

NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 5:00 – 7:00 pm

In Person – District Hall, 355 West Queens

Present:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV
Cllr Alison Morse, Councillor, Bowen Island
Inspector Vaz Kassam, North Vancouver RCMP
Kulvir Mann, School Trustee, NV School District
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee, WV School District
Dr. Ceinwen Pope, Vancouver Coastal Health

Regrets:

Dr. Michelle Brousson
Cllr Christine Cassidy, Councillor, DWV
Cllr Jaime Cunliffe, Lions Bay
Chief Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Sgt. Chris Bigland, WV Police Department
Khelsilem, Council Chairperson, Squamish Nation
Heather Evans, CNV Staff Liaison

Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison
Bernadette Smyth, DWV Staff Liaison
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

Guests:

Zeralynne Te, Community Planning Manager

1. Welcome & Introductions

Committee members were introduced and welcomed to the committee.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Mann and seconded by Cllr Hanson
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of October 2, 2024 Minutes

Moved by Cllr Hanson and seconded by Bernadette Smyth
To adopt the October 2, 2024 minutes.

CARRIED

4. Education and Awareness Campaign

The committee aims to secure additional funding from other sources to reach a total of \$50,000, with approximately \$14,000 already available and expected contributions from local governments across the North Shore. The committee delegated the development of the draft plan to a subcommittee of Cllrs. Pope and Hanson and Medical Health Officer Choi. Dr. Choi, now on maternity leave, has transferred the project to Dr. Ceinwen Pope.

In terms of the communication plan, the committee would be leading the project; and Vancouver Coastal Health would commit to certain actions to support the work including reviewing the communications material, etc.

During the discussion, it was suggested that it may be beneficial that before launching the campaign, there be endorsement at the Council levels from the three municipalities to endorse the communication plan as well as a discussion with the Chief Administrative Officer of each municipality in order to prioritize this work. It was also suggested that there may also be value in preparing a report/message on whether there is a willingness and consensus from Council to direct the Communications Department to also prioritize this work.

In addition, it was suggested that in terms of the awareness campaign, a strategy for the testing of the drugs should be in place before the communication is distributed as there may be a surge of people wanting to test their drugs after the campaign is launched.

MOVED by Trustee Kulvir Mann and seconded by Trustee Dave Stevenson:

The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use approves the communication plan dated November 20, 2024 in principle with the timeline amended from mid December to early 2025 and from late January to spring 2025 and with the following action plan:

- Cllr Hanson to follow up with the District of North Vancouver regarding prioritizing the communication plan.
- Cllr Hanson to follow up with Cllr Bell about collaboration with the City of North Vancouver.
- Bernadette Smyth to confirm support and endorsement from the District of West Vancouver.
- Trustee Dave Stevenson to confirm support and endorsement from the West Vancouver School District.
- Trustee Kulvir Mann to confirm support and endorsement from the North Vancouver School District.
- Dr. Ceinwen Pope to confirm the Vancouver Coastal Health commitment to the communication plan.
- Cllr Alison Morse to confirm support and endorsement from Bowen Island.
- Cllr Jaime Cunliffe to confirm support and endorsement from Lions Bay.

CARRIED

5. Vancouver Coastal Health Updates

Dr. Ceinwen Pope Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health provided a presentation on youth substance use noting that data was gathered from the 2023 Adolescent Health Survey and the 20223-24 Youth Development Instrument. In general, youth report a range of different reasons for why they use substances and when it comes to youth substance use the groups that tend to report that they are using substances for stress or emotional pain are at greater risk of problematic use later on.

In addition, an update was provided on overdose deaths related to unregulated drugs in British Columbia broken down by different health authorities.

North Vancouver School District Update

SD44 continues to work in partnership with VCH for the latest research, stats, and education/prevention for our students.

VCH has now presented their mental health and vaping presentations to 6 of 25 elementary schools.

High schools continue to deliver their new substance use prevention and mental health lessons to all grade 8-10 Physical and Health Education classes, and next steps are to collect feedback from teachers and students on the lessons.

We are expanding our focus to begin prevention at earlier ages, creating substance use prevention and mental health lessons for grades 5-7.

Foundry North Shore is supporting the implementation of [PreVenture](#) in schools, and SD44 is looking to implement as pilot at either grade 7 or grade 8. Last year, Carson Graham participated in PreVenture with their grade 8s.

6. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting

Possible items for the next meeting will be as follows:

- Update on awareness campaign
- Information on brain injuries related to fentanyl crisis and consequences

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.