

SENIORS SERVICES TASK FORCE
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, February 25th 2009
Blue Room, Queen's Park Care Centre, New Westminster.

In attendance: Marg McKee, Chair; Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator; Jan Greenhow, Joy Barkwill, Linda Brind-Dickson, Susan Didier, Syl Helminck, Kay Johnson, David Jones, Diane Murakami, Beverly Pitman, Julie Rogal, Judi Sofroni, Jessie Sutherland, Karen van de Hoop, Patricia Smith, Carmela Smythe, Kate Rexin, Alise Kent.

Regrets: Andrea Wright, Heather Whiteford, Bill Zander, Charles Calogiros, Lynn Osborn.

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda.

Jan Greenhow welcomed those present.

Syl Helminck moved to adopt the Agenda. Seconded by Dave Jones. AIF. Carried.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2008.

John Stark moved to adopt the Minutes of the December 9th meeting as circulated.

Seconded by Linda Brind-Dickson. AIF. Carried.

3. Introductions.

Jan introduced Marg McKee as the incoming Chair of the SSTF, and handed the meeting over to her. Marg thanked Jan and asked those present to introduce themselves. She welcomed guests and new members to the committee.

4. Subcommittee reports:

A) *Governance & Recommendations.*

i. Code of Conduct draft.

Mariam presented Draft 2 of the Code of Conduct dated February 25, 2009, which details: Object and Purpose, Application and Conflict of Interest Policy. Mariam circulated the draft and asked the committee as a whole to study it and provide her with feedback.

ii. Built Environment & Active Transportation Community Planning Grant. (BEAT).

John reviewed the Preliminary Draft Document "Expression of Interest: City of New Westminster." He reviewed the project, which is named 'Wheelability' Assessment of and Mapping Project for Uptown and Downtown New Westminster". The Expression of Interest will go to Council on March 2, 2009 for a resolution to support the project. The application will be submitted by March 6, 2009. and will receive notice of status by March 13, 2009.

B) *Project Committees.*

i. New Westminster senior demographics.

John presented a demographic spreadsheet “Seniors by Neighbourhoods” based on the 2006 census. The categories are listed as Age 65 & above, Age 75 & above, Age 85 & above.

Discussion included a request by Kate that age 50 & above be included. Karen suggested age 55 & above would fit with the other categories.

John will provide a map in digital format for committee members.

ii. Directory & database.

Linda updated the committee on the progress of the online database. Due to feedback from consumers who have been having difficulty with the table of contents, there is a delay in putting the database online while it is being revised to make it more user-friendly. The object is to provide a searchable and usable table of contents until the broader 211 programme comes into place.

Beverly reviewed the difficulties of the 211 programme.

John asked if an updated version of the print Directory is being considered.

Linda said it is, and that the Directory is a great success, and that she has been receiving much positive feedback. She commented that even criticism is helpful in revising the Directory.

5. Recommendation Action Planning Session.

The committee broke into groups based on the sign-up sheets at the December 9, 2008 SSTF committee meeting, the categories being:

1. Housing & the built environment.
2. Security & safety.
3. Transportation.
4. Education & communication.
5. Personal assistance, support, recreation.
6. Health & mental health services.

Each group was asked to consider the recommendations as detailed in the Task Force Recommendation Status Summary as of 2/24/2009, after discussion to complete the accompanying form. There was discussion on the process and direction of these recommendation sub-groups.

Mariam advised that, based on the Terms of Reference, the recommendations of the sub-groups will be taken to the Governance Committee. Mariam will follow-up with sub-groups individually. If groups are willing to meet outside of the SSTF to work on their recommendations, she would help organize those meetings.

6. Presentation: Bev Pitman, United Way: Seniors Theory of Change.

Bev presented a talk on “Seniors’ Independence & Participation – Theory of Change.” She spoke on the changing role of the United Way in the community, and circulated a draft flow chart identifying the services required to reach the goal that “all seniors in the Lower Mainland maintain personal independence and active engagement in community life as long as possible.”

Bev asked if those present thought the flow chart is useful; is it comprehensive? She asked the committee to take it away, study it, and email her with ideas and recommendations based on their own experience. In discussion, Kay suggested that in Total Population Impacts, under “Mental Health” ‘Seniors are optimistic & engaged,’ the word ‘optimistic’ be changed.

Karen questioned ‘least restrictive’ under “Independent Living.” Others would prefer a ‘left-to-right’ flow chart rather than reading from bottom to top.

7. Announcements

Mariam circulated a list of “Upcoming Senior-Related Events.” 2009.

- March 2: Technology & Aging; Knowledge from Research, SFU Harbour Centre, 4:00 – 5:30, Room 1520.
- March 24: Community Food Forum with focus on Meals on Wheels, Douglas College, Coquitlam Campus, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.
- April 3/4: BCNAR (BC Network for Aging Research) workshop on programme evaluation, SFU Harbour Centre.
- May: BCNPH (BC Nonprofit Housing Association) Conference on seniors’ housing needs.
- May: BCAA 2nd Roundtable on Accessible Transportation of Seniors, Langley.
- June 17-23: (or June 3-9?) BC Seniors’ Week, Active Aging Symposium.
- Oct 1: International Day of the Older Person.

8. Next meeting & Adjournment.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Location: TBA

Adjournment at 3 pm.