

Nanaimo Community Health Network

Governance Working Group

Meeting Notes

April 24, 2021 10am to 11:30am

Zoom Meeting

Participants: Jane Osborne, Brenda Adams, Pam Shaw, Lisa Marie Barron, Davie Stewart, Dyan Dunsmoor-Farley, Analisa Blake, Jane Vinet

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. Review of the framework core values love, inclusivity, and enjoyment
3. Guiding principles completed are Ways to Connect, Ways to Sustain, and a review and finalizing of Ways to Belong crafted April 12th: Nothing was added or changed.
 - **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 Know – reminder of what was meant by the fourth element of the framework which was added post forum
 - Respect individual knowledge
 - Draw on foundational knowledge of place
 - Know what was here before settlers came.
 - Communicate as a community our shared...
 - Honour what we do know and acknowledge that there is a lot we don't know.
 - Acknowledge how we show up in a room – we come with more ways of knowing than our titles as professionals, we come as whole human beings (this was incorporated into ways to belong)
 - Know by learning, implementing and supporting indigenous ways of knowing as dual practices and processes to advance and achieve the goals of the network, action tables and coordinating circle.
 - Group moved into three breakout groups and crafted their guiding principles.
 - Group 1 – bring a critical lens to the work – taking responsibility to learn about the knowledge being presented and not take it at face value - curiosity, openness and critical thinking applied to what we are learning and ways we take in information – colonial settler and traditional ways and valuing both ways. Also, the knowledge of lived experience.
 - Group 2 – “We will know by learning and unlearning, implementing, and drawing from multiple perspectives to create an ethical space. The ethical space is formed when societies with different world views come together. “ There are many other ways of

knowing and doing than the colonial ways. This is a process not an arrival point. We all perceive the same information differently.

- Breakout group discussions resolved in the following guiding principle:
- **Ways to Know:** We will know by learning and unlearning, guided by curiosity, drawing from multiple perspectives to create an ethical space.* We take responsibility to dig deeper, carefully examining our own perceptions, assumptions, and perspectives and those of others.
- *Definition of ethical space“ - Ethical Space is a framework for guiding respectful interaction across cultural differences in a way that upholds the fundamental integrity of all knowledge systems entering that space. It is a model that creates a space of mutual trust, respect, equality, and collaboration.” - IISAAK OLAM Foundation, December 2019 – Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCSs) and Ethical Space. – this captures multiple ways of knowing.
- This is an opportunity for us to be able to share the idea of ethical space.
- Action Item: Contact Eli Ens from Eissak Olam to come as a guest speaker for the group to learn more about the Ethical Space framework.
- What if part of what the community health network did was to create ethical spaces and for us to be advocates for ethical spaces and bring knowledge about what that is, and adopt it as a way of doing our work? What would that do for the social determinants of health, to encourage others how to take this approach in community conversations.
- Could this be an initial priority for the network? If we try to do this work in the same space that we have always been doing this work, we will not get the results we are hoping to get. Network could advocate for ethical spaces – some opportunities to make this a foundational piece and make sure the foundation we are basing our work on is an appropriate one.
- Important that we everyone can articulate what an ethical space does and not just use is as “jargon”. We have a responsibility to come up with our definition of what ethical space that makes sense to include.
- Diane asked, to what degree do these efforts provide equitable access to existing knowledge opportunities for citizens to contribute their own knowledge and mechanisms for understanding and contextualizing the significance of lived experience?
- At some point the network will open up and more people will participate is the degree to which people bring their own affiliation perspectives, and then we reinforce each others’ perspectives. How do we implement the critical lens of whose voices are not here and who is missing from these conversations?
- This was included in our guiding principles Ways to Connect – all voices are heard. All these principles are the framework that we are always checking in with, and checking in with the people who are here, and reaching out to those who aren’t.
- We can’t commit to using Ethical Space unless we have to know what it means.
- Group moved on to a conversation on Operational Structure - Gabriola Health and Wellness Network Collaborative has 40 organizations involved and it meets once a year – in the interim – the Hub – the members who keep it going and does minutes and does it without funding. Routinely 26 groups are represented each month, they bring new people. It is fluid and we get things done, who shows up, does the work. Don’t get

wound up in structure – allow it to evolve in a way that makes sense and don't give status to that function.

- We can have advisory tables as we need them – youth or elders, bring them together as necessary to guide us and make sure we are doing the work in a good way.
- If we can get Eli Ens to speak the group is willing to attend a meeting on a different day or time as necessary to accommodate Mr. Ens schedule.
- Next meeting Monday, May 10th – 10am to 11:30 – continue with our guiding principles, finalize Ways to Know, and continue with Ways to Decide, Ways to Impact Together