

New Westminster Seniors Services Task Force (SSTF)
MINUTES of the Meeting
Wednesday, February 24th 2010 1:00 - 3:00
Centennial Community Centre, 65 E. Sixth Ave. New Westminster

In Attendance: Marg McKee, Chair; Mariam Larson, SSTF Co-ordinator; Joy Barkwill, Judi Sofroni, Patricia Smith, Heather Whiteford, Annette Oakes, Betty McIntosh, Lorraine Logan, Freda D'Souza, Brian D'Souza, Jan Greenhow, John Stark, Diane Murakami, Pat Dunnett, Morgan McGrath, Syl Helmink, Barb Webster, Reena Singh, Dianne Clark, Dave Jones.

Regrets: Joanne Robertson, Gabriele Scully, Bill Zander.

A message to the Task Force has been received from Karen van der Hoop who was a Task Force member. She sent thanks and regret that due to her new role at Fraser Health as End of Life Manager for Burnaby, New Westminster, Tricities and Maple Ridge, she is no longer able to attend Task Force meetings. She will refer the new contact to SSTF. Mariam thanked her for her work on the Task Force

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Syl Helmink, seconded by Brian D'Souza to adopt the Agenda as presented. AIF. Carried.

Adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 25, 2009.

Moved by Freda D'Souza and seconded by Syl to adopt the Minutes of the November 25 meeting as circulated. AIF. Carried.

2. Business

A. Chairperson's Reports. Attached.

United Way: It was noted that September to August is the period of the United Way Grant. July is the reporting time. An outcome report is required but there is no need to reapply.

B. Co-ordinator's Report. Action Plan.

Revised Action Plan to describe and define projects in context of original SSTF Report and to make reporting to funders easier.

Also reviewing SSTF Structure. In efforts to increase membership, observe/learn that seniors want to participate with defined projects – but not necessarily join a Task Force to do so. Goal: Revise the structure to reflect role of the SSTF is not to direct projects, but work with and support seniors in developing and implementing projects to meet their needs.

C. Projects.

1. Project overview.

a. Membership Committee: The SSTF is to be seniors led and driven. Heather explained her role would not be Chairperson but to facilitate connections. The committee will address recruitment and support of seniors on the Task Force.

Contact Heather at: 604-525-9144 or email: hwhiteford@fsgv.ca

b. Seniors' Directory: Lynda was not present.

c. Seniors' Engagement Guide: John reported that the City is planning to apply for a grant of \$20,000.00 to produce a Guide which would equip staff with proven techniques to engage seniors. The Guide will go to all City staff and possibly to other services within New Westminster. The project will be ready to go in early April if the grant comes through.

Contact John at: 604-515-3777 or email: jstark@newwestcity.ca

d. Agency Network Event: Joy explained the structure of the event which takes the form of 'speed-meeting'. The idea is to allow representatives of agencies to meet with the expectation of future collaboration, and to discover what is happening in the community. Organization of the event would include promotion, location, hosts, facilitator, RSVP, refreshments, and evaluation. The committee would decide if the participants would be from profit or not-for-profit agencies. Contact Joy at: 604-519-1060 or email: jbarkwill@newwestcity.ca

e. IMBY Fair 2010: Report attached. The date of May 1st was chosen. Contact Mariam at: 604-515-1718 or manage@mariamlarson.com

2. PROJECT GROUPS

The Task Force members present discussed the Projects and volunteered for those which interested them. The result "New Westminster SSTF Project Groups as of 2/25/2010." is attached.

D. New Business: none

E. Announcements

1. Café Scientifique: Patricia gave an overview. The project is funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Century House was chosen to host a café. The goal is to take the mystery out of scientific research for the general public and empower non-scientists to more comfortably and

accurately understand current science issues. The cafes are intended to focus on research that impacts the health of the aging population. The topic chosen by Century House is 'Brain Health.'

Contact: Patricia Smith, 604-524-8907, or email: patellen@shaw.ca

2. SPARC BC. Project Diversity. 'Train the Trainer' sessions will commence in March 2010. Contact: Jim Sands at 604-718-7742 or email: jsands@sparc.bc.ca

3. SFU Seniors Program & Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport launches its new SeniorsBC.ca website; SFU premieres its latest Outreach Project DVD. Thursday March 18 2010, 10 am to Noon. SFU Harbour Centre campus room 1900 (Fletcher Challenge Theatre)

4. UBC & BC Aging Research Advisory seeking senior participants.

5. Patient Voices Network. www.patientvoices.ca,
Next Training Workshop: March 6 & 7, 2010 at a Vancouver Hotel.
Contact Rachelle Rebman, outreach co-ordinator: 604-742-1772. Ext 229

6. "Forgetful Not Forgotten." Free public screening of a powerful and personal story about Alzheimer's disease. March 3, 2010, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Paetzold Health Education Centre, Jim Pattison Pavilion, 899 W 12 Avenue, Vancouver. Information: 604-681-6530.

5. Presentation: Elder Abuse Project, Heather Whiteford and Reena Singh, Family Services of Greater Vancouver

Heather introduced Reena, who is replacing Andrea Wright during maternity leave. Reena will work 2 1/2 days a week with Detective Sherry Gulliver of New Westminster Police. The Elder Abuse Project began in 2008 with a two-year grant (now expired). The majority of abusers are adult male children with addiction and/or mental health problems. All types of abuse are seen. The New Westminster caseload of 26 - 30 clients is the same as in Vancouver. The Project works with Fraser Health and concentrates on having the family and the counsellors problem-solve together. Collaboration between police and a non-profit agency in the matter of elder abuse is unique to New Westminster. The Project also connects seniors to services. Deb O'Connor has written an evaluation of the Project. SSTF will invite Deb and Sherry Gulliver to present to SSTF.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 1 – 3 pm. Century House.

7. Adjournment: 2:50 pm.