

Accessibility Notes – April 25, 2018

In attendance: Sandi, Jennifer M, Laurel, Dixie, Joanne

Regrets: Nikki, Chris

Brought forward:

- Cultural Diversity Plan:
After considering our current Cultural Diversity Plan, Joanne feels that it should be reviewed, some of its practices put into place, and tailored more for our agency.
 - We will take on the ‘annual assessment of facilities for cultural and family friendliness’
 - Once PTHP moves into their new space it would be good to do a walk through for the ‘annual assessment’ and if necessary, make recommendations. *Nikki will contact them*
- CARF Requirements for Accessibility
 - Sandi will send out the new revisions on the Accessibility Plan to review/ update/ plan for coming year, for next committee meeting. Committee members to review plan and bring edits to the next meeting – *brought forward to May meeting - Sandi*
 - We need to draft a new policy about ‘Requests for Special Accommodation’ as a result of our CARF survey. Joanne feels that it is much like our commitment to Family-Centred Service, but in keeping with our ongoing accreditation we will craft a new policy using this language. Joanne will review the CARF report to see if this actually is a requirement or just a suggestion from the surveyors. We might have to add in new language regarding people’s rights and put more emphasis on our complaints process. *Brought forward - Joanne*
- Rick Hansen Foundation – BC Access Grants Program.
 - There is the possibility of up to \$20,000 to enhance the accessibility of our building(s). The representative of the grantors toured our facility to have a look around this week. He was given a tour by Lene and Joanne, asked a lot of questions, and then requested a list of deficiencies, as this committee identifies. *Sandi to send out list of concerns to committee for comments and additions.*
- Staff Planning Day – May 7. We will do up a “Did you know?” segment game for our presentation this year. Committee worked on some of the questions. Nikki typed up the questions we came up with at our March meeting, but we decided not to go with the Jeopardy format. We will print the questions and each table will collaborate and turn in their answers for a small prize. We only have 15 minutes
- Physical Accessibility Issues: some of the identified physical barriers to the agency *Brought forward, but will be on hold until the new building is complete and we will assess at that time*
 - There is still an ongoing issue with signage for parents and visitors arriving from the parking lot. *Brought forward, but will be on hold until the new building is complete and we will assess at that time*
 - The gravel parking lot presents difficulties for persons with diverse abilities because it is uneven and often unsteady underfoot. *This will likely be addressed when the upgrades to the new building are complete*
 - There is a need for more labelled disabled parking spots. *This will likely be addressed when the upgrades to the new building are complete*
 - Walkways from the parking lot through to the courtyard
 - Project Inclusion experiences displacement through the month of July when the CIP program uses their shared space for the entire day
- In addition to the noise problems experienced by the users of the Orca Room, there is also an issue with an ‘air exchange’ after a closed door meeting. Explore the possibility of a ‘solid’ door and the addition of an opening window – perhaps this could be added to the Rick Hansen improvements – *Joanne/Matt*
- National Aboriginal Day is June 21 this year. Dixie will contact an elder of one of the local bands to see if she would be able to come to the agency and teach us a traditional craft. - *Dixie*

Next meeting: May 23, 2017@ 2:30 pm (and every fourth Wednesday of the month)