

BANFF ACTION GROUP MINUTES – 29 October, 2008

Kate Rive AIDS Bow Valley	Lisa Cohen-Wallis Mental Health	Alison Gerrits, Town of Banff FCSS
George Belcher, St Georges	Janet Sommer Mental Health	Ruth Pryor Town of Banff FCSS
May Guach, Parentlink	Ian Wilson YWCA	Shawn Carr Town of Banff FCSS
Karen Suchowersky Food Bank	Brenda Birch Public Health	Jen Geary Trident Mediation
Rebecca Whithers Mental Health	Leanne Daigle& Amanda Coon, JRC	Bianca Ross, BRRR Outreach

1. WARM UP

'Upstream thinking' - The idea that if people are falling over a waterfall do you want to be at the bottom trying to catch them upstream preventing them get in the water in the first place. 'Definition of insanity' = doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different result. One of the roles of BAG is to be proactive and constantly evaluate what we do and how we can do it better, so used these 2 theories to spark discussion in small groups where do we see ourselves in the stream/ waterfall picture in the services we provide? And are there any areas where we keep seeing the same results or same thing happening again & again or people at the bottom of the 'waterfall' and what can we do differently.

- Foster homes, tried everything but still none in the Bow Valley. Are we doing the same thing again & again? Training commitment in Calgary is the stumbling block. Need large # of families for training to be delivered here.
- Housing – lots of improvements with BRRR but still there are sub standard conditions that some people live in. Also issues with accessing provincial & government funds for housing options
- Residential treatments for addictions – accessing problems, too slow, doesn't meet need of BV young need to give up 3 weeks of time.

Quickly brainstormed some ideas & we'll aim to look into these issues at a next BAG meeting.

2. BRR HOUSING OUTREACH PROJECT – Bianca Ross

- Bianca works Mon – Thurs 9:30-3:30. Outreach project is funded for 2 years.
- Soup & Bread Program every Thursday St.Marys noon-1pm, free or by donation. Soup provided by local restaurants.
- Out of the Cold Fund operating the same for those needing 1or 2 nights of accommodation, who otherwise would be sleeping outside, and no other funding available to them. There is set criteria for who qualifies.
- Starting data collection process to collect info on hard to house & homeless. May be contacting people.
- Other housing info – Job Resource Centre has tracked local housing costs for the last 10 years. Town of Banff has put in a grant application for money to build 4 Hard to House units.

3. FOREIGN WORKERS UPDATE

- Draft report on survey with businesses handed out. Want to meet with them as a group to discuss info when have completed research from foreign workers themselves.
- Starting to collect info from foreign workers. Originally had planned through a survey but people did not want to complete, so finding that one on one meetings or small groups will work better.
- Marian completing a lit review of what other communities are doing, current trends, Alberta stats, possible funds etc.
- Report with all info Jan/ Feb 2009.
- Amanda Coon, Job Resource Centre amanda@jobresourcecentre.com has been seeing approx. 40 foreign workers a month.

Since the spring of 2008, the Job Resource Centre has been operating a Temporary Foreign Worker information service mandated by Alberta Employment and Immigration. We provide Foreign Worker Information services to the general public including TFW, travelers, employers and other community service providers. We can assist all groups with information on the various programs; temporary employment and permanent residency, AINP, deciding on the right applications, filling and completing government forms and answer questions regarding rights and responsibilities of both parties under

IRPA (Immigration and Refugee Protection Act), Employment Standards and current Immigration Canada legislation.

4. INFO TO SHARE

- **Job Resource Centre**

- Very busy as shoulder season and not many jobs. 100 walkins on one particular day. Many from NZ, Australia & Europe.
- Taking part in the Wellness Workshops. Aimed at management & supervisors to give them the tools & resources to deal with issues staff may bring to them. Partnership with public health, mental health, YWCA, AADAC, Victim Services, BanffLIFE. 2nd workshops has 60 signed up. Also request from Lake Louise.

- **Mental Health**

- Community Helpers project to ID natural helpers in community and train & support them with info on community resources, listening skills, referrals etc. Aimed at 18-30 year olds. Mental Health Board funded for 3years, but recent changeover in Health Board has only now guaranteed for 6 months. Banff LIFE is delivering the project.

- **AIDS Bow Valley**

- AIDS awareness week Nov 24 – Dec 1 & Dec 1 is World AIDS Day – wear red! Events include: displays, awareness, booth at Justice Film festival at Canmore High School.
- HIV & life skills at Morley
- Volunteer recruitment evening with BanffLIFE Nov 18 7pm at Hub with free pizza.
- Need finance board member
- Interested in restarting a young adult coalition with BanffLIFE, AADAC & Town of Canmore.

- **Public Health**

- Flu injections available by appt as clinic finished. New kids aged 23 months – 5 years are free.

- **Town of Banff FCSS**

- **Storytelling Session for Parents of Teens - Thurs 27 Nov 7pm-8:30pm at the YWCA Great Room, 102 Spray Ave** Join us as we use storytelling & discussion as a tool to increase awareness, understanding & knowledge of suicide prevention & intervention. Local storyteller Mandi Kujawa weaves vignettes of people who have touched her life, and their experiences with suicide. This session is aimed at parents of teens, but anyone interested is welcome to attend. Brought to you by Town of Banff FCSS, Banff Community High School, Banff Mental Health & Bow Valley Victim Services. Thanks to generous funding by ACICIR (Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research) Community Injury Control Fund & Banff Soroptomists. Please RSVP to reserve a spot to Ruth ruth.pryor@banff.ca

5. BAG DATES 2009

All lunch meeting 12-2pm with food :o) at Banff Town Hall Council Chambers (
Wednesday 18 Feb
Wed 17 June
Wed Oct 21

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.