



**REPORT TO PLANNING AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

SUBJECT **Community Health and Wellbeing Project Update**

ISSUE

To provide a progress report on community health and wellbeing initiatives.

BACKGROUND

In recognition of the CRDs essential role, Island Health awarded grants to the CRD in 2011 and 2012 to support work related to community health and wellbeing. Grant funds were used to build partnerships and advance the Community Health portfolio, including the development of a draft Community Health & Wellbeing (CHW) Plan; the establishment of the Regional Outcomes Monitoring (ROM) Collaborative; and the development of a pilot mapping project to support social connectedness of older adults in the region. Through the provision of its existing services the CRD has an impact on health and wellbeing outcomes; but this impact cannot be quantified because it is not being measured. Development of the draft CHW Plan also identified a need for greater coordination amongst service providers across the region to minimize duplication or gaps in service and maximize effectiveness and efficiency.

On July 13, 2016 the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved the following motion:

That the Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division be authorized to expend Island Health grant funding of \$186,667 to advance the Regional Outcomes Monitoring Collaborative; map census data; provide education and planning tools; explore the implications of the eight actions in the Community Health & Wellbeing Plan and review how existing CRD services contribute to health and wellbeing; and report back after one year.

The following provides an update regarding the actions taken on these four items.

1. Advance the Regional Outcomes Monitoring (ROM) Collaborative:

- Supervised University of Victoria (UVic) Master of Public Health practicum student who assisted with community engagement and identification of indicators.
- In partnership with the Community Social Planning Council, received Island Health Community Wellness Grant (\$50,000) to engage community agencies and to gather and analyze available local data. See Appendix A for a progress report.

2. Map census data at a neighbourhood level:

- Engaged stakeholders to establish priorities for map expansion and improvement.
- Received UBCM Age-Friendly Communities Grant (\$20,000) to engage older adults in the development and use of the map.
- Launched new version of Community Map in May 2017 with 2011 census data <https://maps.crd.bc.ca/community>.
- Hosted five focus groups with older adults through the month of June 2017.
- Linked an online survey to the map to gather feedback from other users.
- Planned improvements to the map to be made through August and September based on user feedback.

3. Provide education and planning tools to municipal and community partners:

- Launched Community Health and Wellbeing (CHW) webpage on CRD website <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/community-health-wellbeing>.
- Supported 'One Planet Region' Conversation Series in January and February 2017 as well as UVic IdeaFest event in March discussing health, sustainability and outcomes monitoring in the capital region.
- Facilitated 'Healthy Places, Healthy People' Lunch n' Learn.
- Facilitated 'Healthy Built Environments for ALL' workshop, representing broad unique sectors or organizations.
- Facilitated 'Equity Lens Tools & Resources' workshop, representing a large cross section of different organizations and a wide range of sectors.
- Co-facilitated session at Public Health Association of BC annual Summer School in July to discuss Planetary Health & Healthy Built Environments, specifically focusing on outcomes monitoring.
- Received Plan H Grant (\$10,000) from BC Healthy Communities Society to develop a strategic plan to advance equity initiatives.

4. Explore the implications for the CRD of adopting the eight specific actions in the CHW Plan and review how existing CRD services contribute to health and wellbeing:

- Implications for each proposed action were further explored and are outlined in Table B1 in Appendix B. The CHW Plan and its eight proposed actions are still being reviewed and further stakeholder engagement is required. An update on this work will be brought forward at a later date.
- CRD staff were engaged over the past year to better understand how existing services contribute to health and wellbeing (see Table C1 in Appendix C). Through this work staff gained a better understanding of how their service areas are linked and how they contribute to health and wellbeing in the region. Opportunities for ongoing collaboration and education are being explored.

Next steps:

- Consistent, ongoing monitoring of regional outcomes and the provision of reliable, local data. Collaborate with stakeholders to compile a list of metrics for existing and new indicators over the next 12 months.
- Maintenance of and updates to the CRD Community Map, including addition of new local data.
- Coordination of regional health and wellbeing initiatives to avoid duplication of effort and build capacity for local governments, private businesses and community organizations to better support health and wellbeing.
- Pursue grant funding to support Community Health Networks (CHNs) in the region, including a proposed new CHN for the Southern Gulf Islands (Appendix D).
- Stakeholder consultation to examine the implications of the action areas within the CHW plan.

These next steps would require ongoing support for the CRD Healthy Communities Planner depending on what role the CRD envisions for this work. Island Health and other community partners are supportive of this position and staff will be bringing forward options for this role and accompanying financial implications for Committee consideration as part of the 2018 Service Plan review process.

Role of the CRD:

Since 2011, the CRD has received funding from Island Health to advance health and wellbeing initiatives at a regional level. An additional \$80,000 in grant funds was leveraged for this work over the last year, supporting strong relationships with community partners as well as the many valuable projects and initiatives mentioned above.

Island Health has recently changed their granting structure and the CRD will no longer be directly receiving the funds that have been used to support community health and wellbeing initiatives. Grant funding available will be considerably smaller and will be an annual competitive process which CRD can submit applications for.

In the absence of dedicated ongoing grant funding from Island Health the CRD needs to determine what its role will be going forward. It could notify Island Health that it views community health and wellbeing as the primary responsibility of the province and not the Regional District and that the CRD will not be providing any funding or capacity to support this work. Alternatively, the CRD could provide leadership in the form of facilitation and coordination to the region and fill the gap left by Island Health's decision to end grant funding. This would require a new FTE for the Healthy Communities Planner going forward. Lastly, the CRD may choose a moderate approach whereby CRD provides some capacity and support while encouraging continued partnership and collaboration with Island Health while exploring future grant funding opportunities. This would involve a term position whereby the CRD would fund the Healthy Communities Planner for a one year term to further assess the CRD's role and complete the ongoing work. These options will be brought forward for committee decision as part of the 2018 Service Plan review process.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

The initiatives above would positively impact social wellbeing through greater collaboration, more robust data collection, and capacity-building within local government and community organizations.

Environmental Implications

Consideration of environmental sustainability is essential when planning for community wellbeing. One of the goal areas of the ROM Collaborative is 'Healthy Safe Environments' which would provide a robust list of indicators and identify data sources that could be used to track environmental outcomes.

Economic Implications

Greater health and social wellbeing in the region would have positive implications for the economy as more people are able to participate and less money is spent reacting to problems. For example, every dollar spent on mental health and addictions saves \$30 in lost productivity and social costs; and every dollar spent on early childhood health and development saves up to \$9 in future spending on health, social and justice services.

Intergovernmental Implications

The CHW Project brings together diverse sectors and levels of government to better coordinate and align efforts to create healthy, vibrant communities. Opportunities for capacity-building have been and would be made available to all levels of government across all sectors to improve health and wellbeing in the capital region.

Financial Implications

The Island Health grant funding for the Healthy Communities Planner will be exhausted by the end of 2017. Staff will continue to explore new funding opportunities and bring forward financial options through the 2018 Service Plan review process.

CONCLUSION

Health and wellbeing for all requires collaboration, innovation, and coordinated action across all sectors and all levels of government. It is not the responsibility of any one organization or sector. While the Province and health authorities have a responsibility to fund and deliver high quality healthcare services, the greatest impacts to health are the economic and social environments in which people live, work, learn and play. With its diverse service areas and regional impact the CRD has been and will continue to be an ideal convener for the discussions, learning opportunities and coordinated actions that support healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities across the capital region.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Protective Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Community Health and Wellbeing Project Update report be received for information.

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Attachments: Appendix A – An Update on the Progress of the ROM Collaborative
Appendix B - Implications of Proposed CHW Plan Actions
Appendix C - How the CRD Contributes to Health & Wellbeing
Appendix D - Island Health Letter - CHN for Southern Gulf Islands