

February 2024

- Executive Director Report

Training:

- Jen and Marena – Wills and Estates clinic for Seniors (Nexus – Better at homes facilitator)
- Gail – Intergenerational Curriculum Development: Explore best practices, tools, and techniques to create meaningful and impactful interactions between youth and seniors. You will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities to create a curriculum or your own program
- Seniors staff have been taking Food Safe online

Funding/Contracts

- United Way TAPS application opened, there was an increase in the yearly funding of approx. \$10,000.
- United Way opened up some Better at Homes funding for Transportation and Social Meals, as well as, a new Community Connector funding. We worked with Nexus and the Cherryville Food Bank/Resource Centre to determine how we can split the available funds between our organizations. We have applied for additional funding for volunteer drivers and then a once a month food preparation day where seniors can come help make frozen meals for themselves and for those shut in seniors who could benefit from a healthy meal choice. More details will be shared once funding is confirmed. The other portion we have applied for is the Community Connector position. There is funding for one fulltime person in the Vernon Health boundary, United Way has agreed because Vernon, Lumby and Cherryville are their own communities that the funding for the position can be split between our three agencies. This person helps connect seniors to services to enable them to age in their homes as long as possible. They will have a close relationship with service providers in the area to ensure any gaps in service are filled. Essentially this position is what Jenny P does already, so this additional funding will help diversify the funds for her position.
- Michele and Wendy are working on funding applications for Community Pride, Youth groups and Connect Parent.

Seniors

- We are still struggling to find volunteer drivers to get seniors to medical appointments in Vernon a challenge, please feel free to share our need with anyone you might think could help. We do also provide a reimbursement for fuel.
- The Cook and Cooks Helper for Wednesday and Friday's has given their notice, their home business has taken off and they feel they can no longer dedicate the time to cooking. We have posted the position and have interviewed, the new hire will be starting Monday to cross train.
- It's a very busy department and it never ceases to amaze me what all they do. They truly go above and beyond and way beyond on the scope of their job description. The seniors in the Lumby are truly lucky to have these amazing ladies supporting them.

Counselling:

- The vacancy for the Interior Health Community Support and Counselling position has finally been filled. It took a substantial amount of time to find qualified people to interview, in the end we had two people apply and both interviews went well. After reviewing the budget and the carryover funding available we have hired both counsellors. The two people hired (Monica Martin & Tonya Ciccone) have worked for

Whitevalley before and are familiar with our agency and processes, therefore training time will be reduced. The waitlist prior to new counselling staff was 52, with clients being assigned we are down to 27. This will also go down as the new counsellors settle in more should be able to be assigned as well.

- We have secured a Human Services Practicum student starting in April and a Masters Counselling Practicum in June.

Programs:

School Based Outreach:

- Charles Bloom is a very busy school for the SBO's, there are a lot of students who need support; Tina and Amy have been amazing at meeting the needs and also supporting the school during a recent Hold and Secure.
- JW Inglis caseload has been managed substantially better this year than last year, the new Administration staff are working with our SBO's to ensure only those students who truly need their support are assigned, this has made the caseloads more manageable.

Lumby School's Out

- The program does have some kids who are higher need attending, it has been a tricky balance of supporting the students and having them succeed at the program and recognizing when program is not currently the right space for them, all the while also ensuring our Licensing regulations are being followed with all children being in a safe positive environment. Payton has been very good at working with the parents and staff to help these kiddos.

Cherryville Kids Zone

- Nothing report, program is running well.

0-6 Parent and Tot Groups

- Program continues to be a busy place, always lots going on. They continue to offer throughout the year cooking programs where parents/caregivers can learn new recipes to help in the never-ending struggle of what to make for dinner! Show them healthy options which are budget friendly.

Miscellaneous

- Continue to look for future space for the Senior's programming and temporary location for the School's Out program where they would not be required to set up and take down everyday.
- Volunteer Income Tax program sign up started, this year we have three volunteers, Beth, Marilyn and Kim has joined us. Michele worked to apply for funding through the Volunteer Income tax program to help pay for the administrative costs and the materials needed to run the program and was successful.
- Christine is trying to prioritize reviewing the Policies and will be reaching out to the Personnel and Policy committee for review of those policies which need to be updated.
- Christine has been in discussion with Charles Bloom on how to support parents in our community on education for trends they are seeing in the schools. More information will be shared when available.
- Jenny P attended the open house for the Men's Shed, she said it was very well attended they had many who were interested in joining from a variety of age groups and even some potential people who might be willing to help with some funding. Those people who have signed up have been busy sharing the information on the club and WCRC has supported them by printing the brochures they have been handing out.