**Salt Spring Community Alliance**

**Next Meeting: Monday Nov. 26th (7pm, Lions Hall)**

**Topic: A panel and discussion about current health-related issues on the island.**

The presentations and discussions will focus on the big picture healthcare within a local context, some of the groups and services we have, what the key gaps and issues are and who is working on them.

**Background:** Overall, our goal within the SS Community Alliance is to begin a conversation with members of the community and help them understand health related issues and activities affecting our island. We see this as a first of a number of meetings, work and conversations within the Community Alliance and other islanders on the issues of Health. In addition to providing a way for members of our community to learn about some of the issues and activities taking place on our island, we are also hoping to attract some community members interested in forming a Health Working Group within the Community Alliance. Such a working group would play a role in outreach and/or engagement on health related topics with the community and residents (this group would join 72 other active volunteers working in five other groups: Environment, Housing, MicroEconomics, Infrastructure, and Governance issues – see http://www.saltspringcommunityalliance.org/).

**Planning for a November Health Panel and Discussion with the Community:** One of the important issues raised by participants at Community Alliance meetings is health, considered broadly (i.e., affordable housing, mental health, youth, seniors, inclusion, health services and their communication, nutrition, etc). A first brainstorming meeting organized by Ruth involved a group of members of our community involved in health work. At this meeting it was proposed that the two hour November meeting should have two aspects, first, a presentation from different perspectives on the issues, successes and current state of health matters (eg., VHA, SSCHS, SSHAN), followed by an open discussion to hear from members of the community. For the second part of the meeting, it was further proposed to invite individual service providers and practitioners to share some of their experiences (eg., care givers, social workers, First Responders, physicians, etc).

***Health Discussion Objectives***: to work with members of the community active in health support and related services to define steps/actions for the SSCA to take that will help the community better understand our health successes and challenges on SSI.

As a first step, we are planning a meeting (Nov 26th, 7-9 pm Lion’s Hall) to: i) inform people of what we have and do not have on SS (i.e., issues, what is going on;

ii) review positive steps/work, and highlight some of what we need (these issues will help direct the conversation and discussion part of the meeting);

iii) to provide insights into what our local support practitioners are doing and seeing (e.g, First responders, Police, health and care practitioners, youth and mental health workers).

**Proposed Agenda/Format (draft for discussion)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Monthly Community Alliance Meeting: Lion’s Hall – November 26th 7-9 pm**

7-7:20 welcome, First Nations Territory Acknowledgement, Open Circle

7:25-7:35 Ruth introduces rationale for Health panel/sets context within CA with reference to future conversations

7:35-8:10 Panel presentation (circle format) highlighting what is going on, issues

**Curt Firestone** (big picture with local context, provincial health updates, some of the groups and services we have, what the key gaps and issues are, who is working on them, what we need)

**David Norget** (local picture, what we do and don’t have, key issues (integrated planning, advocates and outreach, resources and services for older and vulnerable people, isolation, connections/isolation...) and what we need

**TBD** Health Practitioner to provide context of our situation and circumstances on SSI, perhaps with some context setting relative to other rural communities, or with regard to priorities or considerations that are unique to us/Gulf Islands? **(VHA, Physician, or Both)**

**8:10-8:40** Community Discussion[[2]](#footnote-2), starts with some invited practitioners from the community to share stories (suggested list follows, names to be identified, and list is probably a bit long, may not be missing some community members – so please add)

-Care community (seniors living at home)

-Hospital staff/ER staff (realities)

-Physician (realities)

-RCMP (working with the community, what comes up that needs more help)

-First Responders (firefighters chopping wood, paramedic experiences)

-Social worker/Youth worker (issues and realities - resident and transient or unsettled population?)

-Youth, families and mental health

**8:40-8:45** Summary of what we heard (Darlene/Ruth) Next Steps

**8:45-9:00** Informal discussion and tea/coffee with snacks

1. Based on our first brainstorming meeting, this outline frames the type of information that will be presented, although the specific content has yet to be fleshed out (but see Appendix). NOTE: there will be one more brainstorming team meeting in Oct/Nov in person to develop the flow and confirm a format and decide on an agenda, followed by a meeting with a professional Facilitator (Darlene Gage) who will help finalize the plan. The Community Alliance Board and volunteers will manage the practical set up and publicity for this event. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This discussion will begin with some invited practitioners to share stories of their experiences working in their profession on SS, this will help reinforce the issues and gaps that were flagged by our panel presentations. Notes will be taken to document the types of points, issues, comments and needs that arise through the discussion. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)