

Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network

Meeting Notes from November 20, 2012

Location: Dogwood Pavilion @ 10:30 – 12:30

In Attendance: 20

Seniors: John Perry (Coq), John Ho (Port Coq), King Lum (Coq), Peggy (Coq), Carolyn (Coq), Pat McBlaine (Coq), Lisa (Coq), Irene (Coq), Elaine (Coq)

Orgs: Dorothy LeClair (Alzheimer's Society), Karen Tyrell (Caregiver Program), Gina Hortelano (SHARE), Bruce Bird (CARP), Rob (Adult Access, City of Port Coquitlam), Bruce Bandon (Wilson Centre Advisory), Sue (Community Volunteer Services for Seniors), Kay (Glen Pine 50+), Helga Ovington (Glen Pine)

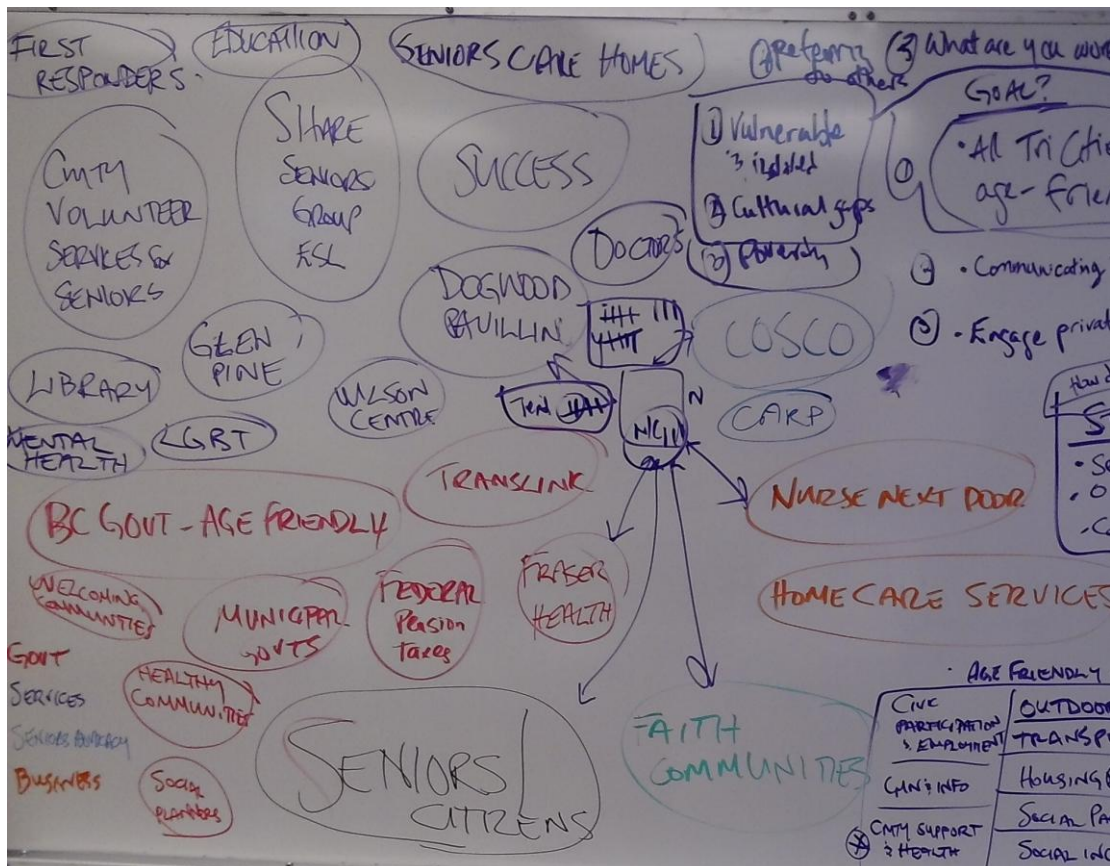
Facilitators: Linda Western and Stacy Ashton

Welcome & Overview:

- Updated newcomers to group on history of Network and highlights of the previous meeting (October 1, 2012)

Services & Activities Affecting Tri-Cities Seniors

- What are the services, programs, levels of government, businesses, etc that affect the lives of Tri-Cities seniors? Answer: Lots. A picture is worth 1,000 words.



Issues:

- Most groups interacting with seniors don't have easy ways to talk to each other or to have seniors help to make decisions

What a strong Seniors Planning Network needs:

- Ways to influence decision makers, such as a direct voice to the City councils in the Tri-Cities
- Ways to establish our credibility to decision makers
- Allies from all the groups, businesses, organizations that serve or interact with seniors
- Ways to reach out to independent seniors, seniors who speak non-English languages, seniors who may be vulnerable and isolated, to get information to them and from them; not everyone gets the Tri-Cities Seniors Guide
- A framework to work from, for example the Age Friendly Communities framework built by the World Health Organization and adopted by CARP, many City Councils, and the Province of BC

Possible Goals for the Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network:

1. To have all Tri-Cities communities meeting the Age Friendly Communities Criteria; a straw poll of participants resulted in 13 participants endorsing the Age-Friendly criteria; 5 endorsing the Age-Friendly criteria with reservations, and 3 reserving judgement.
2. Communicating/connecting to all seniors; Questions we'd need answers for include Who is getting the information they need now? Who is not? How do we get to those who are not getting the information? How do we activate word of mouth?

Structure of TriCities Seniors Planning Network:

- Do we set up two tables (one for seniors and one for agencies) or do we set up one table?
- Should committees include both seniors and agencies, or be 100% seniors?
- Should different committees be set up for each of the 8 Age Friendly Communities areas, or should we pick two or three priority areas and start there (e.g. transportation, community supports, health & housing).

Collecting Information: Who is doing what services/initiatives?

- Pat and Carolyn volunteered to collect information from organizations and services, starting with those connected to the Network already, focusing on:
 - o What organizations are doing now with/for seniors?

- What projects/initiatives are they planning?
- What projects/initiatives do they want to start planning?
- How are they reaching isolated or vulnerable seniors?
- How are they reaching seniors who do not speak English?
- How do they reach seniors living in poverty?
- What services/organizations do you refer seniors to most often?

To prepare for next meeting:

- Pull together what came out of focus groups and UW senior's forum and the summary.
- Look at other groups pros and cons at other planning table. Karen to submit terms of reference from the Burnaby Planning Table and Dorothy to submit the terms of reference from Pitt Meadows in advance to both Linda and Stacy.

Update on the Better at Home Program funded by the United Way:

- Bruce from CVSS gave this update. \$15 million was given to the United Way to fund Better at Home programs in Lower Mainland communities, providing non-medical support services for seniors
- Better at Home is hiring a community developer to run community consultations regarding with agency or agencies should deliver services in the Tri-Cities; the community developer will be organizing community consultations in January and February, with a final decision on service delivery being made in late February
- The Better at Home services have funding in place until 2015.

Administration of this group:

The Network will meet: Once a month excluding December

Meeting locations: Rotate to all communities

Ideal time and day: Tuesdays afternoons at 1:30pm

Administrative support: Written agendas and notes from each meeting.

Next meeting
January 8th 2013 - 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Wilson Centre
 2150 Wilson Avenue, Port Coquitlam