



Garibaldi Ridge

Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Dec. 3rd, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting - 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Representatives in attendance:

Coast Mental Health

Three community representatives

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Follow-up</u>
<p>Review of neighborhood feedback</p>	<p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there safe injection rooms at all three Maple Ridge sites? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, although the rooms are not as comfortable as client's using in their own suites, with friends. 2. What is provided in GR when a new client moves in? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provide basics necessities for their room, such as a mattress, bedding, chair, microwave and a chair and work with community partners to provide other items. 3. Are we able to drop off items that we have picked up for GR? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items can be dropped off at GR. Due to COVID just let us know when you will be coming. 4. Do you have storage available for donation collections? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are donating items we will always find space 5. Has there been any discussion around GR regarding vandalism or an increase in crime? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one at GR has heard much regarding vandalism or increased crime. 6. With the appointment of a new housing minister (Hon. David Eby, Minister of Attorney General and 	

	<p>Minster Responsible for Housing), are you going to be asking for more funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes, we will be advocating for more funding with all level of governments. <p>7. What happens if someone is evicted, overdoses or dies in the building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the case of eviction, 24-48 hours will be given in the incident of grave violence. This order could be immediate. A critical incident report is filed to BC Housing, any employee reports are filled if required. The Ministry can contact shelters to find an available bed and room items will be put into storage.• In the case of an overdose there will be a follow-up, a critical incident report sent to BC Housing within 12 hours after the event. If the overdose is fatal an audit form is filled out, all relevant stakeholders are advised and any critical incident debriefing from the MRT (Mobile Response Team) is conducted. There are multiple streams we report into and we meet all reporting requirements. <p>8. Have there been concerns regarding needles on school property?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There have been some concerns with teenagers hanging around as there were beer cans left on the property, however, no needles were found.	
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Program Report

Success stories

- In a single day we were able to interview, complete intake and 'welcome home' three new clients. One has now joined the Clean Team in the hopes of securing a current employment reference to find work in the community.
- A tenant with a long history of trauma, has been addressing medical, mental health and substance use issues through our OAT (Opioid Agonist Therapy) Program, which is aimed at reducing usage levels, as well as our medication program. The tenant has expressed appreciation to staff for having a home and staff supports during a very difficult time in her life.
- Through the Foundation Office, a donor provided enough funds for a \$50 care package for each of our clients. These packages included new towels, sheet sets, toiletries, cleaning products, blankets and pajamas. These items have now been purchased and distributed to tenants at all three sites.
- Clients will also receive a \$25 gift card in December, along with a traditional turkey dinner.
- Clients and staff also decorated GR, creating some light and hopefulness at what can be a trigger-rich time of year for tenants.

Future Practitioners

- Our nursing students have completed their practicum and their Faculty supervisor stated that the students found their placement to be very positive and informative. We are hoping to secure more nursing students from UBC in spring 2021
- We will also be providing practicum placements from Sprott Shaw College as well as University of Fraser Valley beginning January 2021.

Programs

We currently offer the following weekly programs:

- Harm reduction group
- Women's Self-Care Group
- Employment preparation Group
- Men's Group
- Stepping Stones-conversations about change, forgiveness, communication skill building
- Volunteer facilitated art group
- Weekly tenant meetings

We remain COVID-19 free for both Clients and Staff at GR.

- Staff trained to provide harm reduction supports ensures that Naloxone kits are well stocked throughout the hallway on every floor. We had five non-fatal overdoses in November.
- As part of Provincial Health Orders on self-distancing measures we communicated to tenants the need to

	<p>register one guest as part of their bubble. This individual will be the only guest they can have in their home during the time of the Order, which was extended to January 8, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also discussed with tenants what other supports or programs they would like to see during the Order, as the socialization needs of tenants vary based on their interest and age. 	<p>We will continue to follow-up and receive feedback from clients to grow our programs.</p>
<p>Updates and discussions from committee representatives</p>	<p>CAC Member Questions/Comments:</p> <p>Do staff rotate between the buildings? Are they assigned to one building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each building has their own staff. Employees (Casual staff) may do a shift one day at Maple Ridge Modulars and then at Garibaldi Ridge the next day; Our nursing staff and managers also rotate between all three sites. <p>In general, what is the average number of people who attend various groups (Harm reduction, Women's Self-care, Men's group, Pre-employment group, Stepping-stones preparing for change, Wellness group, Weekly tenant meeting, and Monthly bingo)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We see an average of three to six people attending the groups. We cap at six given the need to reconfigure tables and maintain safe social distancing. • We focused on asking tenants what groups they would like to see and other additional supports we could provide. We reviewed all the steps we are taking to try and keep everyone safe. A number of folks asked about 	

a monthly bingo game in the evening after dinner. We also talked about one thing we were grateful for and one thing we would like to try to do – forward plans. One tenant said that they were very grateful to have a home and that they hope to get working and be able to live in housing that is more independent.

CAC Member Comment: I'm so glad to hear that no one has tested positive for COVID-19 at Garibaldi Ridge. It's probably very stressful, dealing with a lot of stressors and then staff coming in. Even clients, those who are in their 20s, can have a compromised immune systems and health issues; you can only imagine the health issues of someone who had been on the street for 10-20 years.

Coast Mental Health Remarks: We have weekly tenant meetings during the pandemic, as these meetings provide us with an opportunity to receive feedback in a timely manner. These meetings are also a fantastic way to help develop programs that are helpful to people in recovery.

Other updates:

- CAC Member Comment: Pleased about the needles and how CMH stepped up really quickly, establishing a good relationship with the school principal. No doubt they would contact you if there was a problem in the future,
- CAC Member Comment: Been great hearing about people's health, hearing about the tenant group even if they hear about it once, and may not remember one time to the next.
- CAC Member Comment: Inquired about volunteering opportunities with Coast.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Coast Mental Health Comment</u>: Recent data collected suggests 90 per cent of MR tenants are living with mental illness and substance use disorders.	CMH employee will follow-up with the member regarding volunteering opportunities.
Next meeting	February 4, 2021 from 3pm-4:30pm, via Zoom	