

Community Coordination: Bringing Seniors Groups Together

Thursday, November 07, 2013

8:50 am to 9:05 am | Registration & Reception – Royal Canadian Legion Branch #122

Community Coordination

9:05 am to 9:10 am	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Introductions</p> <p>Why are we here?</p>
9:10 am to 9:30 am	<p>Engaging in Community Coordination: Ryan Watmough</p>
9:30 am to 10:00 am	<p>Golden’s Seniors Groups & Resources</p> <p>Mini Presentations</p>
10:00 am to 10:15 am	<p>Guest Facilitator: Nancy Gale</p> <p>Introduction to common seniors issues and opportunities throughout BC</p>

Break

10:30 am to 10:45 am	<p>Seniors Coalition: Nancy Gale</p>
10:45 am to 11:10 am	<p>Break Out Session 1</p>
11:15 am to 11:25 am	<p>Round Up</p>
11:35 am to 11:55 am	<p>Break Out Session 2</p>
12:05 am to 12:15 pm	<p>Round Up</p>
12:15 am to 12:25 pm	<p>Action Items & Next Steps</p>
12:30 pm	<p>Closing</p>

Notes

What next?	How?
What was interesting?	Who will I have a conversation with? (to help you, help them, help us)

Discussion Guidance:

1. Any work we do to improve the life of a senior is productive.
2. Move thinking from that of 'scarcity' to 'abundance.'
3. What will our community look like 5 years from now?
4. Ask. Listen. And leave our judgments behind.

Discussion Group Summaries

Group Sheet A

What are the opportunities for change in our community that we can leverage?

Facilities available: Nordic Club, Abbeyfield, Legion – meeting, activities.

Inventory other groups – free facilities, rental facilities, who can provide a facility.

Biggest opportunity is community collaboration like this.

Volunteers – community programs to promote volunteerism/value of projects; coordinate/advertising (time concerns)

Need for leadership to promote collaboration.

Opportunity to take on role; funding grants, paid staff.

Resources – finance/bookkeeping, grant opportunities, audits, insurance, sharing club resources, combine ideas.

Northern Development Trust program hiring 3 staff to work with groups on grants, proposal, projects – opportunity for CBT to fund such a position.

Cooperative buying/lending for projects; expenses; transportation; bulk buying.

Body of data and stats out there; community report cards.

Opportunity not to reinvent the wheel – “Vital Signs”.

Coordination of Transportation – for appointments, groceries, social functions/activities and physical activities.

Opportunity to reduce duplication of services.

Huge opportunity – grey power – provincial, federal power & focus.

Political pressure – rural component to this province cooperative advocacy.

Opportunity – IHA – challenge

Our location – stand alone services; geographic isolation.

Housing – facilities working together.

Medical companionship.

Group Sheet B

Change we want to see in 5 years.

Change – community-owned bus/van; not public.

Ease of transportation. Our city transportation, accessible; open market transportation system.

Community bus – city run or ??? Outside Golden and inside Golden area – volunteer drivers.

Indoor pool – fitness and socializing.

More housing options: not only low cost housing qualifiers; rental, not own (i.e. condos & garden).

Encourage community involvement and awareness – including businesses.

New attitude and rebrand the term 'senior', e.g. active adults or 50 plus.

More volunteers – change attitude for volunteering – so not a lifetime commitment.

Technology support (cell phones & computers).

Home support for those who can stay at home still: companionship; qualified home support; sharing homes; volunteer visiting; hospice service (excellent, but needs improved awareness); telephone reassurance, regular contact.

More humane services for clients with health issues.

Funding.

More support for volunteer groups in crisis struggling; crisis can be a catalyst.

More walkable trails for seniors.

Communicating of services programs; more outreach, distribution; increase networking.

Coordinating of volunteers? Something groups access.

Seniors to age in place – more services to meet needs.

Mobile and active – we need rest stop.

Low cost housing development – rancher style; manufactured homes; now; maybe forum to development; developers want to make money.

Community focus less extreme attract other sectors of population.

Redefine way we think of volunteers: change commitment; how we appreciate volunteers; volunteer appreciation days; fun event.

Group Sheet C

Barriers: no hub – central base for finding out about workshops; personal contact vs. website.

Concept of what a senior is – break down stereotype of 'senior.'

Using technology: hard to keep up with the fast paced changes of technology; what is the appropriate devices; get business to help – classes free.

Lack of coordination of services and lack of sharing to reduce costs to groups.

Lack of multi-generation activities.

More coordination of housing/applications/opportunities: send the applicant to the correct facility.

Community Soup Kitchen: eat together healthier eating; social dining – affordable; restaurants.

Liability/health regulations.

Society's perception of human interaction (elderly people with young children) – lack of trust.

Beneficial to see other rural community models.

Amalgamation of Golden and surrounding area; e.g. KHMR, CSRD – sharing tax revenues.

Community Social Coordinator: Seniors advisor to inform about available resources and to determine and address those needs.

Group Sheet: D

Barriers:

Transportation – no community bus; no handy dart.

Same people volunteering all the time.

Mega groups to volunteer to – fixed group of volunteers.
 Burn out of volunteers – at all groups.
 Many organizations are key-person-dependent; need succession planning.
 As we age, we review our time commitments. We won't take on all duties of group.
 Need flexibility.
 Issue of large long-term projects; too large no end in site; need bite-sized.
 Lack of collaboration.
 Lack of trust; fear of loss of control.
 Gender issue: how do we get men involved.
 Fragmentation of groups and purpose.
 Senior: huge wide spectrum; 50 year old → ??? Hard to offer a program for seniors.
 All things to all groups peoples – focus.
 Golden is a young active town; how to engage younger group interests.
 Lack of tax base.
 Older population moving away – need more than a bed.
 Lack a full spectrum of services for seniors. Complex health issues need specialists. No buses for transportation.
 Many multigenerational families in town 10 years ago -10% to 40% now.
 Diversity in community – broad spectrum.
 Recreation Mecca: lots of young seniors; challenge to keep them here; services for middle-age seniors.
 Affordability: cost of living; high food bank use.
 Housing issues: age in place living; Purcell, Abbeyfield, Mountain View – lots of options.

Discussion Wordle (Tagxedo.com)



Discussion Themes

Issues: What is the change we want to see? Describe the issue we want to impact five years from now?

- **Transportation**
- **Perception of 'seniors'**
- **Volunteer burn-out**
- **Missing a full complement of housing options that fit our collective needs**

Opportunities: What are the opportunities for change in our community that we can leverage?

- Need to change the perception of 'seniors'
- Think strategically and execute aligned projects
- Need paid staff to coordinate groups and projects
- Improve local sourcing, strengthen businesses
- Try a small collaboration project, learn from it
- Meet again in 10-14 days.

Barriers: What barriers currently exist in our community that are preventing the change we want to see?

- Bureaucracy
- Lack of transportation options