

BANFF ACTION GROUP MINUTES – APRIL 30, 2008

Kate Rive AIDS Bow Valley	Lynne Hancock Health Council	Shelley Gregorash Childcare Agency
Karen Suchowersky Banff	Ruth Pryor Town of Banff FCSS	Spencer Schneider AADAC
Volunteer Centre & Food Bank	Nancy Lewis Town of Banff FCSS	Jen Geary Trident Mediation
Lisa Cohen-Wallis Mental Health	Marian Johnston-Harvie TOB FCSS	

1. SAFETY TRAINING

- Applied to BCCEC for \$600 to reduce costs for non-profits & volunteers. Just heard day of the meeting that grant was successful.
- Held off booking course until hear about grant as wanted to be sure we can make it affordable and get enough registered to cover the cost. Will email group when secured date

Safe and Sound (Calgary) Course: Safely managing the difficult client 6hrs

Cost: \$2800 + mileage Size: Maximum 30

- o Recognize signs
- o Conflict management
- o Reactions to certain situations
- o Keeping you & others safe
- o Managing difficult client/customers
- o Self defense and verbal de-escalation
- o Facilitator and 1 RCMP
- o Checked References

2. CONSENT FORM

The idea behind the form arose from the issue of some well-known clients who rotate around agencies & wanting to work together on a plan to provide efficient support. Addition of cancellation of consent and this form is now final. See attached.

3. FOREIGN WORKER SUPPORTS UPDATE

- Larger hotels in town are bringing foreign workers in. Banff Springs 100+, Rimrock etc. Typically from Mexico, Indonesia & Phillipines. No families.
- Decided at last meeting that small group would move this forward.
- Initial phone call research to HR departments at large hotels & places where they may be accessing e.g. churches, bankd, post office, supermarkets, drs etc.
- Survey is being developed for businesses and will be emailed around when raedy.
- Brainstormed as group how too access info from the foreign workers themselves.
- We will keep BAG up to date will progress with this.

How can we connect with the Foreign Workers?

- Use Ministerial Association
- Pay staff time with business support (orientations) Banff's Best & Banff Life
- Potluck of Nations (Brewster Mountain Lodge has done this)
- National days and Holidays
- Multicultural Health Fair
- Language/translation (effective") – have at hospital for patients who do not speak English – talk in own language to collect information
- Ask how to connect with the foreign workers in staff accom
- ID local long-time "foreigners"
- Kids – some are in staff accom are they assimilating/isolated
- Pamphlet orientation in language/online
- Information regarding language abilities/demographics

Questions to ask foreign workers

- Have you accessed any services
- Where would you go if you needed to go?
- Who would you go to if you needed to?

- What social & recreational services have you accessed what has kept you from doing so?
- What would you like to do in your spare time?
- What are you doing in your spare time?
- Food?
- Would you come to hike/potluck/Canada day/volunteer
- How would you like to get information?- language/format/type of information
- Check tourist information resources –language availability
- What would have helped in the first few weeks?

4. INFO TO SHARE

- **Mental Health**

- o 3rd therapist started Darlene, in Canmore
- o Recruiting for Club House members – mental health support lunch group
- o MH are using the office in Cascade (AADAC office) 1 day/ week and shared office space in Lake Louise

- **AIDS Bow Valley**

- o New Manager Kate Rive
- o 2 students Peer Health Educators starting in May
- o July 26 Servers Against Aids Day where servers/ waiter/resses donate their tip. Half goes to ABV, half to Stephen Lewis Foundation.

- **Bow Valley Family Child Care Agency/ Devar Childcare Society** Blitzing Banff with info about the benefit of accredited dayhomes, promote access for subsidies (no one has accessed in Banff) and to address misconception that employed by the Agency

- **Health Council** – more of an advisory board at the moment. Find BAG a good source of info

- **AADAC Banff Tues & Thurs**, appointment needed Partnership project with Mental Health, Banff Health Unit & BVVS for workplace training for employers. Aimed at supervisors covers mental health, sexual health, workplace wellness etc. 3 hours session, including scenarios & role-play. Pilot in Kananaskis.

- **Banff Volunteer Centre**

- o National Volunteer week busy with Thank you volunteer BBQ & workshop
- o May 27 hosting 2 free workshops for charities – one re gaining status & one on reporting
- o **Vitalize conference** June 12-14 in Edmonton www.vitalizeconference.ca possible carpool.

- **Foodbank** Mar/ Apr have been very slow, expecting it to pick up soon.

- o Drop-in service will close for the summer – by appointment only.
- o Have changed to milk vouchers so not wasting produce that goes out of date.
- o Developed different type of food bags for different clientele.
- o Always open to feedback.

- **Town of Banff FCSS**

- o Welcome week to replace One Hot Summer. Events all week of June 9. Contact Sharon Oakley 762-1254 or Christine LaRoque 760-2423 for more info.

5. 2008 BAG DATES

- Wednesday Oct 29th 12-2 p.m. lunch meeting

The Banff Action Group meets four times a year to proactively look at opportunities, issues, gaps and partnerships in Banff. This group is facilitated by Banff FCSS.

To become part of the Banff Action Group, or to be added to the email distribution list, contact Ruth Pryor, FCSS Community Development Coordinator at community.services@banff.ca.