



Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes
DATE June 5, 2024
TIME 9:00 a.m. Zoom Video Conference Meeting
Welcome/Introductions
Confirmation of Agenda

Board of Education	Lisa Guderyan
City of Kelowna	Ron Cannan, Mohini Singh
COTA	
COPAC	Jeannette Watson
CUPE	
District Administration	Sherri Roche, Allison Goreas, Al Lalonde, Recording Secretary: Angela Kreklewetz
Kelowna Fire Department	
RCMP	Federico Angulo
Traffic Safety Officer	Dan Glasscock
West Kelowna Fire Department	
District of Lake Country	
Guests	Philippa Putlitz BCGO- Upstream Kelowna
Regrets	Lori Dawson Bedard (COTA), RCMP team, Jared Birkeland

9:00: **Welcome & Land Acknowledgment-** reflected on what we're grateful for in the Okanagan.
Confirmation of Agenda
Introductions

9:10 Update re: Upstream Kelowna (BGCO):

- What is Upstream? A prevention and early intervention model aimed at ending school disengagement and youth homelessness.
- Utilizes a universal, confidential tool to identify barriers to resilience and provides wrap-around supports for youth and families.
- Running in three middle schools: Springvalley Middle, KLO, and Dr. Knox.
- Targets grade 8 students
- Uses confidential student numbers, voluntary participation.
- Aimed at identifying and intervening before homelessness (often occurring at age 16); has a 96% response rate.
- 40% of students identified have barriers such as financial or mental health concerns.

- Program supports up to 100 youth per school, providing tailored interventions at school and home.
- Since the launch of program: 1600 students assessed; 260 youth and families supported; 54% of identified youth wouldn't have been reached otherwise.
- 54% of youth request mental health support; 94% show improvement.
- 93% retention rate; the program aims to grow by 50% annually.
- Emphasizes integrating existing supports rather than creating new ones, enhancing student confidence and well-being.
- Question/comment- Appreciation for the City, COPAC, and trustees for implementing the program, originally from Australia, with a significant local impact. First time doing a screener-type survey, and it is having a huge impact.
- Shout out to Philippa- her passion, time, heart are at the ground level of Upstream- recognized nationally and the most successful program in Canada; no youth is left un-serviced; beautiful process to watch- credit for wraparound services too.
- If you have any questions about Upstream, please reach out to Philippa Putlitz

9:25

Update re: HRVY Project (Public Safety Canada Grant) Yearend Update.

- HRVY (Honouring Resiliency in Vulnerable Youth) focuses on gun, gang, and exploitation prevention.
- \$2 million grant awarded to the City of Kelowna.
- Close collaboration with RCMP
- Completed year one; data aligns with Upstream.
- Entering the second fiscal year.
- Supported 30 youth referrals (average age 12.5); career focus less relevant due to younger age group.

Demographics & Needs:

- 66.7% male, 33.3% female; 42.9% require intensive interventions for trauma, substance abuse, and mental health.
- Youth face complex family issues, including domestic violence and neglect.

Highlights/Current Impact

- Improved school attendance and engagement with the support of outreach youth workers.
- Tailored supports based on youth goals and interests.
- Reconnecting youth with education and families.
- Reduced criminal incidents and social disorder through interventions and partnerships (e.g., BGCO, RCMP).
- Building trust and healthy adult connections, which takes time but shows progress.

Challenges

- Lack of services for youth under 12 across the province.
- Need for consistent safe spaces and a hub for prosocial activities and volunteer support.
- Developmental differences require tailored approaches for younger (9/10) vs. older (16/17) youth.
- Families often lack opportunities for prosocial activities and encounter barriers when seeking support.
- Need for community involvement: volunteers, funding, and sustainable resources.
- Sustainable funding

Partnerships & Future Actions

- Entering a partnership with Childhood Connections to enhance support. They currently provide services for ages 0-12.
- Enhanced prosocial opportunities for youth (i.e., upcoming football camp, art classes, music classes, and outdoor events like hiking and tobogganing)
- Acknowledgements- BGCO and COK, RCMP.

Comments:

Allison- Public Safety Canada came to Kelowna for a meeting over spring break and was impressed with data etc.

Fed- less incidents of fights, social disorder, and direct involvement of RCMP has reduced criminal incidents.

Ron Cannan- need to look at future funding. What is the plan for sustainability? Provincial gov? Advocacy? Be proactive.

Al Lalonde- Shout out to Sherri and Allison for all hard work and running HRVY; shocked by the young age served- glad we're targeting those kids.

9:50

Partner Group Updates

- **RCMP- Fed-** Fed transitioning back to the Community Safety Unit, focusing on youth in the downtown core during summer; familiar face for youth. Acknowledgement for the City of Kelowna (COK) for additional RCMP support over summer. Appreciation for Fed's dedication as the solo officer in Kelowna until recently.
- **Elementary Administrators-**Jared Birkeland noted Dan's assistance with safety training and bike to work week. Wildlife concerns were raised at Casorso Elementary.
- **Board of Education- Lisa-** No Updates
- **COPAC- Jeannette-** Hosted 2 education sessions from White Hatter (Digital Literacy & Cyberbullying) Well-received topics. Hosting more next year. Three resolutions carried out at AGM: equitable transportation access, e-scooter safety awareness, and sun safety advocacy.
- **CUPE- Jessica-** Working with custodians to ensure safety and prevent overexertion during cleaning
- **COTA-** No Updates
- **City of Kelowna- Ron-** Founding member of Hildebrant, success story, connect with Jenny at CAC, needed in community.
Mohini- CAC- new program with country music singer, Paul Brandt, Not in My Backyard Not in my City, fantastic program for SD23 to engage with. (Sherri would help represent program.)
School travel plan reviewing- concerns about how many kids on Ziprick, safe route for school plan, still monitoring.
Traffic count is not as high to require a new light or improvement but many kids in the area after school.
- **City of West Kelowna-** n/a
- **District of Lake Country-** n/a
- **Kelowna Fire Department-** n/a
- **Lake Country Fire Department-** n/a
- **Traffic Safety- Dan-** Ziprick area had \$90,000 improvements in the last year and a half in that area; all schools are asking are for flashing lights- people get complacent with them. Working with school to put digital speed zones to move around district. Working at all schools. Open to any suggestions.
- **Brain Trust-** n/a

- **District Administration- AI-** Highlighted SD23 & CYAC Partnership thanks to the work of previous Assistant Superintendent Rick Oliver. Possible SD23/CYAC Liaison Position next year. Creating, in collaboration with CYAC, RCMP & MCFD, learning opportunities for professional and paraprofessional staff re: Duty to Report & Trauma Informed Practices.
Sherri- HRVY Team, in collaboration with SST, ICE, RCMP, Brain Trust, and HPS, are developing a series of awareness and safety education lessons targeted at 12-year-olds.

10:20

Correspondence

New Business

Summary and Wrap Up

- Sherri expressed gratitude for the collaborative work of the community network in keeping students safe.
- Dates for the 2024/2025 season will be announced in early fall.