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MEMORANDUM

TO: Geoff Garbutt
General Manager, Strategic and Community
Development

DATE: February 27, 2015

FROM: Paul Thompson
Manager, Long Range Planning

FILE: 1835 03 VIHA

SUBJECT: Use of Island Health Homelessness Funding

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the use of Island Health (VIHA) funding distributed by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) during 2011-2012 to the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness (NWGH) and Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness (OTFH).

BACKGROUND

Between 2010 and 2012, the RDN received three grants totalling \$570,000 "to support capacity building to end homelessness" in the region (see Attachment 1). The first grant of \$100,000 was received by the RDN in 2010 followed by a further \$130,000 in 2011 and \$340,000 in 2012. Beyond the requirement that the money be used to provide capacity to address the issues of the homeless the RDN Board was given the discretion to decide how the money would be used.

In March 2011, the RDN Board distributed the first \$100,000 based on school district population in School Districts 68 and 69. This resulted in providing \$66,000 to the City of Nanaimo on behalf of the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness for use in School District 68 (SD68) and \$34,000 to the City of Parksville on behalf of the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness for use in School District 69 (SD69).

In July 2012, the RDN Board allocated 60% (\$282,000) from the combined total of \$470,000 from the second and third grants for use in SD68 and SD69. Like the first grant, the \$282,000 was distributed based on school district population resulting in \$196,000 allocated to the City of Nanaimo through the NWGH to use in SD68 and \$86,000 to the Society of Organized Services (SOS) on behalf of the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness for use in SD69.

In total the RDN allocated \$262,000 for use in SD68 and \$120,000 for SD69 (see Attachment 1). Attachment 2 provides a summary of how these funds were used by both the City of Nanaimo through the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness for use in SD68 and the City of Parksville through the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness for use in SD69.

A reserve fund of \$188,000 was established (using the remainder of funds from the second and third grants). The reserve fund was intended to provide the RDN Board with the ability to support future worthwhile projects and/or, provide additional funds as requested by the two established programs to address homelessness in SD68 and SD69. As of November 2014, the RDN Board had allocated all of the money in the reserve fund to various programs and projects to address homelessness. Attachment 3 provides a summary of how the reserve funds have been distributed by the RDN Board.

ALTERNATIVES

1. To receive this report for information and send this information to Island Health with a letter thanking them for providing funding and indicating that there is a need for sustained funding to achieve the goal of ending homelessness.
2. To receive this report for information only.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the RDN. This report provides an update on how both the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness and Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness chose to allocate the funding given to them. While there is no specific reporting requirements attached to the RDN receiving the money from VIHA, this report is intended to show the expenditures made to date and provide an account of how the funding provided by VIHA was used.

DISCUSSION

The decision to distribute these funds from VIHA for use by external agencies took into consideration that the RDN did not have a program to address homelessness and that it would be most effectively used to provide the funding to the two municipalities who had existing initiatives to address homelessness in SD68 and SD69.

This report provides a general account of how the money was used by the NWGH and OTFH to build capacity to address homelessness by the agencies that received money from the RDN. Through the RDN's participation in both the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness in SD69 and Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness in SD68 it has become clear that while one time contributions to projects to end homelessness are helpful, there is a demonstrated need for a sustained source of funding to address homelessness.

Another report confirming the use of the "reserve funding" distributed during 2014 will be presented to the Board at a later date when the organizations that received funding have completed their activities.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Reporting on how funding received from VIHA has been used addresses the objective *"To be transparent about how we undertake projects and the results that are achieved"* identified in the RDN Board Strategic Plan 2013-2015. This report also provides an opportunity to give VIHA an update on how the money received has been used and supports further discussion about future collaboration and funding opportunities.

Under the action area of Strategic and Community Development, the distribution of the funding received from VIHA contributes to Action 3(d) of the Strategic Plan that directs the RDN to work with other organizations to establish partnerships and build capacity to address homelessness in the region. Several organizations working to address homelessness in SD68 and SD69 have now benefited from the funding received.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Island Health provided \$570,000 to the RDN to fund capacity building initiatives in the region to address issues facing the homeless in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The RDN has now distributed all of this funding to organizations and programs working to address homelessness. The majority of the funding was provided to the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness and the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness as these organizations are directly involved in addressing homelessness. These organizations then re-distributed this funding to other community organizations with projects or programs that assist the homeless.

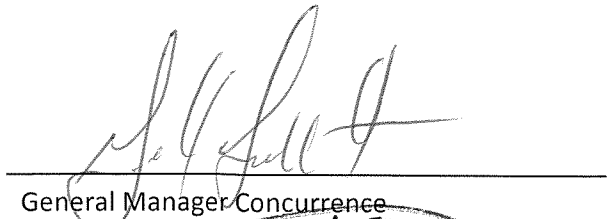
The result is that a total of \$382,000 (67% of the funding) was distributed between 2011-2012 to several organizations who are actively helping those struggling with homelessness through a variety of programs and projects. During 2014, the remaining \$188,000 (33% of the funding) placed in the Reserve Fund has been allocated by the RDN Board. A report on how those funds have been used will be provided to the Board once the organizations have completed their projects.

RECOMMENDATION

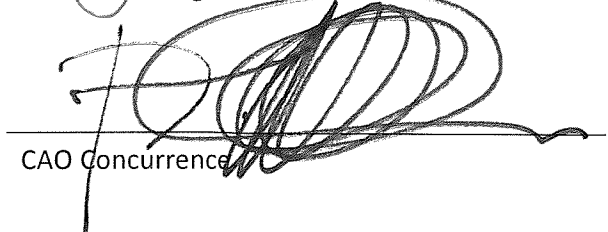
To receive this report for information and direct staff to send this information to Island Health with a letter thanking them for providing funding and indicating that there is a need for sustained funding to achieve the goal of ending homelessness.



Report Writer



General Manager Concurrence



CAO Concurrence

Attachment 1
Summary of Funding received from VIHA to Build Capacity to End Homelessness

Amount of VIHA Grants Given to RDN	Grant 1 (2010) \$100,000	Grants 2 & 3 (2011 & 2012) \$470,000	Total Grants \$570,000
SD68 Amount redistributed by RDN for use in District 68 for use by the Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness	\$66,000	\$196,000	\$262,000
SD69 Amount redistributed by for RDN use in District 69 by the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness	\$34,000	\$86,000	\$120,000
Reserve Fund Amount allocated to a Homeless Reserve Fund for the RDN Board to use/redistribute at its discretion	N/A	\$188,000	\$188,000

Attachment 2
Summary of How Funds Distributed to Organizations in School District 68 and 69 were used to Build Capacity to End Homelessness

Summary of use of \$262,000 of Homelessness Funding awarded to the City of Nanaimo for use in School District 68	
\$66,000 awarded in 2011 (from VIHA Grant 1)	
Organization	Amount
Nanaimo's Working Group on Homelessness For events; Thanksgiving dinner, Connect days, sleeping bags for the homeless, etc.	\$10,000
Canadian Mental Health Association Boots, gloves and hats for homeless clients of the outreach team	\$2,000
John Howard Society Purchase of food for Saturday and Sunday breakfast provision at 7-10 breakfast club	\$3,200
Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre (NMRC) To provide short term motel accommodation for men leaving the family home due to marital breakdown	\$2,000
First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo To provide 18 cold wet weather emergency shelter beds for the homeless at the Unitarian church during the winter months for those nights the Extreme Weather designation is not activated	\$48,800
Total	\$66,000
\$196,000 awarded in October 2012 (from VIHA Grants 2 & 3)	
Organization	Amount
First Unitarian Fellowship Winter shelter, cold wet weather nights	\$40,000
John Howard Society Rent Supplement Program	\$48,870
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Young Mothers Housing	\$37,674
Volunteer Nanaimo CODE dental clinic dental services	\$20,000
7-10 Breakfast Society Community Breakfast program	\$24,000
PHC Gabriola Island Housing supports to homeless	\$8,000
Community Kitchens Cooking nutrition skills	\$7,456
Nanaimo Working Group on Homelessness various activities	\$10,000
Total	\$196,000

Summary of use of \$144,000 of Homelessness Funding awarded to the City of Parkville and Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness (through the Society of Organized Services) for use in School District 69	
\$34,000 awarded in 2011 to the City of Parkville (from Grant 1)	
Organization	Amount
The Arrowsmith Salvation Army - Extreme Weather Shelter - This funding has supplemented our ability to open a low barrier shelter during extreme weather for homeless men and women during the winter for the last two years. The shelter can provide up to 8 beds in a community that has no other shelter options.	\$22,421
Manna Homeless Society - This funding went to buy needed supplies to help individual's access survival gear such as tents, tarps and sleeping bags. They work at a street level to distribute the supplies to those that are homeless.	\$1,000
Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness - Community Forums, three public forums to provide education and awareness on homelessness in District 69	\$2,879
Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness – start up fees for Task Force	\$3,500
Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness – Homeless Counts	\$4,200
Total	\$34,000
\$86,000 awarded in 2012 to the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness (from Grants 2 & 3)	
Organization	Amount
The Arrowsmith Salvation Army - Extreme Weather Shelter - This funding has supplemented our ability to open a low barrier shelter during extreme weather for homeless men and women during the winter for the last two years. The shelter can provide up to 8 beds in a community that has no other shelter options.	\$26,086
Of City Consulting- Point in time homeless count - This count allowed us to identify 67 individuals that are facing or at-risk of homelessness. It also helped us to better understand the demographics of those facing homelessness in our community and their needs.	\$9,634
Homeless Coordinator Training - The coordinator has attended the 2013 and 2014 Canadian Conferences to End Homelessness. This led to increased knowledge of Housing First, implementation, best practices, harm reduction, intensive case management, landlord engagement and connections across Canada and the US.	\$3,160
Manna Homeless Society - This funding went to buy needed supplies to help individual's access survival gear such as tents, tarps and sleeping bags. They work at a street level to distribute the supplies to those that are homeless.	\$1,000
Various Activities and Supplies - This funding went towards activities and supplies for events such as The Sleep Outside Challenge and Project Connect Health Fair during Homelessness Action Week, as well as service provider network meetings, community forums, Housing First development meetings, and Task Force Meetings. It was also used for supplies such as socks and underwear for clients using the shower or seeing the volunteer foot care nurses at the SOS.	\$2,120
Spending to date	\$42,000
Extreme Weather Shelter Set aside Funds for Extreme Weather Shelter for 2014-2016	
Future Allocation	\$44,000
Sum of total spent and allocated for future use	\$86,000

Attachment 3

RDN Board Allocation of \$188,000 Reserve Fund

Organization	Amount
John Howard Society Funding for Rental Support Program	\$45,000
Society of Organized Services (for Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness) Funding for Homelessness Coordinator	\$58,000
People for a Healthy Community, Gabriola Funding for program to help those at risk of homelessness find and maintain housing	\$18,000
People for a Healthy Community, Gabriola Funding to conduct a homelessness survey	\$5,000
First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo Funding to operate a Cold-wet Weather Shelter and Housing Placement Program.	\$39,680
Manna Homeless Society Funding to cover expenses for food and emergency supplies provided to the homeless of the Oceanside community	\$22,320
Total RDN Reserve Fund Distributed	\$188,000