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**Table of Partners Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022 @ 9:30 am**

ACRD Board Meeting and Zoom Meeting Hybrid

**Participants:** Penny Cote (Chairperson), Marcie DeWitt (Coordinator), Natasha Dumont, Ellen Frood, Edward Johnson, Mollie Law, Alisha Pauling, Curt Smecher, Debra Hamilton,

**Regrets:** Christine Washington

**Guests:** Toni Buston (West Coast Youth Engagement Facilitator), Jordan Higgins (Alberni Valley Youth Engagement Facilitator), Carrie (Westcoast Community Resources Society), Mary Catherine Williams (United Way BC Central & Northern Vancouver Island), Lesley Wright (Literacy Alberni Society), Kyla Hicks (Island Health), Horst Backè (Living Out Visibly and Engaged)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

The Chairperson recognized the meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

A round of introductions was held.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

The Agenda for the November 16th, 2022, meeting was approved.

The Minutes of the October 19, 2022, meeting were approved.

1. **LIVING OUT VISIBLY AND ENGAGED**

Horst Backé attended the ACHN meeting to introduce their half day workshop to Provide LGBTQ2S+ Inclusive and Affirming Services. Power Point is attached

ACHN ToP had a discussion regarding equity training opportunities, the coordinator will follow up and create a plan to host a workshop series in the new year which includes the presented half day workshop, a 90 minute training with Alberni Pride and Anti-racism Training with Literacy Alberni.

1. **ACHN REPORTS**
   1. **Coordinator Update -** Marcie DeWitt reported on activities that she was involved in since our previous meeting, as outlined in the agenda package.

Highlights:

* Planning for CBYF Montreal conference and attendance
* Follow up on West Coast Transportation Working Group
* Coming together Forum
* Planning for in person meetings and events
  1. **ACHN Table of Partners Recruitment**
* Marcie updated 2022 package
* Distributed and encouraging Table members to assist in further distribution
* ACRD appointed Director Cote and Director Siga, Long Beach Area C to the Table of Partners
* The City of Port Alberni has request a regular seat at the Table – which the Table of Partners was in agreement with.

1. **ACHN UPDATES**
   1. **West Coast Transportation**

* Gathering information at this point
* Connections with BC Transit show and interest in maintaining planning but no clear timeline on expansion funding from the Province for increased services.
* Marcie has organized a West Coast Transportation Working Group meeting to convene regional stakeholders to identify current needs, assets and ways forward in light of new information.
  1. **Communities Building Youth Futures**
* Halloween Howl in partnership with Health Canada and 11 local youth service providers. The event saw 45 students and gathered 18 pages of priorities and youth voice which is currently posted in the 8th Ave hallways to better things within the school. Jordan will capture in a one pager.
* Montreal conference was a great experience for the whole team.
* Jordan will move forward in planning Port Alberni Christmas events, care packages and capturing youth voice
* West Coast Coming Together Forum with a youth panel and youth voice was incredibly well received. Youth came together to come up with questions around health, belonging and substance youth to inform the planning during the day, greatly informed data captured at the Forum.
  1. **Membership –** those whose term is up, can let Marcie know if they are wanting to renew. Sally, Mariah, and Anna will not be continuing with the Table of Partners. Deadline will be mid-December prior to Dec 21st meeting.
  2. **Duplication of Services Discussion**

Table of Partners had a discussion around over servicing and lack of collaboration in the region. Brainstormed a way to acknowledge the great work already happening as well as ways forward to center the good work, reduce duplication, and action plan around people needing services.

Table of partners expressed a desire to organize a regional discussion to map, identify priorities and actions to increase collaboration. A strong desire to involve youth voice was brought forward. Marcie will investigate timelines and budget around a forum which would dovetail with the need to renew the ACHN strategic plan.

1. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Natasha – temporary manager for public health education on Vancouver Island, updating documents to guide practice and continued diversity and gender affirming education and engagement with clients.

Kyla – work being done to hire new public health professionals (not just nurses) to work around climate change impacts. Unsure what they will look like or the mandate of the positions but Kyla will ensure they are brought into the groups and updates are shared. Public Health has recently completed their Strategic Planning with a focus on hearing needs from community to guide work. Closing vaccination site but services can be accessed through pharmacies and clinics. Public programs are coming on

Molly – New Childcare Centre coming to Tofino with 78 child care spaces being provided, there will be no interruption to ball field or school grounds which is a best case circumstance for all. All residents have moved into the first phase of affordable housing from the District of Tofino, second phase is coming on line spring – fall providing security in the community. Victims services is still looking for ways to build further safety in court room to ensure that victims and families have some separation from the accused during proceedings.

Penny – UBCM Executive Meetings, will be attending the Health and Social Development Committee as well as the Indigenous Relations Committee. Work plan for the Health and Social Development committee includes community health and wellbeing, rural and remote issues, BC Poverty Reduction and MH strategies, Opioid crisis, hospitals, local government feedback on issues, integrated provincial supports, climate change, child care, and others. We will be sending briefing notes to Penny.

Health Networks to be presenting with a panel to AVICC hopefully.

Alisha – Community health services great things happening with investments in home supports in the area. Ministry has increased funding for an increase in positions to provide and support home supports in the region as well as capital investments for ambulatory assessment rooms. MOU with NTC nurses and virtual care teams ensure support to rural, remote and first nation communities is connected with services already present in community working in partnership rather than duplicating or complicating services.

Ellen – Sage Haven has completed a gender neutral audit on all organizational documents. Working with a group to support the development of a Recovery Centre in the Alberni Valley, waiting on BC Bid to update as Island Health and MLA office have not provided updates. Requiring detox and continued care for individuals. November 25th announcement on Sage Haven housing project, join if you can. Announcement for housing project will be on the first day of the 16 days of Activism, last day is Dec 6th. Celebrating sustainable funding for Sexual Assault Safety program after three years of funding permanent funding will now be provided although the org will need to submit. Dec 6th Sage Haven will have an Open House please stop in to check out the services, chat with staff about the programs and building.

Deb – finalized presentation on youth housing developed by youth identifying pressures and needs. Concerns around youth violence and wanting to center youth experience in belonging to community, to shift away from discourse around gangs and violence. CAI funding continuing in community for Open Network, have been providing funding since 2013 for some great collaborations to address drug poisoning. ADAPS AGM saw a few new directors. Nov 20 -26 is substance use awareness week.

Lesley – Anti racism network work will be the focus for the organization in the new year. Literacy Alberni will be focusing on Active Witnessing and decolonization training for new board, staff, volunteers and then into the community. Literacy Alberni AGM is tomorrow, board is tired and looking for new energy and faces. It has been a tiring two years. Lesley goes on a well-deserved leave until January 3rd, hoping to come back to a decolonized role, rather than ED a team to run the organization. Staff of 11 is now down to 1.75 employees.

Marcie – has been contacted by the Point in Time Count people again. Will not be doing an extended count this year and recognizing that the PiT count is only a limited snapshot, there is more flexibility this year in the definition of who is unhoused and precariously housed.

Carrie –planning for 16 days of activism event, walk on the 25th, social media to raise awareness and connect people to resources. Safe Night Out Program will be brought out to help foster a safer environment for people when out at night in the communities. Carrie will share posters when available.

Mary Catherine – UNBC received a second large donation for the Period Promise program, supplies and dollars will be getting distributed across the region. Program is just being built up so does not yet meet the full need but will be building towards this in the future. UWBC worked with Staples this year to assemble school supplies, arrived very late but will be distributed to school districts and orgs that serve families ASAP now that they have arrived. I Volunteer is being rolled out across the region to help people source volunteers and volunteers to find opportunities. Grants coming up – COVID recovery and building grant, no idea how the grant will be prioritized but it is targeted at organizational resilience. Two regional grants available, one grant targeted to Indigenous communities or organizations and another centered on Child and Youth Mental Health. Grants will be coming out in the Spring.

Curt – Archery program interest is increasing looking to set up more opportunities for youth, only limits are equipment grants and funding. Nuu Chah Nulth Warriors will be expanding again at the end of the month, also looking to expand to Metis youth in the next year.

1. **MEETING ADJORNED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

The next meeting of the Table of Partners will be held Wednesday, January 18th 2023. The Table of Partners will have email based decisions in lieu of the December meeting.