

RASS

Richmond
Addiction
Services
Society

"For a brief moment (the addict) is liberated from emptiness, from boredom, from lack of meaning, from yearning."

- Dr. Gabor Mate. In the realm of hungry ghosts.



We are dedicated to providing expertise in preventing and treating addictions in our community

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2017 AGM, Richmond Addiction Services Society's 42nd year of service to the community. I would like to acknowledge First Nations people on whose territory we stand when conducting the activities of our organization, including this AGM. Since I began serving on the RASS Board of Directors in 2014, the inherent risks and dangers of addiction have changed dramatically with the appearance of fentanyl and related substances. As residents of this community, we are aware of the statistics of drug-related deaths in Richmond. As reported in the Richmond News, Richmond experienced 15 deaths in just the first 6 months of 2017 whereas there were 14 in the entire year of 2016, indicating "the greatest public health emergency in decades" with "no sign of the epidemic slowing down." I begin my report with this reality and these statistics because it makes our presence through intervention services and partnerships with other community groups ever more dramatically important.

RASS staff have responded in many ways:

- an article in the Richmond News by addiction specialists Jaclyn Chang and Danny Taylor addressed the fentanyl crisis last November 2016 around National Addiction Awareness Week
- Our ED Rick Dubras participated in a community panel addressing fentanyl last November
- again during National Addiction Awareness week, UBC professor Ross Laird presented a free talk on the importance of mentorship in a young person's life at that event, Roberta Price introduced the speaker and represented First Nations concerns
- Rick Dubras was successful in applying for and receiving grants from several sources which will extend approaches to include early intervention for elementary aged students, in the School's Out Program;
- RASS is also reaching out via e-counselling to expand our accessibility through online counselling and chat interfaces continuing with the existing Recovery Program, Aging Well Outreach Program and CATS parent program
- participating in the "Community in Motion" event on July 8th which was both a fund raiser for several agencies and a public awareness effort
- the Overdose Prevention and Education Network Project (CAI) where RASS is helping facilitate a community approach to preventing overdoses.

I extend my gratitude to the RASS team for their dedication and commitment to providing services that contribute to the safety of our community. Under Rick's organized leadership, RASS successfully moved our location from Alderbridge to a new multi-purpose building in the centre of Richmond solidifying professional interactions with related community services.

Our staff and Board of Directors continue to work on the key strategies of helping to educate our community and to focus on

- Maintaining a healthy and safe environment
- Ensuring that all who want and need services are able to freely access services without social and cultural barriers
- Meeting accreditation required operating procedures
- Increasing parents participation in RASS Programs
- Ensuring sufficient stable funding and adequate human capital

As the RASS Board representative, I would like to gratefully acknowledge these organizations and individuals:

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Smart Fund and Community Action Initiative (CAI), City of Richmond, the Betty Averbach Foundation, BC Gaming, United Way of the lower mainland, the BC Government through community grants including Civil Forfeiture and funds received directly from the Ministry of Health. We wish to acknowledge all the volunteer support we receive along with the RASS staff, Board, society members, our Executive Director and service partners who collaborate with us on our common goal of making Richmond a better community for us all.

Sincerely,

Dianne Milsom

RASS Board President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

2017 has been a huge year of change for Richmond Addiction Services Society. It is a good thing that our staff work with change every day with our clients who change all aspects of their lives in order to live differently. Our organization has needed this expertise this year. From staff changes, to successful grant proposals causing growth, to an organizational move to our new location our agency has been coping with change. When we look beyond our work, our families, and the current opioid crisis we also see a world that is changing. From a change in BC government, to changing weather patterns to changing expectations in our society, we all have to learn how to adapt to change.

I believe this is the reason I chose this profession as I like change. Even though change is normal and natural it can also be difficult and cause distress for us all. In many instances the only way to cope with change in healthy ways is to ask and accept the help and support that is available. Many of our RASS tweets (@RASShelps) this year have focused on ensuring that our community knows that there is help available and accessible in Richmond. The challenge we face however is getting that help to where it is needed most and to overcome the stigma that hovers over our community like a blanket of fog masking the support that is available in Richmond.

I am confident in the help RASS provides in Richmond. Together with our funders, partners and collaborators we aim to create a system of care that works for all members of our society. Our collective challenge is ensuring that those who need the help can access the help. We no longer can sit back and expect people to walk through our doors. Our challenge is to change the way we offer service. We need to transform the access to care as a system so that all members of our community regardless of language, culture and gender can be confident that help will find them and they know where to find help.

This change in access is at the core of our goals for 2017-2018. Help us fulfil this goal by supporting RASS, partnering with RASS and engaging with RASS. Together we can support change so that all who wish to access our system of care can and will.

Sincerely,

Richard Dubras



TREASURER'S REPORT

This is to advise that the Richmond Addiction Services' Society (the "Society") is in a sound financial position as noted on the March 31, 2017 audited financial statements attached hereto.

For the year ended March 31, 2017, the Society had total revenue of \$1,113,042 and total expenses of \$1,107,534 resulting in a small surplus of \$5,508.

As at March 31, 2017, the Society has total assets of \$484,349. As a non-profit organization the Society has been financially conservative and the assets are primarily located in cash \$240,346 and term deposits \$227,371. Current liabilities are mostly deferred revenue \$232,920 received from government agencies. The internal restricted fund of \$60,000 reflects potential liabilities which the Society has to meet in case of emergency.

The Board of Directors has approved a budget with a \$0 surplus for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Budget revenue of \$1,359,391 is a 22% increase from the 2016-17 fiscal year revenues, mainly due to new grants from the Ministry of Health and the United Way. With budgeted expenses of \$1,359,391, it is anticipated that there will be no surplus or deficiency for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Details of the 2017-18 budget are attached.

As a small organization like the Society, the Board of Directors believe that by use of budgets, quarterly review of financial reports against budget and regular board meetings are the most effective and adequate internal control for the Society and also are tools to ensure enough funds are available for the smooth provision of services to our community.

Respectfully submitted

Christine Kline



Highlights in 2016-2017

The CATS program offered over 35 – 3 Day sessions this past year with 67 students completing the program.

There were 91 individual counselling sessions of which 93% were outreach sessions.

The CATS programs continues to receive overwhelming support from the school district.

The Recovery Day program has supported 9 individuals with an average age of 18 with over 80 hours of support including mentoring and coaching, education, career exploration and supports, digital media lab experiences, exercise and referral and aftercare support.

The program will bring individual and family counselling, group therapy, life-skill development, 12 step groups, sponsors, employment support, academic support, recreational and creative opportunities like digital and media arts together to promote a substance-free lifestyle.

The Youth and Family program provided over 573 individual counseling sessions and over 33 family sessions.

The program saw 161 clients last year. 15% of these counselling sessions were outreach sessions.

The Community Prevention programs offered 3 free 5-week education series on different addictions-related topics. 87 individuals attended these sessions last year.

Over 4500 community contacts were made this year involving prevention activities.

The last fiscal year alone, the Aging Well program team delivered over 1,000 hours of individual & family counselling, group support work, and integrated case management services!

The Aging Well Program is delighted to report we are on the eve of our 10 year anniversary in operation!

CONTRIBUTERS AND FUNDERS

Funders

BCIYSI

Betty Averbach

Ministry of Finance—BC Community Gaming Grant

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General—Civil Forfeiture Grant

The City of Richmond

Vancouver Coastal Health

Vancouver Coastal Health—SMART Fund

Donors and Supporters

Ann Piche

Bill McNulty

Costco

Gilmore Park United

Goodwyn Enterprises

Great Canadian Casino & River Rock Hotel

Helen Pettipiece

Richmond Community Orchestra and Chorus

Swordfern Management Group

TCSI Computing

Voka Deka

Numerous Anonymous Donors

PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

Supporting Families Affected by Mental Illness and Addictions

Supporting Families Affected by Parental Mental Illness and Addictions is a community table. RASS has been part of the table since it started in Richmond in 2008. For years now, RASS has been involved in co-facilitating the Resilient Kids and the Resilient Youth Groups. Between the children and youth groups over 80 families are served per year. Family Fun Nights are also an important part of the service and in the past year Supporting Families has had a significant increase in families attending these bimonthly family dinners and fun nights. On many of these evenings we have had over 45 parents and children attend. The incredible collaboration that has supported the Supporting Families program helps to prevent vulnerable families living in Richmond from falling between the cracks of the mental health and addictions service delivery system. This goal has been embraced by RASS in their continued collaboration with Supporting Families.

Richmond Youth Media Program

This collaboration between the Richmond Collaborative Committee for Children and Youth, and the City of Richmond and the Richmond Youth Media Program (RYMP) continues to inspire and connect with at risk youth in Richmond. The RYMP program had 69 participants through the year who donated 186 volunteer hours of their time to contribute to the success of the program. The media program is a huge hit in the community and as one youth put it, "Everything here is the epitome of all my interests".

City Of Richmond—Roving Leader Program

RASS Prevention staff again co-facilitated the Band of Brothers summer trip with the City of Richmond Roving Leader program. Band of Brothers is an outdoor adventure camping excursion at Juan de Fuca Provincial Park that includes self-discovery and leadership while experiencing fun outdoor coastal activities. The program is geared towards male youth aged 14-18 and is designed to intentionally build self-esteem, self-confidence, personal power, sense of purpose, caring, positive peer relationships, resilience and empathy skills within the youth who participate. We had a fantastic time this year spending time on Mystic, China, and Botanical Beaches.

In 2016 RASS partnered with the City of Richmond to lead the Surfari Program. The Surfari Program includes workshops, fun activities, self-discovery and leadership during a four-day surfing adventure to Tofino, BC. Each year 2 alumni are invited back and trained as Junior Leaders for the next group. 7 youth participated in the program in 2016. Activities this year focused on positive identity, healthy relationships and building empathy. Additionally in 2016, previous staff and Junior Leaders from the Surfari Program were sponsored by Tourism Tofino to return to Tofino to Watch the Queen of the Peak Surf Competition, participate in surf lessons, and go Zip-lining! The Surfari Program was highlighted at a media event prior to the Surf Competition with two of the Junior Leaders speaking about their experience surfing and the impact the Surfari Program has had on their lives.

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