



Monday, February 27, 2012

Super 8 Meeting Room

Attendance:

Regrets:

Bob Armit

Gerri Yerxa

Erma Armit

Robert Schulz, SALT

Krista Nielson, NWHU

Nell Laur, SALT

June Caul

Marg Rousseau

Gaby Hanzuk

Anne McCoy, OPP

Gordon Ross

Joanne Spence, RRDSSAB

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

1.01 Introductions were made for those present.

1.02 Review and approval of minutes from last regular meeting and two special meetings –

- Minutes from meeting of November 28, 2011: Motion to approve: Erma Armit, seconded by Robert Schulz.
- Minutes from meeting of January 13, 2012: Motion to approve: Robert Schulz, seconded by Erma Armit.
- Minutes from meeting of February 13, 2012(*minutes included details on teleconference at Riverside with Laura Kokocinski (Board of Directors for CEISS - Centre of Excellence for Integrated Seniors' Services, Thunder Bay), Tracy Buckler (CEO, St. Joseph's Long Term Care Group Facility, Thunder Bay), Paulina Chow (Support Staff, St. Joseph's) and Heather Murchison (NWLHINS – North West Local Health Integration Network)*) : Motion to approve: Anne McCoy, seconded by Robert Schulz.

1.06 Report: Meeting of February 15 at Sister Kennedy Centre re: the expansion of Sister Kennedy Centre (Sue, Donna, Mike, & Nell attended):

- The intention of the Sister Kennedy Centre seems to be to expand to include *all* seniors groups in town, although the only specific

group identified was the SALT – the intentions presented were quite vague

- One suggestion to include groups was around using the Centre as a meeting facility – however this is not practical when there are regular card games and activities happening regularly at the Centre. While the Centre is looking to justify more usage of the facilities, the current building just *isn't* conducive to the needs of many groups
- Councillor Hallikas showed interest in attending a future SALT meeting – if representation from Sister Kennedy board would like to attend SALT meetings, this would be welcomed
- The issue of individuals not feeling “welcomed” at the Sister Kennedy Centre was addressed – the Sister Kennedy Board feels as though they are very welcoming and inviting to all (although emphasizes that this includes *all 55+ years of age*)

1.11 Strategic Planning Session: Updates & Discussion –

- Erma: the idea of such a session arose over a year ago, with the intent of bringing together key stakeholders with seniors to be involved. The intend of the session is to create & implement two separate surveys to effectively assess the needs of seniors (current and future) in the Rainy River District. The two surveys will focus on Health/Social needs, and Economic Needs,

respectively. The survey will also assess the level of commitment from service groups as well as seniors

- Anne: spoke with Nick Whinan at the Sister Kennedy Centre this morning. As the town is hoping to involve more seniors' groups at the Sister Kennedy Centre, this location is a perfect fit. This will help to develop a partnership and will be beneficial to all. Anne explained the concept of the planning session to Nick; who agreed that holding the event at the Sister Kennedy Centre would be logical. Anne will confirm the date, but it will be either **the last Monday of March, or the first Monday of April**. It will be a 4 hour event, either beginning with lunch or ending with lunch. Lunch will be provided by Riverside, and will be picked up by Anne. *Perhaps as a "thank you" for the accommodation, a future SALT event (such as an elder abuse information session or presentation) could be held at the Sister Kennedy Centre.*
- Discussion: Erma shared the drafted letter of invitation and list of invitees. Representation should be requested from each Manor board, as well as the board of directors of Sister Kennedy Centre. As a way to personalize invitations, hand delivering of the invitations may be done. The media could be invited to the event to provide coverage.
- Steering Committee: Erma asked for additional volunteers to include in steering/planning group: June, Nell and Gaby all showed

interest. Ian Simpson would also like to be involved (Erma to make contact).

- Joanne: it is important that the session is hosted by an impartial facilitator – and to emphasize that the needs/wants of the *community* are assessed, and not just a select group. Although the ALAG may have a picture of what an assisted living facility may look like, the goal of the session is **not** to sway others towards that same goal, but to determine the end goal of the district as a whole.
- Information package: an information package needs to be created to be shared with invitees of the session. Some information to include in the package would be around the aging population of the Rainy River District (Statistics Canada), graphs, survey results from Kenora/Atikokan. Other ideas??

1.18 Other Updates/Discussion:

- Bob will attend Economic Development meeting on March 5, at which Tannis Drysdale will make a report on her work in regards to researching existing assisted living facilities. A concern is that there is potential for an assisted living facility, which would bring money into Fort Frances; but with no action being taken, seniors are choosing to leave the town, taking away from the economic base. Although the town may identify the space near Rainycrest as potential assisted living housing, the reality is that many people do not wish to be associated with such a facility.

- Gordon had the chance to visit an assisted living facility in Winnipeg, called Revera, and shared information about that facility: 30,000 clients are served daily; costs ranging from \$1920/month for a 'studio suite' to \$4000/month for a two bedroom. There are also one bedroom options available, and cost varies based on number of occupants, services, etc.
- June shared information about Sterling, another assisted living facility: approximately \$2100/month for a bedroom, bathroom, balcony and storage space.
- The group discussed the reality of costs of such a facility. It is important to educate on the types of facilities available and the inherent costs of living in such a facility. It would be useful to compare these to the cost of living at home (ie: considering the need to pay someone for maintenance, etc.) as well as the costs of a long term care facility (such as Rainycrest). It is vital that people are aware of the potential costs involved with assisted living, and the different options available.

6.0 The next regular meeting of the ALAG will be on March 26, 2012