

## BANFF ACTION GROUP MINUTES – 17 June 2009

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Alison Gerrits, Town of Banff FCSS	Karen Suchowersky, Banff Food Bank	Peter Quinn, Bow Valley Victim Services
Barbara Bulat, Banff Library	Kate Rive, AIDS Bow Valley	Rebecca & Lily Withers
Barbara Nyman, YWCA	Leanne Daigle, Job Resource Centre	Ruth Pryor, Town of Banff FCSS
Brenda Birch, Public Health AHS	Lisa Cohen-Wallis, Mental Health AHS	Sharon Oakley, Town of Banff FCSS
Clare Jarman, Probation Services	Lori Pierzchala, Volunteer Centre	Shelley Gregorash, BV Dayhome Agency
George Belcher, St Georges Church	Lynne Hancock, Health Council	Tanya Rossetti, YWCA
Jan Sommer, Mental Health AHS	Michelle Leslie, Mental Health AHS	

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### 1. BANFF SOCIAL ASSESSMENT 2008 UPDATE

As a follow up to the 2006 FCSS Social Assessment, Banff FCSS contracted the Biosphere Institute to update the statistics section for 2008. New data set released from Stats Canada & municipal census data. One page handout attached. Any queries to Alison. [Alison.gerrits@banff.ca](mailto:Alison.gerrits@banff.ca)

### 2. BANFF YOUTH SURVEY – SHARON OAKLEY

Sharon shared background on the youth engagement work done over the last year which resulted in the Fridge drop-in program at Norquay Fridays night & later in Spring at the Hub & also the Everyone Gets To Ski program. Handout with survey results attached any queries to [sharon.oakley@banff.ca](mailto:sharon.oakley@banff.ca)

### 3. INFO TO SHARE

#### AIDS Bow Valley

- o Vagina Monologues was very successful
- o 2 Peer Health Educators for the summer – Hana (returning from last year) & Megan
- o Movie Making Mania competition for 1 or 5 minute videos with safe sex messages. \$550 prize. July 20 deadline.
- o New brochure & available in french.
- o Conducting Aboriginal needs assessment in Morley re. HIV
- o Reapply for core funds soon & will be collecting community info including a service provider survey. It will be coming your way soon by email. Please take the time to complete it.

#### Banff Food Bank

- o Busy as people have no work or reduced hours.
- o Will be closed Canada Day. Drop-ins run until July 15 Wed 11:45 – noon & Sat 10-10:15. Summer is by appointment only.
- o June 2<sup>nd</sup> was National Hunger Awareness Day & had a Food Drive on May 30<sup>th</sup> partnering with Gap/ Nesters/ Safeway. Disappointed by lack of media coverage.

#### Banff Public Library

- o Summer reading program starting soon & continuing
- o Successful teen program approx. 60/70 for music night, crafts ugly sock puppet show etc.
- o Fri night book & film club & Seniors movies 2pm

#### Job Resource Centre

- o Over 100 clients per day. Double from last year, and half the jobs available.
- o Currently recruiting for a bilingual employment advisor.

#### Mental Health & AADAC

- o On April 1, 2009 AADAC was officially moved within the portfolio of Alberta Health Services. Our new branch is known as “AHS-Addictions and Mental Health” and combines the former AADAC services with Mental Health services. To date, this has not translated into significant changes in addictions and mental health service delivery in the Bow Valley, although we are currently looking at opportunities for our services to be enhanced further

now that we fall under the same organization. What has changed is that AADAC's former confidentiality legislation now falls within AHS and the Health Information Act and can be accessed by other AHS staff, provided a need to know is demonstrated. Any access to addictions client information by another AHS staff will have an audit trail to assure information is kept confidential on only appropriate info. is accessed. As addictions services, we intend to inform our clients about requests for information we may receive and it is still our practice to get consents signed even within AHS whenever possible. However, any client work or records gathered **prior** to April 1, 2009 still falls under the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Act and is not part of the Health Information Act unless the client re-engages and their file can be updated.

- As addictions services we are planning on maintaining our community prevention work in addition to treatment services, so our work with schools, workplace and community at large will continue. One big question yet to be answered is the status of the community project grants. The current year's grant status for the province has stalled until AHS releases a budget and the future of community project grants is uncertain at this time.
- If anyone has any questions about addictions services in the Bow Valley, please feel free to contact Spencer Schneider [Spencer.Schneider@aadac.gov.ab.ca](mailto:Spencer.Schneider@aadac.gov.ab.ca) or anyone of our staff.

#### **Town of Banff FCSS**

- This fall we want to "Meet on the Street" in neighbourhoods across our community. During the last two weeks of September, we will be in five locations to hear community input and share information about programs and services. There will be street art, cookies, cocoa and communication. On Thursday, June 25 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., they'll be running a "Meet on the Street" pilot in the Banff Centre District (at the corner of Grizzly & Caribou). Info will feed into our annual strategic planning process in October & budget Nov/ Dec.
- 2009 Community Resource Directory is now available at <http://www.banff.ca/locals-residents/community-resources/resource-directory.htm> This is a partnership project with Canmore FCSS & Canmore Economic Development Authority & Crag & Canyon/ Leader. The C&C were unable to print copies this year.

#### **YWCA**

- Accommodation needs are still people looking for permanent housing, overnights are slow.
- Gearing up for the fall & hiring a relationship counselor. Ian Wilson has left to go to Bow Valley Regional Housing.

#### **St George's in the Pines**

- Celebrating 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event November 1<sup>st</sup>. Speaker is Peter Lougheed.
- Churches contribute \$ millions to the economy of Banff – St George's alone has over 70 weddings a year with associated accommodation, food, entertainment etc.
- BRRR Fund - housing request seems to be down at the moment.
- **Banff Community Foundation** – September 30 is the next deadline for Community Grants.
- **Banff Volunteer Centre** – AGM was in May and still need new board members. Volunteers needed for Canada Day.
- **Bow Valley Dayhome Agency** – slow, still looking for more dayhomes – new or those already existing
- **Bow Valley Victim Services** – recruiting for volunteer advocates, word of mouth works best. Training starts Fall.
- **Community Health Council** With the new structure of Alberta Health Services
- **Mental Health** – Community Helpers Program run by BanffLIFE had 20 volunteers graduate from a training program on skills & info for helping people. The program id's the 'natural helpers' in Banff who people go to. Program will expand to the High School next year.
- **Welcome Week** – 400 at Info event at Wild Bills Monday, 240 at Parks Day Tuesday, 110 Pasta Night Wednesday.
- **Youth Probation** – Claire Jarman has worked in the valley for 25 years. As it has been so busy there is a new full time person in Canmore & she is now working just in Banff part time.

#### **5. BAG DATES 2009**

Wed Oct 21 - lunch meeting 12-2pm with food :o) at Banff Town Hall Council Chambers

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*The Banff Action Group meets 3 times a year to proactively look at opportunities, issues, gaps and partnerships in Banff. This group is facilitated by Banff FCSS. To be added to the email list contact [community.services@banff.ca](mailto:community.services@banff.ca).*