

BANFF ACTION GROUP MINUTES – 30 June 2010

Barbara Nyman, YWCA of Banff	Jan Sommer, Mental Health AHS	Lorraine Widmer-Carson, Community Fdn
Bianca Ross, H2HC & TOB FCSS	Karen Suchowersky, Food Bank & Ark	Rebecca Whithers, Mental Health AHS
Brenda Birch Public Health AHS	Leann Powers, Job Resource Centre	Ruth Pryor, Town of Banff FCSS
Ira Heidemann, Healthy Moms Healthy Babes, AHS	Lisa Cohen-Wallis, Mental Health AHS	Shelley Gregorash, BV Dayhome Agency
	Lori Pierzchala, Banff Volunteer Centre	

1. INFO TO SHARE

Housing Community Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bianca Ross is still doing 25 hrs/wk housing outreach but also an additional & 10 hrs/ wk for BANffLIFE on the Community Helpers program. This program surveys the community to find people who are natural helpers and provides community resource info, support & training.
YWCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been quieter for housing applications than last summer • More people are coming with work already lined up, people seem in less desperate situations • Have offered the 2 vacant Community Resource Centre positions, waiting to announce.
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time staff person leaving, ad will be in the paper • Child & travel clinics are quite full • Costs for some shots at travel clinics went up July 1
Bow Valley Family Childcare Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded to Lake Louise & Exshaw • Banff has 16 kids, 2 active day homes & 1 home offering weekend service • Canmore has 40 kids, 6 active day homes & 1 home offering weekend/ evening service • 15 kids on the waitlist, 12 of them under 18 months • New Banff home starting in August • Just hosted info sessions at Parentlink about the agency
Banff Community Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New brochure available • Sept 29 deadline for grants, no specific focus for funding applications yet • Hiring for Fund Development Specialist
Banff Food Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No drop-in service over the summer mid July – mid Sept, by appointment only on Tues or Sat 11:45. Need to call the day before to nook appt so volunteers can be scheduled. 762-1060 • Quiet at the moment, no high family usage like last year • Partnering with the Town of Banff for food vouchers over the summer.
Banff Rundle United Church Ark Thrift store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring a coordinating for 2 or 3 days/ wk over the summer. • Need volunteers. • This service is widely advertised, but support (free or discounted goods) is available to those in need with an agency referral, send client with a business card. Lots of surplus clothes at moment.
Banff Volunteer Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinators hours reduced to 20 hrs/ wk
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in clinic at emergency is busy. 7 days/ wk 2-10pm • Hospital is busy with patient transfers from Calgary. • Increase in young people new to town presenting at the hospital, one reason is good referrals from doctors • Jan Sommer is retiring 1st Feb. • Club House - social group for mental health clients, summer includes picnic & hike. Not regular meetings.
Job Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85 job seekers/ clients per day, down 8% from this time last year • 75 job posting, up 143% from this time last year
Town of Banff FCSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Calgary Catholic Immigration Society have been awarded a provincial contract from Alberta Employment and Immigration to provide support services to Temporary Foreign Workers in Calgary and area. This includes a part time position in Banff & area (Banff, Lake Louise, Canmore, Kananaskis) to provide services – outreach, workshops, assessment, information & referral. This position would work closely with the Town of Banff FCSS as well as the CCIS office based in Calgary. The contract is for July 2010 – March 2011. Recruiting is underway.

2. 2010 AGENCY VISUAL MAP OF SERVICES – FOLLOW UP

Went through the map to check any services missing, talk about gaps & opportunities.

- Has already been used by YWCA for their strategic planning & Banff Community Foundation for their grants process. If anyone else has been using it please let Ruth know ruth.pryor@banff.ca so we can track how useful it is. Plan to update annually.
- Gaps identified around domestic abuse are being addressed by the working group that was struck earlier this year. YWCA will run the relationship group in Canmore this fall. Plans for brochure, web info & some media info to raise awareness.
- Some gaps were discussed & deemed not to be in the focus/ ability of BAG or other groups are working on them
 - e.g. long term affordable housing & shelter for hard to house an Bow Valley Interagency Sub Group & H2HC is working on some of these issues.
 - Affordable new clothing – out of BAG focus
- Discussed after hours services & identified need to update brochure & redistribute. Ruth to email around relevant agencies for updates, send update version in next eletter & do some distribution.
- Updated version will be in the next eletter & posted on www.banff.ca

2. HEALTHY MOM HEALTHY BABES UPDATE & FUNDING NEEDS

Ira Heidemann introduced herself & updates to this program & sought funding ideas from the group.

- Clients meet 2 x month for family circle & 2 x month for cooking circle. Support for pregnancy & 6 months post partum (used to be a year)
- Increased number of client in Banff 20 majority Phillipino, dealing with issues of housing, immigration, diet specifically anemia
- No cooking circles at the moment, hopefully start in Fall.
- Bow Valley Food Bank supporting Fresh Food Box Program. Connected with Banff Food Bank at this meeting to look at partnership opportunities & referrals.
- April 2009 – March 2010 189 clients served & 72 babies, 94 are new clients
- Ira works out of Calgary & runs HMHB programs in Okotoks, Black Diamond/ Turner Valley, High River, Nanton, Claresholm & Vulcan as well.
- Great for Ira to connect with local agencies through BAG & interagency.
- HMHB has no dietician at the moment. Currently doing a nutrition survey with current & past clients to redesign program. Funded by Public Health Agency for last 14 years but no increase. Need access to a social worker.
- Looking for funding for these positions if anyone has any ideas please contact Ira at ira.heidemann@albertahealthservices.ca

3. COMMUNITY DINNERS BRAINSTORM

Town of Banff FCSS are working on starting community dinners in winter 2010 with the main focus being community building. The format would be a cooked dinner provided for free or donations if possible. Ideas were solicited on location, what it might look like, frequency etc. More info coming soon!

4. MOMENTUM FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING

Bianca Ross talked about training provided by this company <http://www.momentum.org> and how useful it would be for working with clients with mental health issues. The training is a Train The Trainer Format but is quite expensive at \$6,000 for 10-12 people. Bianca was seeing what other interest there would be and the group talked about potential funding support.

- Please contact Bianca at outreach.banff@banff.ca if interested

5. NEXT MEETING

Wed October 20 noon -2pm at the Banff Fire Hall

Agenda: sharing statistics & trends

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 The Town of Banff FCSS. To be added to the email list contact fcss@banff.ca.