

Nanaimo Community Health Network

Governance Working Group

Meeting Notes

April 12, 2021 10am to 11:30am

Zoom Meeting

Participants: Jane Osborne, Oliver Jacobson, Brenda Adams, Pam Shaw, Vesa Atanasoff, Lisa Marie Barron, Erin Hemmens, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Analisa Blake, Jane Vinet

Regrets: Jade Yehia, Christy Wood, Dave Stewart, Kim Symthe, Claudio Aguilera, Carolyn Sampson

Discussion Topics

1. Today we expressed our gratitude for living on the traditional and unceded territories of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-naw-as Nations.
 2. Action item from our Check-in - Jane V to share "In from The Margins" Collaborative Action to Improve Access to Appropriate Health Services for Aboriginal People.
 3. Vesa Atanasoff's internship is ending at the end of the month and this will be her last Governance Working Group meeting. Everyone thanked her for her participation and thoughtful sharing and support.
 4. Core value and guiding principles review – review of the work done to April 12th. Questions raised in review:
 - Do we want to add more information about inclusivity? Inclusivity is not only about respecting others but inviting others. "Nothing about us, without us". Being inclusive means bringing people in as part of the larger community – it recognizes everyone, including those who will never show up at a table.
 - Do the guiding principles for each framework element say enough? How will we incorporate the information from the 2018 forums? The guiding principles are the intangibles for network governance. The tangibles (info from 2018 forum) will be included in the process and evaluation document that supports each guiding principle.
 - Once we have created all the statements we will review to see if anything was missed.
 - When we discussed ways to sustain should we not include funding? What about succession planning? The guiding principle is about the internal working of the groups and those in the network
 - Merging of engage and connect – suggest we call it ways to connect, because it is a more accessible word, more democratic, connection is more about the relationship building inclusivity.
 - **Ways to Connect**
"We will connect by reaching out, encouraging and listening to all voices"
 - **Ways to Sustain:**
"We will sustain the network by taking care of ourselves and each other.
- Funding will be addressed in the operationalizing process or could be included in how we will impact together.

- Using the information that was shared from the Ways to Belong element in previous meetings we went into breakout groups to create the draft guiding principle.
- **Ways to Belong – how we will belong summary discussion points:**
- Group 1 - We struggled because there is so much to consider. We don't want to restrict ourselves – how do these statements allow us to continue to evolve and learn from one another? We also still need to acknowledge that while we are committed to change, we are still operating within colonial structures. We came up with “Openness to learning from one another” and we need an action piece as well “adapting”.
- Group 2–We talked about what would it feel like, look when I belong what are the sensations, I am experiencing that tell me I belong? We belong when people care about me. People are genuinely happy you are there. Also, it is important that other people are taken care of as well – no matter when these meetings take place, there will be people who can't attend, not everyone will have access to communication tools – how will people take part?
- Group 3 - We focused on belonging as the act of co-creating a space. Part had to do with people showing up as authentic, basic human beings rather than the positions they hold, degrees etc. “We just want you here” not the person who gives you status in the group. That space needed to allow us to draw on the knowledge that exists within each of us – not the institutionally granted knowledge and draws on and recognizes we all come with different capacities to act and that we all do it differently.
- The group can't make me belong – I have to choose to belong. If I don't show up as who I really am I don't ever really get that feeling of belonging. “You can't tell me my ally; I have to choose you as my ally”
- Who I am when I turn up could be different everyday, depending on my life circumstances? The space needs to be one that allows people to be truly honest. It is rare to say how am I today, and do I feel safe enough to say that – that check in is vital.
- The concept of a “quorum” – that it is the responsibility of community to be there. Who ever does show up at a meeting, are the people who are supposed to be there to do the work and make it happen, rather than focusing on the more colonized structural approach of the chosen circle of 12”? This is not just the governance structure for the decision makers or coordinating circle, but it is for the entire network, and so there are multiple spaces we co-create, so that there are multiple spaces for people to show up in different ways. The space can be fluid – but the values we bring and the ways we will operationalize that space are embedded in how we will do the work.
- **Ways to Belong**

“We will belong by co-creating space that recognizes the breadths of life experience that each person brings regardless of our position and privilege - we all bring valued perspectives to inform, and we all bring valuable capacities to affect change.

“Ways to belong - we create space for, and accept people for, where they are at for any given moment in time. “

- Operationalizing what we are talking about is especially important. For example, we spent 24 minutes talking about where we were in our lives and how we were showing up. This space we

are creating is worth the 24 minutes that it took us today to check in, and we are ok with the fact that we may not get to parts of the agenda because we are committed to doing this together, it means I have a stronger sense of belonging in this group, because of the way we have committed to working together.

- If we can't make a GWG meeting, can we create a buddy system to bring people up to speed- this recognizes people capacity. As a community, how do we help other people come up to speed and it is not just reading minutes – we need to recognize the knowledge translation challenge – not just relying on emails etc. We can try this here and look at doing this in the network.
- Buddies for April 12th meeting
 - Jade Yehia & Christy Wood – Jane Osborne
 - Claudio Aguilera – Brenda Adams
 - Carolyn Sampson – Jane Vinet
 - Kim Smythe – Erin Hemmens
 - Dave Stewart – Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley
- Next meeting Monday, April 24th – 10am to 11:30 – continue with our guiding principles.