



## Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** May 13, 2026

**TIME:** 9:00 AM Microsoft Teams Video Conference Meeting

<b>Board of Education</b>	Lee-Ann Tiede
<b>Brain Trust</b>	Amanda McFarlane, Executive Director Laura Trueba
<b>City of Kelowna</b>	Mohini Singh, City Councillor Ron Cannan, City Councillor Simran Sidhu, City Safety Advisor
<b>City of West Kelowna</b>	Melissa-Hunt Anderson, Community & Social Development
<b>COPAC</b>	Deannie Zahara, Secretary Jeannette Watson, Member Simon Adams, Vice President
<b>COTA</b>	Susan Bauhart, President
<b>CUPE</b>	Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive
<b>District Administration</b>	Sherrí Roche - Chair, District Principal, Safety and Well-being Al Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction Jon Rever, Superintendent Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent Rick Taylor, District Health & Safety Manager
<b>District of Lake Country</b>	Bib Patel, Councillor At Large
<b>Kelowna Fire Department</b>	Candace Friesen, Fire Inspector & Life Safety Educator

	Paul Johnson, Fire Prevention Officer
<b>Lake Country Fire Department</b>	Brent Penner, Deputy Fire Chief
<b>RCMP/School Resource Officers</b>	Jocelyn Noseworthy, Cpl. Branwyn Rigby, Cst. SRO – Lake Country Federico Angulo, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Kirsten MacLeod, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Ramnit Lally, Cst. SRO - Kelowna Ryan Rode, Cst. SRO - West Kelowna
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Amanda Rich, Safety and Well-Being Clerk
<b>School Administration</b>	Ashley Ragoonaden, Principal KLO Middle School Jared Birkeland, Vice-Principal Casorso Elementary
<b>Traffic Safety Officer</b>	Dan Glasscock

**Regrets:** Candace Friesen, Brent Penner, Ashley Ragoonaden, Amanda McFarlane, Raquel Steen, Ron Cannan, Deannie Zahara, Jeannette Watson, Simon Adams, Al Lalonde, Paul Johnson, Branwyn Rigby, Kirsten MacLeod, Ramnit Lally, Ryan Rode.

## 1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

- Sherri Roche opened the meeting at 9:02 am with apologies for the last meeting being cancelled due to the unfortunate event in Tumbler Ridge. Thank you for understanding.
- Land acknowledgement recognizing the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan peoples.
- Sherri Roche mentioned as per the Syilx Okanagan moon calendar, that we are in the season of bitterroot. Bitterroot is a perennial plant that grows in dry habitats in the Okanagan. Each April/May it comes to life for a few short weeks. Often referred to as desert rose.

## 2. Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves, including representatives from: Board of Education, CUPE, COTA, Brain Trust Canada, City of Kelowna, RCMP, City of West Kelowna, Traffic Safety, District Administration, School Administration, and Clerical.
- New members and transitions were acknowledged.

## 3. Presentation: Crisis Response Community Led (CRCL) Service

**Presenters:** Giles Ringer & Jamie Lloyd-Smith from CMHA Kelowna

- Jamie Lloyd-Smith: Formerly PACT (Peer Assisted Care Teams), Community led, consent based crisis response for ages 13+. Operated by local providers under CMHABC. We are the 7<sup>th</sup> community with the CRCL model.
- Community based Intervention
  - Conversations in community on this dating back to Community Safety Plan
  - Respectful, culturally safe, trauma-informed care
  - Reduce stigma and systemic barriers for IBPOC
  - Support systemic change in crisis response
- Giles Ringer: CRCL
  - Consent-based, trauma-informed mobile response service designed to support individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Our Crisis workers bring a unique blend of professional training and lived experience to every call. Whether you need immediate de-escalation, peer support, or help finding the right resources, we provide a safe space and follow-up care to help you move forward.
- CRISIS responders
  - Peer support workers, licensed clinical social workers, paramedics, nurses, or other staff with expertise and professional experience supporting people in crisis.
  - Responders work to reduce distress, provide safety and support until the crisis is resolved, a crisis care plan is developed, or a referral to another service is accomplished or the person in crisis no longer needs it.
  - Types of calls
    - Thoughts of suicide or self-harm
    - Person in crisis
    - Distressed or distressing behavior
    - Wellness check
- What is a crisis?
  - It can look different for everyone. Might need to reach out if:
    - Feeling grief and loss, hopelessness, panic or anxiety
    - Loss of reality
    - Experiencing thoughts of harming yourself or others
    - Experiencing thoughts of suicide
    - Concerned for the well-being of someone who could be experiencing mental health crisis.
- Team service map
  - Crisis occurs> Assessment: triage and dispatch will complete an assessment of callers' needs over phone/text> Dispatch: team dispatched. Triage and dispatch, continue phone support> Team arrives: client-centered, consent-based care. Immediate crisis support> Community care plan: resource navigation, safety planning> Follow-up care: if needed. In the first 24-48hrs.
- Why it matters:
  - Fills a critical gap in our community's crisis response continuum – providing compassionate, culturally safe care that meets people where they are. CRCL is a missing piece, not a competing service.

- What it is:
  - Community-led consent-based in person crisis response
  - Grounded in lived and living mental health experience and clinical expertise.
  - Focused on de-escalation, safety planning, and post-crisis follow-up.
- What it isn't:
  - Not police or emergency medical services
  - Not a replacement for integrated crisis response teams or our CMP interventions.  
Not equipped for violent disputes or intimate partner violence
- CRCL Services
  - Safety planning
  - Acute crisis management.
  - Peer and person-centered support
  - Advocacy and system access support
  - 48hr crisis intervention follow-up
  - Referrals to community and mental health services

#### **4. HRVY Update- Jason Ranchoux**

- HRVY – Strong Roots: Honouring Resiliency in Vulnerable Youth
- Primary funding for the program ended on March 31, 2026, and the program is currently being sustained through interim financial support while awaiting confirmation of renewed funding from Public Safety Canada
- Program is currently operating at capacity and has limited ability to accept new referrals at this time.
- Program supports youth aged 8-13 who are at risk of exploitation and gang involvement.
  - Purpose
    - Prevent reduced pathways into gun violence, gang involvement, and exploitation by building protective factors early.
  - What HRVY offers:
    - 1:1 youth worker matching
    - Counselling and therapeutic support
    - Youth and caregiver support
    - Pro-social activities and skill building
    - Service navigation and coordinated care.
  - From referral to sustained connection
  - What makes it work:
    - Consistent, caring adult relationships built over time.
    - Tailored support based on youth goals and interests.
    - Coordinated partnerships across schools, community, and safety services.
    - Accessible pro-social opportunities (sports, outdoor activities, arts)
  - Impact Snapshot 2025/2026:

- 98% of referrals come from local schools.
- 66.7% male vs 33.3% female
- Predominantly indigenous youth are referred, well over 60%.
- Currently full. 4 youth on waitlist (3 male, 1 female)
- 32 youth were served and over 100 community members, which includes their caregivers, family members within the home, and siblings.
- Highlighted outcomes
  - Improved school attendance and engagement with youth worker support
    - 80% increase saying they are good at school.
    - 68% increase being respectful at school.
    - 58% increase in feeling like they belong at school.
    - 15% increase in attending school.
  - Confidence and comfort with HRVY
    - 6.5% increase “I feel safe at HRVY”, but already at 4.8/5.
    - 8.3% increase” I feel like I belong at HRVY”
    - 165.6% increase “I’m learning new school skills.”
    - 30% increase “I know where to go to get help.”
  - Community Safety
    - 33.8% increase "I feel safe in community."
    - 27.3% increase “I know how to handle stress.”
    - 16.3% increase “I feel safe around police officers.”
  - Youth know they aren't making good choices. HRVY program gives youth the opportunity to see/share opportunities for them to make good choices.
    - Intake surveys are done with youth when they enter HRVY program, and again at 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months. Seeing an increase in them feeling like they are making good choices vs first survey when they start the program. 2.8/5 but 108% increase in “I feel like I am making good choices.”

## **5. Partner Group Updates:**

### ***RCMP***

- Reported that grad season activities are underway, including an educational mock impaired driving scenario held at OKM involving multiple community partners.
- Ongoing work continues around e-bike education and enforcement, with increased focus on adherence to safety regulations in the community.
- School Resource Officers will be transitioning to the Community Safety Unit for the summer months, maintaining a presence through patrols and continued youth engagement.

### ***Board of Education***

- Noted ongoing efforts to maintain comprehensive safety systems.

### ***COTA***

- No updates. Expressed appreciation for partner collaboration.

### ***CUPE***

- No updates.

### ***COPAC***

- No updates.

### ***City of Kelowna***

- Simran shared updates related to digital safety presentations and upcoming youth engagement initiatives, including first responders versus youth ball hockey event.

### ***City of West Kelowna***

- Melissa shared progress on their Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, noting key themes including mental health, youth connection, and gaps in family supports following COVID-19, with plans to present to Council within four to six weeks.

### ***District of Lake Country***

- Bib reported the development of a digital safety seminar aimed at helping families manage online risks and protect youth.

### ***Traffic Safety***

- Dan reported on infrastructure improvements at South Rutland Elementary and ongoing coordination related to traffic impacts from road changes.

### ***Brain Trust Canada***

- No updates.

### ***District Administration***

- Sherri reported Student Health, Safety and Well-being staffing will be increasing next year. Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Feeding Futures, is retiring and Bobbi Hunter will be joining as a District Principal to partner with Sherri. The Health Promoting Schools Coordinator and Safety and Health Coordinator, who helps with SOGI/Anti-racism/Diversity/Equity work, have both had their time increased for next year as well.

## **7. Additional Updates**

- No additional updates noted.

## **8. Correspondence & New Business**

- No formal correspondence noted.

## **9. Summary & Wrap-Up**

- Sherri summarized key themes from the meeting, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and the value of new services such as CRCL
- She acknowledged the strong impact of the HRVY program and the need to secure sustainable funding moving forward.
- Gratitude was expressed to all attendees for their ongoing dedication and contributions to supporting the safety and well-being of youth.