

Stsmémelt Project

July 12, 2013 Working Group Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Shuswap Nation Tribal Council – Medium Boardroom



Present: Karen August, Patricia Chelsea, Madeline Chelsea, Gail Peterson, Bev Sellars, Shawna Sellars, Nina Michel (WLIB), Wayne Christian, Crystal Camille, Allan Weselowski, David Hall, Kelly Connor, Bonnie Leonard, Shannon Gottfriedson, Doreen M. Johnson (Project Director), and Roxanne Stobie (Minute Taker)

Order at 10:07 a.m.

Chair: Kukpi7 Wayne Christian

Welcome and Prayer: Kukpi7 Christian welcomed everyone and said the prayer

1. Agenda

Agenda was adopted as presented with inclusion of C: Pulling Together Canoe Journey.

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes from May 10, 2013 meeting were adopted as presented.

3. Previous Action Items

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	OUTCOME
Work with Delegated Agencies on stats, processes, cost analysis and governance model	Doreen	In progress
Meet with Linda Thomas to discuss child welfare in aboriginal courts	Bonnie Leonard, Doreen and Kelly Connor	Completed on June 6 th .
Begin work to develop Circles of Protection in 5 northern bands	Doreen Johnson	In Progress
Choose communities to participate in mock trials	Kelly and Doreen	Suggestion: host "mock trial" with First Nations Court Elder's group and Splatsin in January 2014 with Circles of Protection as observers.
Meet with MCFD and KS to discuss working protocol	Doreen Johnson	In Progress – next meeting July 23, 2013 with final draft to be completed by September 13, 2013.
Revise brochure for 2013-14 years	Jody	Completed

4. Director's Report – Doreen M. Johnson

General information on project activities and upcoming events were presented – Director's report attached as Appendix A.

5. Community Services Transition Report - Doreen M. Johnson

Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) attached as Appendix B.

Each community will design its own TOR. Appendix B is a draft copy to get COP started.

Suggestions for inclusion draft TOR: Who does the committee report to, include a accountability process, how are they appointed, structure of the actual business, who is the chair, record taker, logistics, meeting procedure process, short guiding principles so that people feel safe. It was discussed that members be appointed by BCR for a term, resume and reference checks.

Question: Will Circle of Protection (COP) deal with issues regarding childhood sexual abuse? If it comes up in the community and hits the COP table then they will deal with it providing it is not an active child welfare investigation. The committee to decide.

Question: Would there be a need for Criminal Record Check? It was discussed that they will not have one on one contact with children so there would be no risk to a child involved, the Bands know their communities and know who may put children at risk. The check does not exempt them from liability. The liability reverts to the Delegated Agency and the Bands because they are protected under liability insurance. It was suggested to have an additional Confidentiality Agreement and a clause for Conflict of Interest – e.g. directly related to a family member.

Question: Do we want the MCFD protocol roles and responsibilities included in the TOR? No, it's too much, this protocol is for jurisdiction for Children-In-Care (CIC); however, the TOR does need more detail to assist the formation and development of COP.

Draft MCFD/Band/Knucwentwecw Society Commitment Protocol - Stsmémelt Project staff will meet on July 23, 2013 with David Hall, Allan Weselowski and Arlene Adie to work out a Commitment protocol. The draft submitted by MCFD has gone through the legal wording approval process; however, it is more of an operational agreement and the intent is to have a relationship protocol. The draft originally designed by Doreen will be amalgamated to provide a draft Commitment protocol by July 23 and a final on September 13, 2013.

6. Language Report - Doreen M. Johnson

Draft Custom Adoption Process – Doreen and Roxanne will meet on July 19, 2013 with Brenda Lewis, Provincial Director of Guardianship and Anne Clayton, Deputy Director for Adoption, MCFD to begin work on a Secwepemc Nation Custom Adoption process. Doreen will visit the Duncan First Nation adoption unit at the end of August 2013. David Hall wanted it noted that he is the Adoption Deputy Director for the Region. During the Indigenous Approaches meeting on August 19 and 20 in Penticton, Allan suggested Doreen asks Jennifer Houde (Okanagan Nation) to share their Custom Adoption process.

7. Research Update – Kelly Connor

General information on Tek'wémiple7 Research Activities was presented, report attached as Appendix C.

Research question: why are some children going into care while others are not? The hope is that research answers can be used to equalize services for children and families. What are families doing differently to prevent children from entering into care?

Suggestions for Research: To include education system and public school Aboriginal personnel. e.g. liaison worker, support worker and language teachers. Researcher wants to seek contributing factors to child removal and hopefully offer solutions to address some of the

contributing factors. Poverty as not a reason to remove a child,

Suggestions for Comparative Study: Look at after-care as part of the process, risk factors that bring children into care, educational performances as a factor, preventative and protective factors and what has changed to break this cycle, what changes need to be made to keep children at home (family and community integrated into that process).

Question: Are you looking at former children in care – have they aged out or returned home? Time and research ethics are factors so cannot do everything that is desired. ALIB agreed to have a community and on-line survey with some more informed questions for the youth.

Question: With the grant and with this research, can researcher pull out the differences and ratio? These have been fleshed out already. Protective factors may exist in some communities but not in others.

Child in care statistics is as recorded and sent to Project by the MCFD. Splatsin keeps their own stats within their agency so the numbers for them may not be reflected in current MCFD statistics.

8. MCFD Remarks and Feedback – David Hall and Allan Weselowski

David is looking forward to further discussions on protocol and adoptions. He is glad to see that the contract deliverables are being upheld. There should be confirmation about continuation of the contract after September 30, 2013. He anticipates that the Project will be extended to the end of 2013/2014 fiscal year.

Allan says Doug Hughes mentioned that they would be no problem with IA dollars going to communities. He likes that the communities are involved and have a common vision.

Suggestion: Secwepemc Chiefs would like a Tripartite agreement with Province and AANDC. David agrees and wants to help set up a meeting with AANDC.

Discussion: Income assistance and child and family services. The GFA has been discontinued and changed to COPH with Delegated Agencies. First Nations Social Development are not accepting any new applicants and can't take a child that's at risk; however, MCFD can remove child. When a grandfathered GFA child turns 18; there's no funding, children will continue to be at risk and yet MCFD has funds. It is not right. Band workers are being funded by the Province to do Federal work; this is seen as a conflict and contrary to the Nation's vision of jurisdiction.

There was discussion regarding the lack of foster parents and housing on reserves.

Suggestion: With COP to work with local Ministry office to repatriate children, if unable to repatriate; what are we doing for them? Have the community leaders and MCFD to problem solve that. It is not only financial but also a capacity.

Question: What is MCFDs role with follow up counseling? e.g. a grandmother granted guardianship, lives On-Reserve with no funds from AANDC. With the Indigenous Approach group, Delegated Agency/MCFD and protocol agreement – funding sources be provided.

Update on meeting with AANDC. Doreen has had no response from AANDC re: meeting with Nation Chiefs. Will make concerted attempts.

- 9. Upcoming events**
- a. Shuswap Gathering at Green Lake August 16 – 18, 2013– Stsmémelt Project will donate promotional items for youth, children and elders. Next planning meeting is on July 29 at 10:00 a.m. in 100 Mile House.
 - b. Stsmémelt Project Working Group Meeting September 13, 2013 at Esketemc Governance Building from 10 is to 2 pm.
 - c. Pulling Together Canoe Journey July 26 to August 2, 2013 – Kukpi7 Wayne provided a copy of the agenda.

Meeting adjourned: 12:45 p.m.

Closing prayer by Doreen M. Johnson

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE	TARGET DATE
To provide Doreen with comments for the Draft Commitment Protocol.	Working Group	Before July 23, 2013
To provide wording for Conflict of Interest for the Terms of Reference	David Hall	Before July 23, 2013
Provide clarity for Circle of Protection Terms of Reference and send out Draft to Working Group for review.	Kelly Connor and Doreen M. Johnson	July 31, 2013
To provide Doreen with comments for the Circle of Protection Terms of Reference.	Bonnie Leonard	July 31, 2013
To review the Final Protocol Agreement	Working Group	September 13, 2013
to share their agreement with	Secwepemc Child & Family Services Agency	July 17, 2013
Provide Draft Protocol Agreement	Allan Weselowski and Doreen M. Johnson	July 23, 2013
Provide Final Protocol Agreement	Allan Weselowski and Doreen M. Johnson	September 13, 2013
To incorporate research from AANDC, Secwepemc communities and Language Council from North and South into the Custom Adoption Process.	Doreen M. Johnson	September 13, 2013
Provide Draft Custom Adoption Process	Doreen M. Johnson	September 13, 2013
To forward information to Doreen regarding a family file to see if the Ministry can assist.	Madeline Chelsea	July 17, 2013
To set up meeting AANDC RDG for the Chiefs and Stsmémelt Project Working Group.	Doreen M. Johnson	September 13, 2013
To send Doreen a copy of the letter the SNTC Chiefs sent to the Child and Family Wellness Council	Bonnie Leonard	July 17, 2013
To arrange with Shuswap Gathering Coordinator to have promotional material at the Gathering.	Doreen M. Johnson	July 29, 2013

Contact Rebecca Jules Adams lake -- master thesis – re: her thesis research/work.	Kelly Connor	
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Executive Committee Report for June 2013

Brief progress report on initiatives from last month:

- Job postings for a Services Transition Facilitator (STF) have been unsuccessful. Job ad is active until a suitable candidate is found.
- Doreen is managing the STF position and has met with 4 of 5 communities to begin the formation and development of the Circles of Protection. She will meet with Williams Lake Indian Band program directors on July 11th.
- Work with the Circles will focus on capacity building and training. The Terms of Reference are in Draft.
- The Commitment Protocol with MCFD is underway. A meeting was held on June 5th and was well attended by MCFD Team Leaders from WL and 100 Mile House and Interior Region representatives, David Hall and Allan Weselowski. Another is planned for July 23rd.

Task 2: Tek'wemiple7 unit

- Confirmation of participation BCR's are forthcoming from Adams Lake and Canim Lake to begin the comparative community case studies research. In June and July, Kelly will: meet with the Chiefs and Councils to solidify scope of project according to their recommendations, determine Band staff/member interviewees, get permission to meet with their respective delegated agencies and begin the interviews.
- Storytelling and other research will continue.

Task 3: Language/Research

- The Child Welfare Language Glossary, regulations, policy and customs/practices will be taken to the Elders Language Councils by the end of July for review.
- Work will continue with gleaned traditional child rearing and family laws, developing regulations, policy and procedures from the laws.
- Formalizing Secwepemc Custom Adoptions work is underway. Doreen is meeting with the MCFD Provincial Director of Adoptions on July 19th for preliminary discussions and preview of work to date.

Key Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- * July 12th – SP Working Group will meet at the SNTC Boardroom at 10 am.

For additional details, please contact Doreen M. Johnson – Stsmémelt Project Director





Stsmémelt Project

Secwepemc community Circle of Protection
 Terms of Reference
 July 2013

Vision:

Every Secwepemc Nation child has the right to equal opportunity, high quality, meaningful childhood experiences that reflect the culture, language and heritage, are rooted in community and support engagement in life-long learning and healthy development.

Mission:

To form a community Circle of Protection (COP) that will design an inclusive, integrated and accessible community service system that places children at the centre, appreciates their unique potential, is responsive to families and promotes positive outcomes for children.

Membership:

Will be comprised of Band program directors (Social Services, Social Development (income security), Health, Housing, Education, Alcohol and Drug Counsellor, Justice), Knucwentwecw Society (MCFD) social workers (government representatives as needed?). New members will be proposed to the Circle of Protection Committee and accepted by mutual agreement of current members. Members will notify the Band if they are no longer able or willing to participate in the COP. The Council will appoint another member to replace the vacating person.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Ensuring the safety of children is paramount,
2. Collaborate with delegated worker in the planning for children at risk of removal,
3. Use an integrated approach to case planning for children in care,
4. Address child welfare issues in community,
5. Design culturally relevant child serving policies and best practices in the community.
6. Hold regular information exchanges, case planning meetings and reports with Leadership.
7. COP members are committed to using and promoting Secwepemc knowledge while ensuring decisions reflect community needs and realities.
8. Members have expertise in their department area and are willing to share information with group
9. (other suggestions? – work with Treaty, design community prevention and support programs)

Structure of the Committee:

Frequency

Meetings will be held **?????** times per year (more frequently if required).

Confidentiality

COP members will be exposed to or otherwise become aware of information concerning community members and their children, contracts, client information, plans, technical information, personnel information, or other developments and information.

Unauthorized use or disclosure of Confidential Information is a serious issue. You agree that at all times in the normal course of your term, other than as required in the normal course of business and in the best interests of the community members and their children, and at all times following termination or resignation from the COP, you shall hold in confidence and keep confidential all Confidential Information.

COP members shall respect the confidentiality of information received or gained as a member. Information deemed confidential by the COP shall not be disclosed to the general public, other First Nation Organizations and to outside organizations or interest groups, without authorization.

All COP members shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement upon commencement of their term.

Conflict Resolution:

Each individual community will design this.

Compensation

COP is comprised of staff members and will not receive an honorarium for their role as a committee member.

Terms of Reference Review:

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis on the anniversary date of their approval.

Tek'wémiple7 Research Activities

July 12th, 2013 Update by Kelly Connor, Researcher

1. Tribal Case Book – Phase II

- Researching First Nations Court (FNC) process
 - Met with Linda Thomas (Tkemlúps), put together New Horizons proposal seeking funding to host training session on FNC for Elders.
 - We'd like to involve Stsmémelt initiatives with the work of the FNC so it could include family issues in addition to the criminal matters it currently deals with.
- Will host two "mock trials" before end of 2013 to see how principles and laws in Tribal Case Book can be used to solve current problems
 - Suggestions of hosting "mock trial" with First Nations Court Elder's group and Splatsín

2. Community Case Studies

- Presented research proposal to Canim Lake and Adams Lake Chief and Council
 - Have BCR's from both communities to move forward with research project
 - Drafted a research agreement with ALIB as per their request
 - Will meet again with both communities to discuss details of research and seek recommendations
 - Interviews will begin July/August

3. Children in Care Statistics

- Continue to update statistics database as information is received (monthly)
- Reviewed Wen:de report
- Will assist Doreen in conducting Cost Analysis

