

NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 5:00 – 6:30 pm
District of North Vancouver, Committee Room

Present:

ClIr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV (Chair)
Director, ClIr Peter Lambur, Councillor, DWV
ClIr Maureen Nicholson, Councillor, Bowen Island
Jaime Cunliffe, Lions Bay Representative
Inspector Vaz Kassam, North Vancouver RCMP
George Tsiakos, School Trustee, NV School District

Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison
Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison
Cristina Rucci, CNV Staff Liaison
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

Guests:

Elizabeth Holliday, Operations
Overdose Emergency Response
and Harm Reduction

Regrets:

Chief Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh
First Nation Band
Sgt. Mark Maclean, West Vancouver
Police Department
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee,
WV School District

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members were welcomed and provided a brief introduction.

2. Adoption of Agenda

ClIr Lambur moved and Trustee Tsiakos seconded
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

ClIr Lambur moved and Trustee Tsiakos seconded
To adopt the October 13, 2021 minutes.

CARRIED

4. Financial Update 2022

Cristina Rucci provided an overview of the 2022 financial report. The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use has two accounts which the City of North Vancouver manages: an Implementation Account and a Project Account. The Project Account consists of monies previously contributed by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to the former North Shore Substance Abuse Task Force. The Implementation Account consists of monies that have been contributed by member organizations other than VCH. Records back to 2003 indicate that contributing organizations have included the City of North Vancouver, the Districts of North and West Vancouver, the Villages of

Lions Bay and Bowen Island, and School Districts #44 & #45. Organizations deposited arbitrarily determined amounts based upon the required budget. Expenses are paid out from the account and apportioned against the member deposits. Surplus deposits are carried over from year to year.

Since 2006 only the City of North Vancouver (CNV), and the District of North Vancouver (DNV), and the

It was recently discovered that due to an oversight, there was now a shortfall in District of West Vancouver's portion of the Implementation Account. In this regard, members were requested to consider whether there was interest in using some of the funds in the Project Account to cover the committee meeting expenses. On discussion, it was suggested that this issue be re-addressed at the end of the meeting.

The balance of the Implementation Account at January 1, 2022 was \$5,534.97 and the balance of the Project Account was \$14,445.81.

5. VCH Presentation

Elizabeth Holliday, Operations Director, Overdose Emergency Response and Harm Reduction provided a presentation on the Vancouver Coastal Health Overdose Emergency Response which included the following:

- Overdose data including VCH-wide and North Shore specific information
- Current/new Overdose Emergency Response initiatives
- Update on provincial decriminalization initiative
- Update on Safer Supply and Nurse Prescribing

6. Discussion and Follow Up on Letter in Support of Legalization and Regulation

As background, in 2021 a letter to the Federal government was drafted with a motion requesting an amendment to the statutes to create a scheme of full legalization and regulation of all illicit substances as an urgent public health measure.

On review and discussion of the proposed letter and motion, it was suggested to include updated data, and some information around the compassion club model as a potential interim measure to legalization.

During the discussion, a concern was raised that not all the members and various stakeholders of the committee were present to provide their input and feedback on the proposed letter.

Action: Staff will update and circulate the letter to the Committee, and then forward the letter to government.

Cllr Hanson moved and Cllr Cunliffe seconded
That the letter as amended be sent to the Federal Government.

CARRIED

5 Yes
1 Opposed

7. Discussion on Terms of Reference, Purpose and Future Goals of the Committee

Members were requested to provide input with respect to continue to meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, or whether it may be beneficial to change the date/time in an effort to maximize members' attendance. It was suggested to change the meeting date from Wednesdays to Thursdays and maintain a 5:00 pm start time.

8. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting

The following items were presented as possible topics for the next meeting:

- Reporting back on the compassion club;
- In terms of possible projects, reaching out to the North Shore Community Committee on Substance Use and determine whether there is an opportunity to see if there is an alignment with their work and the work of the Substance Use Committee.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.