MINUTES

TRI-CITIES HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Port Coquitlam City Hall
2580 Shaughnessy St, Port Coquitlam

In Attendance:
Alex Kwan, HBE, Fraser Health
Cathy van Poorten, Social Planner, Coquitlam
Councillor Chris Wilson, Coquitlam
Councillor Dennis Marsden, Coquitlam
Councillor Glenn Pollock, Port Coquitlam (Chair)
Councillor Rick Glumac, Port Moody
Lakh Bagri, ED, Eagle Ridge Hospital
Meredith Seeton, Planner, Port Coquitlam
Parneet Hara, Community Health Specialist, Fraser Health
Rissa Wilson, SD 43
Shovita Padhi, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
Wendy Lee, Fraser Northwest Division of Family Practice

Guests Speakers and Presenters:
Aaron Robinson, Coquitlam Farmers Market Society
King Lum, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Linda Western, Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Tabitha McLoughlin, Coquitlam Farmers Market Society

Regrets:
Cindi Seddon, Principal, SD 43
Kerri Palmer Isaak, SD 43
Michael Hind, ED, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

1. Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of January 28, 2015 Minutes: The minutes were accepted with no changes.

3. Confirmation of Partner Participation
The Chair relayed that the City of Coquitlam confirmed its participation in the Partnership, and clarified that the School District 43 and Fraser Health have been active participants and have provided administrative support in the past, though they may not necessarily formally do so in the future. Parneet suggested Fraser Health will be happy to host meetings in the future. Meredith will follow up with Cindi from the School District to confirm whether they anticipate hosting meetings in the future.
4. Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
Linda Western and King Lum from the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the work of the network, which is made up of individuals, non-profits, and for-profits. The purpose of the organization is “To mobilize seniors and seniors serving organization to transform the Tri-Cities region into an Age-Friendly Community through collaborative efforts that recognize the contributions, value, diversity and needs of seniors”. Priorities include service coordination and access to service, transportation, housing, health (including food security) and home supports. The group participates in various community events, recently undertook a seniors transportation survey and hosted a transportation forum, and is now focusing on affordable housing issues. More information can be found at: http://www.volunteerconnections.net/start-volunteering/tri-cities-seniors-planning-network
Linda mentioned an upcoming March 27 event where Isobel Mackenzie will be speaking: http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/tri-cities-community-seniors-forum-tickets-15769354564

5. Coquitlam Farmers Market Society
Tabitha Mcloughlin spoke to the group about the work of the Coquitlam Farmers Market Society. The society runs the weekly and bi-weekly Coquitlam and Port Moody farmers markets and also works on various food policy projects, such as establishing a 50 plot community garden with the Port Moody Policy Department, and creating a farm to school salad bar at Maillard Middle School. The society is also working with SFU students on a mapping project, identifying potential community garden sites.

The group has undertaken economic impact studies in 2006 and 2012, which identified $1.6 million in yearly direct sales at the market (not including additional spinoff economic benefits). See Dr. David Connell’s webpage for more information: http://www.unbc.ca/david-connell/local-food

In partnership with West Coast Families and Glen Pine Pavilion, the Society also supports the nutritional coupon program which provides $15 per week to at risk mothers and seniors. There is a very high redemption rate in BC as compared to the SNAP program equivalent in the US (92% verses around 44-46%). More info here: http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/nutrition-coupon-program

In the future, the society may consider spearheading a Food Policy Council or food table of some sort. Institutional food procurement is another emerging area of focus.

6. Role of Healthy Built Environment
Alex Kwan from Fraser Health discussed his work with municipalities, to integrate a health lens into policy and regulatory frameworks. Alex has worked particularly closely with the City of New Westminster in their Official Community Plan (OCP) process. Councillors expressed interest in having Fraser Health involved in upcoming OCP and neighbourhood plan reviews and updates.
7. Physician Recruitment and Retention

Councillor Rick Glumac shared the agenda of a Physician Recruitment and Retention Stakeholder Summit he will be attending March 5th, suggesting he could bring input from the group and report back on what he learns at the event. He asked the group about particular best practices for physician recruitment. Councillors and Rissa from SD43 suggested they would be interested in supporting Wendy in hosting physicians who are considering relocating to the region. Wendy suggested she would bring that offer to her recruitment meeting next week.

Wendy estimates there are approximately 150 family physicians in the Tri-Cities and New Westminster area. She suggests approximately 44 physicians would be needed to attach those residents in the region who are currently not attached to family physicians. She estimates there will be 15 retirements in the next year, and she pointed out that because work-life balance is changing amongst physicians, 1.3 new doctors are generally needed to replace 1 retiring doctor.

Wendy identified a particular problem for young moms who attend primary care obstetrics clinics before their child is born, but do not necessarily have a family physician to rely on after the birth.

It was mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce and the College of Physicians are working on improving foreign credential recognition.

Meeting adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Port Coquitlam City Hall, Heritage Room