



WSH Meeting on Dementia Project: First Steps Together

Kitsilano Branch, Vancouver Public Library, November 7, 2018

Present: Co-Chairs Mary Jane McLennan and Sabina Harpe (Council), Susan Burns (SWG), Andrea Brown (VPL Dunbar), Sylvie Kruchten (JFSA), Joanne Haramia (JFSA), Roy Liu (Dunbar CC), Joyce Wong (VCH), Alison Phinney (UBC), Rebecca Hung (UBC), Kathie Orchard (Council Chair), Bill Cooksley (Council), Christine Sotteau (Council), Lynn Shepherd (Council).

Absent: ASK, Brock House, Dunbar Residents Association, Family Caregivers of BC, Kerrisdale Marpole Community Pastoral Resource Centre, Kerrisdale Seniors Centre, Kitsilano Community Centre, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, South Granville Seniors Centre, St. Faith's Anglican Church, Westpoint Grey Community Association & Centre.

Acronyms: **PLWD** Persons Living With Dementia; **ABCD** Asset-based Community Development; **PHAC** Public Health Agency of Canada; **WSH** Westside Seniors Hub **PO** Partner Organization
VCH Vancouver Coastal Health **AlzSoc** Alzheimer Society BC **CMHA** Canadian Mental Health Association
NHSP New Horizons for Seniors Program

PO representatives and Council members met for two hours to consider how we could work towards implementation of projects that would provide meaningful community engagement by PLWD, their family members and caregivers.

The Guiding Principles developed by POs at the October 17th meeting were reviewed and accepted with slight changes as noted in bold below:

1. Listen to the Persons Living with Dementia (PLWD), their caregivers and their families and respond to their needs.
2. Keep any project “do-able” and within the community, respecting neighbourhood assets.
3. **Respect** the diversity and capacity of the Partners to develop appropriate activities.
4. Include the expertise of organizations, such as UBC, AlzSoc, Paul’s Club, VCH
5. Recognize that there is a need for ongoing services; therefore any project would need to be scalable.
6. Carefully consider accessibility of programs to participants, namely location and transportation.
7. **Support Partners through funding for leadership training and program support.**

Dr. Alison Phinney (UBC Professor, School of Nursing) introduced the framework for a funding proposal that she has just been invited to submit to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for Dementia Community Initiatives. If the proposal were to be accepted, it could provide funding up to \$1m over 4 years starting January 2019. Key conditions for an award: 1) increase community support 2) include robust evaluation (research). There is an exceedingly short deadline for submitting a detailed proposal and budget: **November 16th**.

- Two academic research institutions: 1) partnering with colleague in Thunder Bay, ON – small city, 14 PLWD Steering Committee, extend to francophone and indigenous minority communities 2) Vancouver – large metropolis, diverse cultural communities, WSH POs and possibly other seniors'-serving organizations
- Project Manager position – large portion of annual funding in order to provide oversight for budget, coordination, evaluation, quarterly reporting

- “Asset-based community development model because that is what needs to be done” and guiding principles stated by this group match this grassroots approach
- Primary objective: Innovative ideas must be scalable to be useful, therefore funding must build institutional capacity on how to achieve social citizenship for PLWD
- Art, physical fitness, volunteer social activities shown to have meaning for PLWD

Exploration of possibilities at this stage included:

Framing the budget:

- PHAC funding has less flexibility (no rollovers year to year, no changes in allocations) than other research funding, therefore, clarity needed
- “Smart support” for Partner Organizations (POs): jumpstart, build capacity on existing assets, learn from pilots so sustainable after funding ceases
- POs could potentially collaborate on a rotating basis
- One person in an hourly contractual position could facilitate and communicate with PO staff and volunteers, moving from site to site
- Evaluation services: contracted service in budget that could be billed by PO staff to jumpstart pilot projects so not adding to workload w/o compensation
- Activities themselves need budget line so POs can apply for project support

Implementation:

- ABCD is an organic process where projects take the lead; facilitation skills are required
- Plan for monthly meeting/conversation among POs & PLWD with volunteer support; could coincide with WSH meetings
- When community needs have been assessed, other partners (e.g. VCH, Alz Soc, CMHA) could be approached for expertise, auxiliary funding, innovation
- Collaboration among POs would be synergistic and could qualify for matching funds to run pilots that need a Coordinator + volunteers (NHSPs)
- Respect diverse POs that have different managerial hierarchies, ways to allocate and leverage programming funds and recruit/manage volunteers
- Track record of WSH with projects (Dementia-friendly Communities; Advance Care Planning; Housing Forum; Walk & Be Seen; National Seniors Day) attests to collaborative potential among POs for ABCD.

Readiness to begin:

POs present explored the 2 questions posed at the October meeting related to how to begin conversations with PLWD and what resources they require. Responses confirmed that POs are committed to action, and that funding and expertise are needed. Space is available.

Short timeline: Grant application needs a **Letter of Support from WSH by November 13th**. WSH will be named in grant proposal as principal Organizational Partner. Hence WSH Council will draft a Letter of Support listing all POs without specifying that each one of them will necessarily be sponsoring a pilot project. Draft letter to be circulated to POs prior to submission.

Given the 2 recent WSH meetings on dementia, there was agreement to cancel the quarterly meeting scheduled for November 28th. The PHAC funding decision is expected have been made by January 23rd, the date of the first WSH quarterly meeting in 2019.