



Safe Schools Community Network Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022
9:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Board of Education	Trustee Tiede
City of Kelowna	Colleen Cornick, Ryan Donn
COTA	Lori Dawson-Bedard
COPAC	Deannie Zahara
District Administration	Al Lalonde, Sherri McKinnon, Rick Taylor, David Johnston, Jared Birkeland,
Kelowna Fire Department	Kyle Jacobsen
RCMP	Mike Kube, George Minshull,

Welcome:

Sherri welcomed everyone to the Safe Schools Community Meeting and acknowledged that this meeting was being held on the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People. Introductions Proceeded.

Meeting Intentions:

- Update Report Regarding the City of Kelowna Community Safety Plan
- Partner Group Updates

City of Kelowna Safety Plan Presentation by: Colleen Cornock:

Colleen thanked everyone for being at the meeting and shared the following update regarding the Kelowna Community Safety Plan (CSP):

- The City, along with a cross-section of leaders from within and outside government and the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention partnered to create a Community Safety Plan (CSP) for our community
- The CSP aims to build a more comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to the complex issues that impact safety.
- Five-year action plan aimed to interrupt the pathways toward criminality and create a community where everyone is safe, feels safe, knows they belong, and has access to the services and opportunities that Kelowna has to offer
- Plan seeks to ensure vulnerable individuals, families & communities are identified earlier, and to provide early intervention and upstream prevention

Involved a Steering Community formed of:

- SD 23
- RCMP
- Interior Health
- First Nations
- Health Authorities
- Ministry of Children & Family Development
- Poverty Reduction
- City of Kelowna having two divisions:
 - Community Safety
 - Actual Living and Cultural Division)

Initial steps of the Plan involved a community safety assessment along with various approaches for public engagement. Participants from 21 agencies and organizations, and a total of 775 participants through the public validation survey took part.

Over-all themes that emerged:

- Crime Prevention & Intervention
- Domestic Violence & Partner Violence
- Housing & homelessness
- Mental health
- Poverty & income
- Public transportation
- Racism & discrimination
- Roads
- Roll of police
- Safety
- Specific populations
- Substance abuse
- Wildfires

Three Scopes:

- Scope 1 – will be featured within Kelowna's Community Safety Plan.
- Scope 2 –supported by the Plan but actioned by others recognizing that it does not quite meet the mandate but is in line with safety, sense of safety & community safety
- Scope 3 –areas that are out of scope for the CSP, however will capture it within the Plan as a role from the community & work with those better suited to address the issues.

The 13 themes were put into Scopes 1 through 3. Seven priority themes emerged for Scope 1 of the plan:

- Crime Prevention & Intervention
- Domestic violence & intimate partner violence
- Housing / homelessness
- Mental health
- Racism / discrimination
- Safety
- Substance abuse

Colleen thank the Safety Committee for actionable item recommendations as they pertain to children and youth. Action items for which the SD had input:

- Support and expand affordable and accessible prevention strategies for youth including recreation, peer-led programming, and job opportunities.
- Expand affordable and accessible skills-based, extra-curricular activities for youth who are unable to manage a full day of school and during out of school hours/times in the year (winter, spring, summer).
- Build on Journey Home's (Away Home Kelowna's Upstream Program) work to identify and connect at-risk youth to integrated, wrap-around supports and services.
- Enhance collaborative community partnerships to wrap around youth impacted by domestic violence and intimate partner violence

Plan goes before City Council for final endorsement on March 7

Al Lalonde-Assistant Superintendent:

Thanked Colleen and highlighted the current success of the piloted Upstream Program at KLO and Springvalley Middle. Spoke to the results of MDI and Health Surveys which have indicated that extra-curricular activities are down for a lot of kids that potentially are not involved in sports.

Sherri McKinnon-District Principal Learning Support Services:

Thanked Colleen and expressed gratitude to the committee for the feedback they provided at the last meeting. She acknowledged how nice it is to see it incorporated and part of the action plan.

Al Lalonde-Assistant Superintendent

Appreciated that the City of Kelowna is trying to be pro-active in their approach and acknowledged how our Community Youth Officers are trying to do the same thing. Appreciation for a prevention focus was also expressed.

Sherri McKinnon-District Principal Learning Support Services:

Added appreciation for the collaborative effort to bring community partners together in a wrap-around framework model. That is how we get to draw from each other, be creative, and innovative. .

Colleen Cornock-COK:

Thanked Sherri & Al for their ongoing commitment and encouraged the group to access the link to the March 7 City meeting. and we would encourage you to listen in and hear the discussion that happens at that time as well.

Partner Updates:

RCMP-George Minshull: Community Youth Safety Officers (CYSOs) are still working through rotating schedules due to staff shortage. George is currently the only officer supporting schools this week. For the past month CYSOs have not able to provide presentations in school. Mostly just reacting to emergency type situations and priorities within the schools.

School Administration-David Johnson & Jared Birkeland: Continuing to manage staff shortages. Ensuring updated safety protocols and communicable disease program is in place.

Board of Education -Trustee Tiede: Shared appreciation to all staff for the work they are doing. Noted issues of ice on playgrounds and caution tapes that are up around playgrounds. Glenmore Elementary has their annual skating rink issue. OPS team has done an excellent job with snow removal and mitigating all the dangers that can happen during drop offs and pickups.

COPAC – Deannie Zahara: Echoed Trustee Tiede's sentiments and thanked staff and admin for all the work they are doing. COPAC is continuing to organize parent education opportunities. Feb 15th presentation from Marilyn Green- *Resiliency and Mental health for Our Children and Ourselves*

COTA – Lori Dawson-Bedard: Covid is at the forefront of most teachers' minds. Receiving a tremendous number of calls about illness and filing work safe claims. Lots of questions about the arrival & distribution of the rapid antigen tests that staff are supposed to be receiving. Recently received shipment of donated KN95 masks from Vitacore and are in the process of distributing masks to COTA members right now.

City of Kelowna (COK) – Ryan Donn: Ryan expressed appreciation to Sherri and Al for their participation on the safety plan team. The hope of the plan was to have a very broad look at safety. Having Sherri and Al there, plus others from IH, was a key driver to bringing groups together. Loved the comments that Al made about the programming gaps and the opportunities that municipalities can provide. Transition of the youth safety officers aligns with staffing issues that are occurring everywhere. Witnessing staff shortages at the theatre, at schools, and at the City as well. COK approved the transportation master plan. There is a dramatic increase for sidewalk funding over the next 20 years. Will eventually see an increase in active transportation routes for cycling safety and much more sidewalk investment that we have historically done. Ryan acknowledged SD23 is doing a lot of public awareness education on issues that were brought up in the safety plan.

Fire Department- Kyle Jacobsen : Just finished the fire safety house. Got through the K – gr 3's and it was impressive. Had over 4200 students and over 350 adults & staff participating. Going to try to reintroduce the program for gr 5's as well as get into the high school cooking classes and shop classes to talk about fire safety. Getting creative in utilizing Zoom for lesson delivery.

Assistant Superintendent-Al Lalonde: Erase bullying initiative is still going. Lots of the programming going to online. Seeing an increased usage of the Anonymous Reporting Tool for students. Students can share concerns anonymously on the website. Al or Sherri receive a copy of the report to share with schools for follow up. Helpful for kids who do not want to talk directly to an adult to express their concerns.

District Principal Learning Support Services-Sherri McKinnon: District was awarded funding from Ministry of Education GRIP Grant. Thanks to the application from Nathan Elliott, from Central

Programs and Services and Sherri. Goal is to avoid one off presentations, and instead provide a series of learning to engage the youth in going deeper in their learning and understanding about gang life. Have partnered with Children of the Street Society, Provincial Erase team, and CFSEUBC, who lead and oversee the provincial exiting and supports for people wanting to exit gang life. Series will run from Feb to May. Topics: Why gang life? Why do people and youth enter gangs?; What does gang recruitment look like?; Girls, Gangs and Exploitation. An ex- gang member will be personally speaking to them about his experience: how he was recruited; how he was able to exit and turn his life around; and how he is has become a contributing member of society. A parent education night is also planned.

Superintendent-Kevin Kardaal: Kevin acknowledged the name change of the group . Networking and support captures the work of this committee and its purpose. Pleased COTA has been able to deliver N95 masks to teachers who want them. Kevin has been in contact with the Deputy Minister, daily, to figure out the location and arrival of the Rapid Tests. They will be distributed to each employer, and recent notification indicates there will be 5 per student. Will need to figure out how to distribute them out to parents for elementary kids and students at the secondary level. 90% of staff have confirmed they are fully vaccinated. There have been no functional closures due to the support of all itinerant teachers in schools, district itinerant staff, and district principals. 500 staff were away on Monday, that's a record. Now down into the 300's again. We have not had to have a functional closure but not without significant effort and rearranging how we deliver services and having to cancel some services or supports on a temporary basis. Thrilled that the City has a safety plan and the efforts to be proactive. SD23 continues to engage with Foundry which is pro-active, and our youth officers are definitely pro-active, but when there is only one of them it limits the time in the day to be proactive due to priority response needs. Still engaged as a district in our situation tables like the COaST and the HUB. Kevin thank everybody for their commitment to safety, our community, and the district.

There were no further Questions

Sherri expressed honour and gratitude to be networking with a committed group of people committed to the safety of our youth, our district and our staff and concluded the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: May 4, 2022