Healthy Communities Open Space Workshop

AVICC April 8th 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Penny Cote, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Director and Chair for the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network (ACHN) called the Open Space Workshop together with the intent of exploring questions around how local government can support health networks and build healthy communities. Marcie DeWitt, Coordinator for the ACHN supported the facilitation of the workshop with support from Libby King, Coordinator for the Strathcona Community Health Network.

Participants made introductions around the circle and key concepts for Open Space were introduced. Participants were then invited to pose questions to the group for discussion. Eight questions were put forward, and seven table discussions were facilitated by participants in locations identified by letters around the room, one table combined questions due to similarity.

A: What can Health Network Coordinators do to make local leaders comfortable with system change and alternative government structures?

B: How Can Communities support Primary and Secondary Health Care in our Local Community? Capital Planning


D: How do local governments get Island Health to come and engage with us?

E: Post High School Mental Health Community Education & Supports 18 – 25

F: How Does Island Health Obtain & Implement the Priorities of the Geographic Community They Serve?

G: What can Local Communities Do, To Encourage an Increase in Family Physicians?

H: What is the (true) Cost of Inadequate/Unaffordable Housing to the Health Care System?

The following notes were collected from each table. Participants formed a circle to check out, providing a brief summary of their discussion to close the session.
Session Title: A: What can Health Network Coordinators do to make local leaders comfortable with system change and alternative government structures?

Convener: Marcie DeWitt

Participants: Dorothy Baert, Diane Mason, Brenda Bail, Michelle Staples

Summary of Discussion:
- Community forums to educate on work & frameworks Collective Impact.
- Information provision to councils,
- HN’s are still part of the systemic issue
  - How do you remove HN’s from system?
- Process that allows for engagement that gets translated into traditional mechanisms.
  - Set priorities
- Sounds like social policy - *Board voices.

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?
- Develop social policy
  - Another lens – too many lenses!
- Utilizing new techniques to facilitate, educate,
  - eg. Art of Hosting
**Session Title:** B: How Can Communities support Primary and Secondary Health Care in our Local Community? Capital Planning

**Convener:** Cynthia

**Participants:** Megan, Barb, Penny

**Summary of Discussion:** No clinic – no mental health

- Travel time – problem in urban/rural areas
- Nurse practitioner
- Provide Housing? Zeballos does
- Share resources
  - * EQ Virtual App – EQ Virtual Dr. visit
  - * Telehealth – referral – lab work

**What will we do now? What needs to happen next?**

- Regional Hospital Board needs to recognize another component of health care
- Local government needs to work on provisions for community health
- VAST Shortage – Ambulance, Drs, Nurses
**Session Title:** C: SAFE INJECTION SITES: How? What? Where? Why? When?

Response to Narcotics

**Convener:** Maeve Maguire/Rob Southcott

**Participants:**

**Summary of Discussion:**

Communities that are dealing with an increase in narcotic use/addiction may need to consider establishing harm-reduction programs, like safe injection sites.

**What will we do now? What needs to happen next?**

   
   for example: UBCM Conference tour of Insite in Vancouver.

2. Strengthen links with Island Health

3. Ask province how municipalities are supposed to find these prevention & reduction & intervention services.
Session Title: D: How do local governments get Island Health to come and engage with us?

Convener: Susan Low, Township of Esquimalt

Participants: Cardyne Austin, Lake Cowichan - Brenda Overton, Tahsis
Marc Lefebvre, Parksville
- Libby King, Coordinator Strathcona Community Health Network

Summary of Discussion:

- We want Island Health to listen and make decisions from bottom-up (Community needs) rather than top-down.

- Parksville developed an Oceanside Health Association
  - Working on housing facility for mental health, addictions
  - Oceanside local governments bought land for facility
  - Started with seniors advocacy, then broadened to general health issues

- Doctor shortage is affecting access to care services

- Knowledge of nurse practitioners growing & could fill the gap

But Island Health has to provide funding to create the jobs.
(full time jobs, backup coverage).

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?

- Local governments need to be able to speak to Island Health.

- Many health “projects” like Better at Home are short-term funded with grants, not sustainable funded.
Session Title: E: Post High School Mental Health Community Education & Supports 18 - 25

Convener: Randy Oliwa, District of Ucluelet

Participants: Ucluelet – Duncan – Port Hardy – Comox – Victoria – 2 x School Trustees

Summary of Discussion: Program Work Program & Supports

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?

Work Program – with supports

Community / School work program

Transition Program

Youth Crisis Centre 24/7
Session Title: G: What can Local Communities Do, To Encourage an Increase in Family Physicians?

Convener: Frank Johnson

Participants: Kevin Pearson, Norma Sealy, Bill Luchtmeijer, Doug Hillian, Barbara Fallot

Summary of Discussion:

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?

1. Allow for Immigration Drs
2. Increase Seats in Medical Schools
3. Promote Life skills
4. Rules are Time Consuming
5. Encourage/Explore Nurse Practitioners/Increase Access
6. Walk in Clinics
7. Need to Challenge Abilities
8. Debt Reduction/Tuition
9. Encourage at High School – Engage
10. Early Intervention of Time Contract
11. Scale of Debt Reduction to Need (Mean Test)
12. Clinic Model – Long Term Records
13. Co-op Model
14. Review of business model
15. Quality of Training
16. Multi OC (Official Community) Planning Clinics
Session Title: H: What is the (true) Cost of Inadequate/Unaffordable Housing to the Health Care System?

Convener: Al Anderson

Participants: Evan Mitchell, Kate Marsh, Marilyn McEwen, Analisa Blake, Randy Oliwa, Lucas Banton

Summary of Discussion:
- Black mould due to poor construction
- Policing
- $100,000 cost to health system, court system
- Longer hospital stays if patient has no home
- Increased education costs/supports
- Increased substance abuse for depression
- Reduced economic/employment opportunities
- Increased cost to Health Care System by using Emergency Rooms instead of clinics.

What will we do now? What needs to happen next?
- Partnerships/Grants
- Waiving fees
- Donate Land
- NGO Causes
- AHOP Housing (Federal initiatives)
- Hero work program
- Staff Housing/Dorm Housing created by Big Employers
- Chance regulatory environment – zoning
- BC Assessment give Carriage Houses a Break
- Strata Councils relax age restrictions
- Community inventory – What’s available/ What can change?