

BANFF ACTION GROUP MINUTES – 21 October 2009

Barbara Nyman, YWCA of Banff	Jill Pratt, Banff Job Resource Centre	Shawn Carr, Town of Banff FCSS
Bianca Ross, H2HC	Laura Mooney, Ab Assoc for Comm Living	Shelley Gregorash, BV Dayhome Agency
Cathie Mousnier, BV Collage	Michelle Leslie, Mental Health AHS	Sheran Pavey, Banff Volunteer Centre
George Belcher, St Georges/ABV	Peter Quinn, BV Victim Services	Spencer Schneider, AHS – Addictions
Jan Sommer, Mental Health AHS	Ruth Pryor, Town of Banff FCSS	Tanya Rossetti, YWCA of Banff

1. INFO TO SHARE

Alberta Health Services - Addictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formerly AADAC, not rebranded at the moment. Still doing prevention work in schools – some rumours said to the contrary. • Kids & Drugs Parenting Prevention program with Right From The Start Team for Grades 3-9. • Now seeing clients 3 days/ week in Cascade Plaza. • New space at the Canmore office will be reading soon. Training room will be available for use. • Cynthia is back covering Rebecca’s maternity leave.
Alberta Health Services – Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall has been very busy, no lull like usual. Nature of the work the same, some complicated cases. • Lots of people coming into Urgent Care at the Mineral Springs Hospital 2-9pm • Club House is still at the Hub Mondays 2:30 – 4:30 pm. Transport issues over the summer. Group for those living with mental illness. Needs a referral.
AIDS Bow Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ED hired Meg Andronowska, from Halifax, starts mid November.
Banff Community Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to all that applied. Largest response ever with over 35 applications. Decisions due in December.
Bow Valley Dayhome Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 homes in total, 3 in Banff, 6 spaces available. Hoping to have a new Phillipino dayhome in Banff as a result of the ad on the Town of Banff page. • New sliding scale for agency fees for drop-in child care, in response for the need for flexibility.
Banff Job Resource Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill Pratt, Youth Connections Coordinator provides job/ career services for young people 16-24. • 10th annual ski hiring fair with 80-100 jobs opportunities. 500 attended, lots from Australia & UK .
Banff Volunteer Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheran Pavey new admin staff, just started. Also VP of Soroptomists. • Holding 1st fundraiser Volunteers Rock: Diamond Gala at the Rimrock 10th Nov @ 6:30pm Can order tickets online http://www.volunteerbanff.ab.ca/ \$2,000 diamond prize. Mayor is the MC.
Bow Valley College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 15 year celebration recently. • Provide 6 weeks free training (computers, etc) for unemployed. Some criteria if employed. • Exploring new system for online ESL training Adobe Connect.
Bow Valley Victim Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for new volunteers running, info in the community calendar. • Suicide Prevention Nov 14 & 15 very useful training
Rundle United	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rummage Sale Oct 23- Nov 5. Lots of bargains. Ark Thrift Store Tues 4-7pm will resume after this.
St. Georges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating 120th anniversary. All invited to ‘bun fight’ !/event on Nov 1st. Info in the paper.
Town of Banff FCSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just finished the Suicide Storytelling 2nd year. Will expand to Canmore in spring 2010. • Managing your Nonprofit Human Resources FREE workshop for boards managing employees & contractors. Nov 4 1:30-3:30pm. Register at 762-1251 • Banff Community Greenhouse Project holds a Community Open House Thurs Nov 12th at Town Hall 7-8:30pm Join with other residents in learning more about this exciting project and how to get involved. Questions to Nancy Lewis or Sharon Oakley at 762-1254 • Dealing with increase in ESL families at schools. 40-60 new students. Had a potluck to welcome the families & students & meet teachers. Looking at parent supports also needed.
YWCA of Banff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Party Oct 31 2-4pm for kids 2-10 years. Volunteers needed. Posters attached to email. • Week Without Violence just finished & very successful involving more people & diverse range. • Adult relationship groups are running & now closed. • Staff updates: Erin is on a 6 month leave & hiring now. Alison McLauchlan is the new Violence Prevention Outreach Coordinator from Scotland. vpo@ywcabanff.ab.ca 403-760-3225. She works Wed to Sat. Barb Forster is providing FREE couples counseling 2 days/ week. • Seeing a lot of young people from UK & Australia. Housing & jobs are in short supply. Helping people to be calm & organized.

2. BROCHURE/ COMMUNITY INFO REVIEW

People use for themselves or for clients:

- YWCA Local Lowdown
- Affordability Guide
- Parentlink Kidding Around
- Community Resource Directory online
- BanffLIFE calendar
- New In Town (Health Unit brochure)
- Town of Banff Low Income Programs
- Soup & Bread/ H2HC Tri-Fold Housing/ Shelter/ Food
- Banff Resource List/ Eve & Weekend info
- Inform Alberta website online

Comments:

- Seniors Guide needed – in the works by TOB FCSS Seniors Worker Sue Smythe
- Mental Health had clients say they found them on the internet through banff.ca
- One place need on web with all the info & links, too many brochures
- Hard copies are needed for newcomers who have limited computer access
- Find out number of hits online for Community Resource Directory
- Resource Directory could be less detail

Affordability Guide Updating:

5,000 copies printed March 2008 nearly all gone. Updating info Nov & printing Dec 2009. Planned focus groups with target audiences - 1. Agencies @ BAG meeting, 2. BanffLIFE pasta night; 3. Foreign workers; 4. low income families through Everyone Gets To Play. Detailed edits will requested by email later i.e. new phone number etc.

General comments:

- Coins look like credit counseling or bank info(lots of comments), have never looked at because of this (2 people)
- Needs different graphic – people/artsy/mountain sunshine/ free / monopoly Banff Ave, symbols in side/coupons
- Great to have info all in one place, well laid out, useful, keep just as Banff as people have limited transport

3. SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES – LAURA MOONEY lmooney@aacl.org www.aacl.org

- This is a project of the Associations for Community Living. The program provides support to families with kids with developmental disabilities. Offices in Edmonton & Calgary. Laura is the first worker in the valley & covers Banff, Canmore, Cochrane & Airdrie.
- It's a new way of looking at respite care that no one else is doing, and is very successful in Calgary with over 300 families. Opportunity for families to take control through an online database to directly connect with carers.
- The workers are volunteers or paid. The work is very flexible and there are no special qualifications. A child intervention & policy check are required. Time commitment can be anything from an hour.
- Canmore has responded very well with people but Banff needs workers & volunteers.. 2 families currently registered in Banff. The group helped brainstorm ideas for potential people & target groups.

4. BAG EVALUATION/ NEXT MEETING AGENDAS/ DATES 2010

BAG has been running now for 5 years, and there has been one evaluation, so it's time for another. A survey monkey will be sent out soon. Dates for 2010 will be set based on this evaluation. Info was shared on the group's purpose brainstormed at the first meeting & outcomes.

Purpose:

- Info/Resource sharing
- Action/Advocacy/Address Issues
- Developing Partnership
- Identifying service gaps/high need areas and how to address them
- Social connection/motivation

Outcomes:

- Housing sub group & surveys
- Counselling chart to ID gaps & summarize services
- Suicide sub group produced cards
- Universal consent form to share client info
- Social assistance partnership working
- Dealing with difficult clients workshop
- Temporary Foreign Worker needs
- Networking/ sharing/ eating/ laughing!

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.