



Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes

DATE May 17, 2023

TIME 9:00 a.m. Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Welcome/Introductions

Confirmation of Agenda

Board of Education	Not present
City of Kelowna	Ron Cannan
COTA	
COPAC	Shannon Gallivan
CUPE	George York, Vice President CUPE 3523
District Administration	Sherri Roche, Rick Taylor, Dan Glasscock, Nathan Elliott, David Johnson
Kelowna Fire Department	Candace Friesen, Fire Inspector
RCMP	Not present
West Kelowna Fire Department	Not present
District of Lake Country	Not present
Guests	None present
Regrets	Lori Dawson Bedard (COTA), RCMP team, Jared Birkeland

WELCOME

Sherri welcomed everyone and acknowledged that this meeting was being held on the traditional, unceded territory of the Okanagan Syilx People. Introductions proceeded.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION – COK Guns and Gangs Prevention Update

Sherri Roche:

- COK Guns and Gangs Prevention Update
- Partnership Updates

Sherri Roche:

Today's discussion & recap of February meeting – where we are with the Action Plan

To recap – the Federal Government announced \$2M for City of Kelowna to develop a 3 -year action plan re: Guns and Gangs Prevention.

Inventory Analysis Results:

- increasing prevalence of drugs and drug use,
- broadening spectrum of mental health concerns,

- increase in youth interpersonal violence,
- increase in scope of youth poverty and homelessness
- increase for youth under the age of 12 already on the pathway to gang behavior
- males more vulnerable to gang associated behavior, females are more vulnerable to exploitation.

Inventory analysis shows gaps in resources & capacity, programs & services, and pro-social places and programs for youth who struggle to manage a full day of school and the 3 – 6 pm hours of the day.

Action Steps officially submitted to the Federal Govt:

Consensus that Central Okanagan Public Schools, under the leadership of Sherri Roche as a Project Lead, oversees the project on account of the connection and access to youth in the community.

3 key focus areas:

- enhancing prevention education for students, staff & caregivers:
- prevention & intervention mentorship through pro social activities.
- wraparound intervention supports for youth identified as being on a pathway toward gang association.

The project is named the HRVY Project – (High Risk Vulnerable Youth) which is what the landscape currently shows for Kelowna.

- Not seeing a huge association to large identifiable gangs, but a high population of vulnerable youth.
- Concerns growing re: high percentage of new immigrants (whole other level of vulnerability and safety concern because they arrive with trauma, financial issues and economic pressures)
- already had a gentleman at one high school site trying to recruit some of our Syrian youth at the school.
- require a higher level of educational awareness for our arriving families.

The HRVY lead table will consist of:

- Sherri Roche (District Principal)
- the new VP,
- one of our Community Youth Safety Officers
- Community Outreach Youth Workers

Goal to expand and enhance current prevention and intervention programs (i.e., YMCA Alternative to Suspension Program, Okanagan Boys & Girls Upstream Project)

Will need to develop referral process & criteria of what will be considered high risk activity to be referred to the HRVY team for support.

Questions?

Ron Cannan – will our meeting be recapped in meeting minutes?

Sherri Roche – clerical support will do the minutes and they will always go back out the community members. Can also be located on the School District Website

Ron Cannan – the funding \$2M over 3 years – is there a budget that you have seen?

Sherri Roche – Yes, developed with City of Kelowna team and broken down over the 3 years.

Ron Cannan – who from the City is the contact on that

Sherri Roche – Darren Caul

Nathan Elliott – very timely. Activities during the larger breaks over spring, summer & Xmas also something to consider.

Sherri Roche – did a pilot with Safer Schools during this year's spring break for our new immigrant families to Canada – over 30 families participated. Lots of positive feedback from families.

David Johnson – what is happening after the 3rd year when funding is gone?

Sherri Roche – The ultimate goal is to develop a sustainable action plan. Surrey developed the WRAP program which has been running for 17 years. We are working closely with that team to learn more about what has worked and how they have secured funding.

Community Partner updates:

Shannon Gallivan – no updates to report but thank you for your hard work

George York – the last while CUPE and COTA have been called to support members with increased challenges. Many are experiencing the pressures of an aging society and continued impact of Covid.

Ron Cannan – COK updates – Mohini Singh & Ron just found out about meeting. Mohini sends her regrets. Would be helpful to have Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Ron Cannan – is there a trustee appointed to this meeting?

Sherri Roche – yes, trustees will be rotating

Ron Cannan – we put some additional funding in for transportation and neighborhood traffic calming. We have students looking at wanting to do practicums

Dan Glasscock – just brought on Quigley Road to Safe Routes Program and have identified issues around the neighborhood. Bellevue Creek Elementary also added to Safe Routes Program. Working with the City to make things safer for walking. Springvalley Elementary is in the safer program and the City is spending about \$120,000 between the middle and elementary schools to improve safety and lighting dark neighborhoods. Bike training is being offered to 10 schools.

David Johnson – no updates

Candace Friesen – ready to roll our Fire Safety House. Working with Andrea Locke (HPS Coordinator) to send information to schools. Approx. 2070 elementary students from grades 1 – 3. Hopefully can include Kindergarten in the future.

Rick Taylor – no specific updates. Kudos to RCMP members supporting Bankhead Elementary with people sleeping around the schools and RCMP doing sweeps as people are intimidated sometimes.

Nathan Elliott – CSP students come from all over and they use city bussing and there are concerns about safety at Queensway etc. Parents are calling to ask if children can bring bear spray on the city buses. Resource officers to step things up in this area of support. Concerned that high risk kids are getting charged but then charges not approved by . This poses challenges with youth being accountable and it is harder to get them coordinated with help.

Nathan Elliott – Piloting Take A Hike Program in the fall. Program will run out of George Pringle gymnasium. Program has 3 fulltime adults, a teacher, a mental health clinician pd for by take a hike and a community support worker. Will deliver to 20-25 youth who face challenges with Mental Health. Big component is outdoor activities and clinical support.

Sherri Roche-expressed appreciation to all members for their ongoing support with the Central Okanagan School District. New meeting dates will be sent out early September. If you know of staff changes, please let me know. Members are always welcome to email if they would like to add an agenda item.

Meeting ended at 10:25