



Safe Schools Community Network Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022
9:00 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Board of Education	Trustee Baxter
City of Kelowna	Ryan Donn
COTA	Lori Dawson-Bedard
COPAC	Deannie Zahara
CUPE	Meran Couzens
District Administration	Kevin Kaardal, Al Lalonde, Sherri Roche, Rick Taylor, David Johnston, Troy White, Jared Birkeland
Kelowna Fire Department	Kyle Jacobsen
RCMP	Cpl. Mike Kube, Const. George Minshull, Const. Robyn Boffy, Const. Sherri Lund
District of Lake Country	Penny Gambell
Traffic Safety	Dan Glasscock
Guests	Elizabeth Fry (EFry) - Pauline Kelly-Brandes & Samantha Druin
Regrets	Terry Beaudry

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.

Sherri acknowledged her recent name change from McKinnon to her new marital name Roche.

MEETING INTENTIONS

- Increase awareness of the emerging trends regarding sexual assault disclosures amongst youth
- Gain an enhanced understanding of the services and supports provided by Elizabeth Fry Society and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

PRESENTATION: Sexual Assault Protocol & Elizabeth Fry/CAC Services

Sherri Roche – District Principal:

- Middle and Secondary Counsellors are noting an increase in volume of sexual assault disclosures. EFry has confirmed similar increase and notes an uptake in the severity of complaints
- SD23, RCMP & EFry currently reviewing and updating Sexual Assault Protocol
- EFry is leading a training session for counsellors in May re: How to Take a Disclosure; How to Support a Survivor; How to access Efry Services
- Training session with Efry in the Fall for Admin re: When to report to MCFD vs RCMP; How to Support a Survivor; Efry Services and Programs
- 2022-2023 prevention programming for students being collaboratively developed by Efry and SEL Department
- Concerned students met with Sexual Health Educators to share ideas for enhancing Sexual Education Curriculum Content/Delivery

Al Lalonde – Asst Superintendent:

- Identified that in 2017/2018, SD23 first signed sexual assault protocol - the only SD jurisdiction in BC who had it. SD23 were the leaders on this.
- Key question: What is the best way to not have victims need to repeat their story several times to different people?
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Elizabeth Fry (EFry – Lead Victim Services)-Samantha Druin:

- Biggest goal is to help survivors know there are a lot of options.
- Whole purpose of EFry is to empower survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence and child abuse and neglect. Help survivors to come forward and gain adequate information to make an informed decision on what to do next. Wrap around support provided every step of the way.
- First let the survivor share what they want. It is not our job to get the whole story. If they do start to disclose, thank them and explain the next steps they will have to take to tell more of the story.
- Sam's job is to help students feel safe in telling their story to the appropriate people with the aim of reducing the number of times it needs to be shared
- It is the RCMP's job to investigate further if situation warrants

Child Advocacy Center (CAC)-partners since 2019:

- When crime has been reported to the RCMP or Ministry the goal is that those reports wind up at CAC
- Response is strategic. Specific decisions made re: who meets with who at what point. Plain clothes officers meet with survivor. Child and youth focused. Environment is colourful and comfortable.

- When statement is provided to RCMP others are in monitor rooms, so families do not have to go to detachment, then hospital, then CAC. It all happens at once and then it is shared to the appropriate people.
- Do not take walk-ins-referral via 911/RCMP
- Medical Treatment available on site

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS:

Paulin- Elizabeth Fry (Efy):

- CAC is mostly connected to RCMP.
- EFry provides support to survivor whether they want to report or not.
- Mandate at EFry is about community education and awareness.
- Sam is spending lot of time in schools with students and staff. As that increases we are looking to expand Sam's roll – but we only have partial funding. We are looking for input on how to expand our resources.

Penny Gambell – Lake Country Councillor:

- Wondering how to access these resources in Lake Country
- Need plan in place in schools that starts early and goes on thru. Important to inform young people, but at same time it is important to explain to kids that there are negative things that can happen to them. Help them protect themselves from perpetrators. and if

Al Lalonde – Asst Superintendent:

- Just revamped K-3 Kids in the Know Program. Optional resource to meet curriculum
- Relationship based conversations – lessons in every school. Sex Ed questions coming from the kids to our specialized Sex Ed teachers.
- Quite a bit of prevention.
- Want to make sure we are doing the right thing when someone comes forward.
- Need to support both the victim and the accused. Create safe conditions at the schools. Is victim going to see the perpetrator in the school etc.
- District policy and protocol to make sure we are supporting and making connections with right people.

Trustee Baxter – Trustee:

- Regarding team at district level, some years ago we decided to put this back to classroom teachers. Quickly found out that will not work. Specialized sexual education teaching team at district level is so well trained and deal with it all the time.
- School district will probably never cut that team again as far too important.

Kevin Kaardal – Superintendent:

- Social media has been unfavourable. Posts and inaccurate info in press. Small groups have been protesting.
- Goal is to support the kids and teach how they can have a voice that will not necessarily get them in trouble for false accusations, language etc.

Sherri Roche – District Principal:

- Enhancing our relationship with EFRY is key
- We want to be as preventative as possible and make it educational.

Deannie Zahara - COPAC:

- Commended the district on policy and protocol work
- District in Kamloops has used our district as reference for this amazing program. Kudos everyone.
- Asked for clarification re: Policy number and whether protocol could be shared with broader public. Response from AI-Policy is 453 and regulation is 453 R. Protocol is currently being reviewed by RCMP

RCMP -Mike Kube

- When RCMP involved with sex investigations they start by believing. Disclosure might be made on a night shift. Challenged by the rule of presumption of innocence of accused. Causes friction with victim/family/schools because they want immediate action.
- We have great relationship with youth officers and schools. Spend a lot of time communicating around safety
- Look at all aspects and whether there is enough evidence to put individual on no contact.
- Kudos to staff at SD 23.

PARTNER GROUP UPDATES

RCMP:

- Still partially staffed & trying to field as many calls as possible
- Have to answer 911 calls and must have enough boots on the ground to keep themselves safe and everyone else as well. Hoping to get youth officers back up to full capacity but no date on that.
- Goal was to have more global youth service outside of school hours, parks, parties, mall etc.
- Rebranding has been successful. Have not met all our goals due to resourcing.

Al Lalonde thanked Mike for sending emails every week to indicate who is available

RCMP-Const. Lund:

- Reported she is still supporting West Kelowna. She will be in school positions until end of school year and will be back in Sept as well.

Administrators:

- Nothing to report today

Board of Education-Trustee Baxter:

- Appreciates all information received and will report all she is learned today.
- As for Board, still trying to get people attending board meetings
- Biggest deal is our budget.

COPAC- Deannie Zahara:

- Thanked everyone.
- Had COPAC ATM on Monday. One new person on executive as treasurer and secretary position is open.

CUPE-Meran Couzens:

- Thanked RCMP for their work

COTA-Lori Dawson-Bedard:

- Echoed sentiments that sex assault work is essential.
- Re Masks...on record that not everyone is happy about not wearing masks. More reports of Covid related illness coming into the office.

City of Kelowna Councillor- Ryan Donn:

- Biggest win is the people at the table.
- Spending a lot of time advocating as not enough housing. Things are not going smoothly and public needs to be aware.
- Sexual assault is going up.
- Expecting increase in mental health, addictions, homelessness.
- Frequent offenders announcement coming soon

Lake Country Councillor- Penny Gambell

- Community safety plan - the regional one that Ryan talks about - is great. Hoping they get a meeting with their counsel.
- Masking gone too quickly. Penny went to a conference and came back with Covid.
- Appreciation for EFry.
- Lake Country doing well. Tax increase at 5.88% - a bit high.

Traffic Safety- Dan Glasscock:

- Getting into bike rodeo season. Partnered with provincial group to give better presentation. Start this week with first school.
- Had conversations with areas of town re: no bike helmets, riding on sidewalks etc.
- Working with the City for a pedestrian safety video.

Superintendent-Kevin Kaardal:

- Social media an issue.
- Adults posting challenging emotional views.
- Social media flows onto all media and traumatizing events gets to the media and comments made about staff.

- Assault video of a minor, bits edited out showing staff going to help the student.
- Castanet questioned.

Asst Superintendent- Al Lalonde:

- Will be attending Youth Academy in Vernon.
- GRIP still ongoing. Get behaviour reports regularly which is positive.
- Use of the "report it" button on the website increasing.

District Principal- Sherri Roche:

- Pleased with the movement of GRIP education at Central Programs to a series of learning sessions . Attendance 80% or higher at learning sessions on gang reduction- very impressive.

Sherri thanked everyone for their time and support throughout the school year. Next possible meeting date Oct 5. Will confirm in September. If any changes to the committee group, please email Sherri so they can be included.

Meeting concluded @ 10:20

