

# Woodwards Social Housing Coalition Project

## Update of Regional Homelessness Plan for Greater Vancouver "Kitchen Table" Focus Groups

### Aboriginal Focus Group

Name of host site: Stanley New Fountain Housing \_\_\_\_\_

Clients served (mark all that apply):  Aboriginal people

Aboriginal Men, Women and Street Youth with alcohol and drug  
history

Members of Western Aboriginal Representation Society (W.A.R.S.) –  
sub committee of Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_Vancouver\_\_\_\_\_

Date of focus group: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday June 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_Chris Livingston - \_\_ Chairperson of  
W.A.R.S. \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Leyden and Chris Livingston \_\_\_\_\_

# of Men: 10 \_\_\_\_\_ # of Women 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Total #Participants 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
Group started with 11

## Part 2. Questions

### Housing

#### 1. Emergency shelters

- a) Do participants think there are enough emergency shelters in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**Group states there are not enough in DTES 11/11 - unanimous**

- b) In the past year, has anyone been turned away from an emergency shelter because of a lack of space?

**6 out of 11 were turned away because of lack of space. Harms induced directly because of lack of shelter.**

- c) In the past year, was anyone ever turned away from an emergency shelter for any other reason?

**Yes, group stated that drug and alcohol users face discrimination due to their addiction and the insensitivity of shelter staff. They suggested that staff receive sensitivity training.**

- d) Do participants think there is a need for more emergency shelters [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region?

**Yes - unanimous**

#### 2. Transition houses for women fleeing abuse

**– Woman group members only answered this section**

- a) Do participants think there are enough transition houses in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**4 out of 4 women say not adequate**

- b) In the past year, has anyone been turned away from a transition house because of a lack of space?

**Yes - 4 out of 4**

- c) In the past year, was anyone ever turned away from a transition house for any other reason?

**2 out of 4 – suspected drug use  
- behavior**

- d) Do participants think there is a need for more transition houses [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region?

**4 out of 4 - Yes**

**3. Second stage/transitional or supportive housing**

- a) Do participants think there is enough second stage, transitional or supportive housing in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**No – 13 out of 13**

- b) In the past year, has anyone been turned away from second stage, transitional or supportive housing because of a lack of space?

**Yes – 50% of welfare recipients notable to find accommodation.**

- c) In the past year, was anyone ever turned away from second stage, transitional or supportive housing for any other reason?

**-Drug and Alcohol use  
-Family dynamics**

- d) Do participants think there is a need for more second stage, transitional or supportive housing [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region?

**Yes 13 out of 13**

4. Do participants think there is a need for any other kind of housing to address or prevent people from becoming homeless?

**More shelters**

- youth shelters
- temp shelters –(temp housing)
- Working girl shelter and services
- Native housing proportionate to urban aboriginal resident population
- DTES transition shelter.

**Support Services**

**5. Drop-in centres**

- a) Ask for a show of hands for how many participants have gone to a drop-in centre in the past year.

**15 out of 15**

- b) Do participants think there are enough drop-in centres in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**No women specific centres**

- c) In the past year, was anyone ever turned away from a drop-in centre?

**Yes – drug and alcohol issues which includes barring from community centres for suspicion of using or dealing.**

- d) Were drop-in centres open at times that were convenient?

**No - services are needed during 'street hours' – between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.**

- e) Do participants think there is a need for more drop-in centres [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region?

**Yes – 15 out of 15**

**6. Outreach workers**

- a) Ask for a show of hands for how many participants have been approached by or have spoken to an outreach worker in the past year.

**Yes – 15 out of 15**

- b) Do participants think there are enough outreach workers in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**No - unanimous –also they should be better trained and better qualified to deal with problems other than simply first aid.  
Example given was cocaine psychosis.**

- c) Do participants think there is a need for more outreach workers [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver?

**Yes - We need more around the clock- [especially after midnight when there are no other support services available]**

## **7. Addiction treatment services**

- a) Do participants think there are enough addiction treatment services in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**No – Unanimous and resounding – “What services ?”**

- b) In the past year, has anyone been turned away from an addiction treatment service because of a lack of space? If so, ask what kind of place this was – Detox? Recovery?

**Yes – 8 of the people –  
detox because of mental condition e.g. because of anger. – 1 person was asked to leave because of a shortage of beds although he was waiting for a space in a recovery house or treatment centre.**

**Treatment centre and recovery house because of lack of ‘clean time’**

- c) Do participants think there is a need for more addiction treatment services [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region? If so, please specify what kinds of services are needed.

**Yes**

## **8. Mental health services**

- a) Do participants think there are enough mental health services in [the area where the focus group session is taking place]?

**No – especially for dual-diagnosed**

- b) In the past year, has anyone been turned away from mental health services or unable to access mental health services? If yes, why?

**Either Not applicable or the people did not feel safe enough in a peer group to self-disclose or be forthcoming with the info.**

- c) Have participants faced any other barriers to accessing mental health services?

**Not enough outreach support work.**

- d) Do participants think there is a need for more mental health services [in the area where the focus group session is taking place] or in any other part of the Greater Vancouver region? If so, please specify what kinds of services are needed.

**Dual diagnosis groups and stimulant support groups – strong support for immediate service to the speed – Crystal Methadine – population.**

## **9. Prevention**

- a) Have participants ever gone to an advocacy or community organization for help to get housing or to keep the housing they already had (e.g. not get evicted)?

**Yes - 7 out of 15**

- b) What kind of services do participants think would help prevent people from becoming homeless?

**Economic self-sustainability, life skills training, job creation**