**Table of Partners Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 20th @ 9:30 am**

ACRD, 3008 5th Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

**Attendees:** Penny Cote (Chairperson), Marcie DeWitt, Margaret Morrison, Esther Pace, Willa Thorpe, Dan Schubart, Patty Edwards, Anna Lewis, Josie Osborne, Marie Duperreault, Susan Fox, Jane Osborne, Mark Lacroix (guest)

**Regrets:** Wes Hewitt, Laurie Bird, Sandra Tate

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

The Chairperson acknowledged we are on the territories of the Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nations.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

The Agenda for March 20th, 2019 was approved.

The Meeting Minutes of February 20th, 2019 were approved.

1. **OVERDOSE RESPONSE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM – MARK LACROIX**

Port Alberni was one of 18 initial teams to receive one-time funding from the province of up to $100,000 to help support communities identified as having the most urgent need while battling the opioid crisis. The Port Alberni Community Action Team is a community-led initiative, and includes community members, people with lived experience and representatives from community organizations, Indigenous organizations, health authorities, local government, and business. Since 2012 there has been a steady increase in illicit drug overdose deaths. Fentanyl is being detected in with many other drugs such as cocaine, ethyl alcohol, methamphetamine and heroin. The medical director, at the fall forum in 2018, reported 23 overdose fatalities in the Alberni Valley since 2016, the male to female ratio is 4:1, 90% occurred in private residences and 87% detected Fentanyl. CAT priorities are to increase overdose prevention services, increase opportunities for meaningful peer employment and decrease stigma and address barriers in accessing services for people who use drugs by hosting a series of community forums/town hall meetings that will focus on addressing stigma, discrimination and human rights. The CAT views stigma associated to substance use as a major factor for people choosing to use substances alone, yet using substances alone is the most common reason for overdose deaths in the Alberni Valley. The CAT has been actively engaged with the public through a series of on-line articles and newspaper articles with the Alberni Valley News and continues to give presentations to community groups and influencers.

1. **REPORTS**

Coordinator Update - ToP reviewed the monthly reporting spreadsheet. Marcie DeWitt reported on activities that she was involved in since our previous meeting including continuing connections with community partners, preparing for AVICC, Ride Share node and BC Transit study follow-up and outreach planning.

1. **ACHN UPDATES**
2. CHN Evaluation Tool – This document provides a means for Island Health to assess the community changes generated by the CHNs. The priorities and strategic plan of the ACHN are in-sync with the CHN Evaluation Plan. It would be appropriate to link to some of the vital sign stats for the communities that have that available so comparisons can be measured. Jane brought forward how to tie in the information to reflect differences in the First Nation communities, looking at more holistic measures and means of evaluating rather than just linear.
3. 2019 Presentations and Planning – Marcie will follow up with the City of Port Alberni to promote communication opportunities.
4. AVICC – Is being held in Powell River April 12-14. The Health Network will have a booth set up to promote island wide health priorities.
5. June 4th Island Wide CHN meeting – Will be in the Oceanside area. Based on the level of interest, may be able to invite up to 5-6 reps from each health network to meet with the Health Network coordinators and discuss Island issues.
6. **INFORMATION UPDATES**
7. Member Updates

Marie Duperreault – Two new doctors and surgeons are coming to Port Alberni. The sudden passing of another local doctor has left many unattached patients; although other doctors and a nurse practitioner are doing their best to help cover until a replacement can be found. Progress is being made on the helipad, family healing room and emergency expansion.

Susan Fox – There is a new flow chart/graphic that can be shared that shows people who to contact for medical help so as not to overburden the emergency department with issues that can be dealt with elsewhere.

Jane Osborne – a new resource has been hired to help with the North Island. There are three new CRNs (Community Response Networks); West Coast, Port Alberni and Oceanside.

Dan Schubart – Jack Anderson will be presenting “Developing for Resilience” tonight (March 20th) at Char’s Landing. The presentation will focus on innovative building techniques and community planning with an eye to resilience.

Anna Lewis – The community presentation last Monday with Dr. Hasselback and VIU received good attendance. The inventory emissions study draft report has been completed.

Margaret Morrison – specialized service for children & youth have not had funding renewed so they are looking for opportunities to save the funding. Marcie added that she believed the funding was not being eliminated but was being allocated to targeted services in the community rather than preventative.

1. **Meeting Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am. The next meeting of the Table of Partners will be held Wednesday, April 17th, 2019 at 9:30 am.