Wanda Johnson, Julie Pilon, Curt Reimer, Sherry Kineshanko, Nick Hodge, Christine Lishman

Regrets: Kevin Kwast, Rick Fairbairn, Carmen Philips, Larry Thomson, Melissa Yurkowski

1. Whitevalley Agenda

- *Additions to the Agenda* - Christine to speak on behalf of Melissa in the round table updates
- *Business arising from the minutes* – None
- *September 2023 minutes approved MSC* (Curt/Wanda)

2. Financial Report

- Finance Committee updates – as per minutes **MSC(Sherry/Wanda)**
- Office Christmas Closure: Christine has been brainstorming ways to recognize staff and show appreciation for how hard they all work. Our agency does not have the highest wages or benefits, so trying to find other ways to acknowledge them and have more staff retention. One of the ideas she came across was, the Vernon Family Resource Centre closes for two weeks over the Christmas break and the first week is paid by the agency as a “bonus” to employees to spend time with their loved ones and have a break from the high stress jobs they all lead. The WCRC budgets already allow for the wages for those who are scheduled to work the first week of Christmas, so there is no financial barrier to WCRC being able to provide the same to its employees. The contract hours for the counsellors are already being over provided, so no risk of not meeting contractual obligations. Last year during the closure the local RCMP had Christine and Val’s number in case of an emergency and the message was updated to include emergency numbers, as well as, the phone was checked for messages on the three additional days closed. Last year we did not have any emergencies or emergent messages. Clients understand our staff also need to recharge.
 - o Motion to approve the closure of WCRC office during the week of December 25-29 with pay to staff who are scheduled to work. **MSC (Curt/Nick)**

3. Strategic Report

- ED Report -
- Counselling currently sitting at 20, there is approx. a three month wait.

5. Round Table Updates

- **Melissa (Christine):** There has been some shifting in the Administration staff at Charles Bloom Secondary School and Melissa has been moved to Mission Hill Elementary School. Due to the fact there is no exact end date or confirmation she will be returning to CBSS in the near future, she has given notice that she will no longer be able to sit as a Board member. The new principal of CBSS is Josh Gutknecht, he has been the Vice-Principal at the school last year and the beginning of this year. He was also the VP at JW Inglis for several years prior to moving to CBSS. Josh has agreed to take Melissa's place on the Board. He lives in Lumby and is dedicated to our community and the school community, he will be a great asset to the Board.
- **Julie** – Has been pushing for more information on the timeline for the new IH – The mental health building as it keeps getting delayed. She will keep us up-to-date as information is shared with her.

Sherry – Attended UBCM Sept 17-22

- Health Minister, Provincial Health Minister on decriminalization of drugs. Very disappointing they stated all their facts and then didn't stay when communities were then on stage to express concerns. They had no desire to listen to struggles communities are going through.
- Meetings with various ministers.
- I had opportunity to lead the two minister meetings with the minister of Education and the Minister of Mental health to talk about the seriousness of youth mental health in schools and the need to make teaching them the skills to cope with anxiety, stress and life struggles needs to be mandated into the curriculum just like teaching sex ed. Our community youth are struggling and suffered too much loss and attempted suicides because coping is not happening. Life is hard, really hard and we need to help prepare our youth with the tools to ride the waves of highs and lows and reality of disappointment, failure and not always having things come easy. The ones really struggling do not go to counsellors as they don't want anyone to know. They suffer in silence. We need to reach them. All kids.
- Strategic planning session or Council is Oct 24/25, evening community session on 24th.
- The road out to field at Monashee Family Park is planning for future Pole Barn. Planning and doing things as feasible
- **Nick** – Brought forth information on the Men's Shed and wants to know if Whitevalley can support finding funding to bring it to Lumby. Christine will look into it and bring it to the next meeting.
- **Curt** – Valley First is the main sponsor for Winter Carnival so busy already preparing for that.

Meeting adjourned – 5:05 PM

**Next meeting
November 8, 2023**

Signature

Date