



RCSAC | Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee

2022 Annual Report

Introduction

The Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) was established by City Council in May 1987 to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council regarding social policies and community services that contribute to the general health, welfare and quality of life of Richmond residents. It also serves as a forum for community service agencies to meet on a regular basis in order to share information about issues of common interest and identify emerging needs in the community.

While the RCSAC is an advisory body to City Council, only two citizen representatives are Council-appointed. The majority of RCSAC members are representatives of non-profit social service agencies supporting Richmond residents, appointed by their own organizations. The City supports the RCSAC by providing an annual operating budget, a Council Liaison and a Staff Liaison.

The 2022 RCSAC Annual Report serves as a summary of the RCSAC's activities during the 2022 calendar year, which were intended to align with City Council's Strategic Plan (2018–2022) and to advance actions outlined in the City's Social Development Strategy (2013–2022) and other Council adopted strategies and plans, by strengthening social infrastructure and addressing emerging issues impacting the community. The annual report is based on input from RCSAC members with support from the RCSAC Executive Secretary and City Staff Liaison.

Highlights of 2022

Highlights of the RCSAC meetings and events are outlined below:

1. The RCSAC submitted a Communication Tool to City Council to present the results of The Jennifer Larsen Gains and Losses Survey and inform City Council about the impact of funding changes on social services agencies operating in Richmond. Of note was the increase in need for services being wholly subsidized by COVID-19 additional funding sources and the concern about the impact if/when that funding is scaled back or eliminated. The RCSAC will continue to monitor the impacts of funding changes on social services provided in Richmond.
2. Daniel Remedios, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), and a member of the RCSAC Executive Committee, provided an overview of the programs offered by RASS. With the toxic drug supply continuing to increase, it was informative to learn about the various programs offered by RASS such as the School's Out program and other youth and family programs.

3. The Executive Committee continued to look at ways to ensure the RCSAC is bringing value to the membership following the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee engaged Athena Estremadura, a Public Policy graduate student from Adler University, in February 2022 to conduct a research project to outline the priorities and challenges facing RCSAC member organizations. Athena identified the potential to update the RCSAC Terms of Reference as an opportunity to enhance social service alignment in Richmond. The Executive Committee subsequently reviewed the RCSAC Terms of Reference and plans to propose recommend changes to City Council in 2023.
4. Janice Lambert facilitated an interactive webinar series related to compassion resilience. The webinar series took place over a six-week period and the feedback from participants was positive. The Compassion Resilience Task Group's work also resulted in a Post-Pandemic Resilience Workshop at the City's Diversity Symposium.

Guest Speakers and Organizational Presenters

Throughout 2022, guest speakers and organizational representatives presented at RCSAC meetings on issues and topics of interest to Committee members.

January

Lynne Fader, Executive Director, The Kehila Society

- The Kehila Society in Richmond was originally founded as a way to bring the Jewish community together in Richmond. The Kehila Society has evolved to provide a wide range of support and opportunities to Jewish children, youth, adults, seniors and families within Richmond.

February

Maylen Crespo, Community Programs Manager, Family Services of Greater Vancouver (FSGV)

- FSGV has been helping families through many programs, services and workshops across Greater Vancouver. From youth experiencing homelessness to families impacted by trauma, FSGV offers highly trained counselors, therapists, and staff who approach every person with compassion to address even the most complex challenges.

March

Daniel Remedios, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS)

- RASS has been serving the Richmond community since 1975. Daniel Remedios played a video to highlight the programs offered by RASS, which included prevention programs, the School's Out program and youth and family programs. The toxic drug supply is at its highest level in decades and RASS is committed to activating more resources to prevent addictive behaviors and reduce the number of overdose deaths.

April

Athena Estremadura, Public Policy Graduate Student, Adler University

- Athena Estremadura presented the results of her Public Policy Capstone Project, which was to provide the Executive Committee with the priorities and challenges facing RCSAC member

organizations, highlight inter-agency opportunities and analyze the RCSAC Terms of Reference to identify areas for improvement.

May

Eugene Lupynis, Member of the Board of Directors, Ivan Franko Ukrainian Society

- Eugene Lupynis presented on the situation of Ukrainians arriving in Richmond and the importance of capitalizing the RCSAC network of resources in order to share information among service providers who serve this population.

June

Alan Hill, Inclusive Communities Program Coordinator, Richmond Multicultural Community Services

- As the lead agency of a collaborative project funded by the provincial government, Richmond Multicultural Community Services is promoting the Richmond Community Protocol to combat racism and hate in Richmond. The protocol has been endorsed by the Richmond RCMP and is available to all organizations.

Jack Horne, Program Coordinator, Connections Community Services Society

- Connections Community Services will launch a new program that focuses on healing and resilience for the Indigenous community. There will also be a new workshop called Decolonization and Reconciliation, which will teach the basics of reconciliation and will be open to everyone.

September

Hajira Hussain, Executive Director, Richmond Food Bank Society

- Hajira Hussain presented on the Richmond Food Aid Coalition, which is composed of Richmond-based faith groups, food security agencies, social service agencies, and individuals who volunteer their time and resources to prepare and deliver daily meals to people who are unhoused and street entrenched in Richmond.

November

Novella Lui, PCN Implementation Lead, and Sean Canosa, PCN Community Link Worker, Richmond Primary Care Network (PCN)

- Novella Lui and Sean Canosa provided an overview of the PCN's Social Prescribing Program, which enables healthcare providers to refer patients to local, non-clinical services, including community and social services.

December

Miriam Plishka, Park Planner, City of Richmond

- Miriam Plishka provided an overview of the Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan process and invited RCSAC members' input on the draft guiding principles and preliminary program ideas.

Members of the 2022 RCSAC Executive Committee

1. Sarah Louie, Atira Women's Resource Society, Co-Chair
2. Janice Lambert, Richmond Family Place, Co-Chair

3. Tabitha Geraghty, Chimo Community Services Society, Treasurer (January to October 2022)
4. Ling Chu, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Member-at-Large
5. Sue Street, Connections Community Services Society, Member-at-Large
6. Daniel Remedios, Richmond Addiction Services Society, Member-at-Large
7. Councillor Bill McNulty, Council Liaison
8. Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning, Staff Liaison

Members of the 2022 Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee

In 2022, there were 45 members of the RCSAC.

Organization	Representative(s)
Atira Women's Resource Society	Sarah Louie, Janice Abbott
BC Responsible and Problem Gambling	Phyllis Chan
Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC	Letah Addison
Chimo Community Services Society	Rune Mikkelsen
Citizen Appointee	Peter Cheung
Citizen Appointee	Stephanie Rudnisky
Coast Foundation Society (Coast Mental Health)	Susan Hancock
Community Living BC	George Sartori
Connections Community Services Society	Sue Street
Community Mental Wellness Association of Canada (CMWAC)	Ahlay Chin
Developmental Disabilities Association	Donna Cain, Kathy Moncalieri
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Patricia Steiner
Kehila Society of Richmond	Lynne Fader
Pacific Autism Family Centre Society	Angela Godber
Pathways Clubhouse Richmond	Tanya Wheatley
RCMP Richmond Detachment Mental Health Liaison	Constable Wanda Marion
Regional Animal Protection Society	Tabatha Krumenacker
Richmond Addiction Services Society	Clarence Chan, Daniel Remedios
Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives	Jocelyn Wong, Carol Dickson
Richmond Caring Place Society	Belinda Boyd
Richmond Centre for Disability	Ella Huang, Eileen Kalshoven
Richmond Division of Family Practice	Sherry Wang
Richmond Family Place Society	Janice Lambert, Ruth Taverner
Richmond Food Bank Society	Hajira Hussain, Keith Yee
Urban Bounty	Ian Lai
Richmond Mental Health Consumer & Friends Society	Cory Tymich
Richmond Multicultural Community Services	Parm Grewal, Ashok Rattan
Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition	De Whalen, Theresa Head
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee	Diana Leung
Richmond Society for Community Living	Shannon Crofton, Sue Graf
Richmond Women's Resource Centre	Florence Yau, Tammi Belfer

Organization	Representative(s)
S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Richmond Region	Ling Chu, Jill Lee, Jenna Park
School District No. 38 (Richmond)	Wennie Walker
The Heart of Richmond AIDS Society	Carl Bailey
The Salvation Army (Richmond Community Church)	Prabath Pullay
The Sharing Farm	Sarah Drewery
Touchstone Family Services	Judy Valsonis, Janice Kostiuk
Turning Point Recovery Society	Brenda Plant, Donna Colpitts
Individual Member	Neelu Kang Dhaliwal
Vancouver Coastal Health – Richmond (Public Health & Primary Care)	Karen Barclay
WorkBC	Eliza Chang, William Tan
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	Cathy Poole
YWCA of Metro Vancouver	Bobbi Sarai
Metro Vancouver Transit Police	Inspector Bruce Shipley
More Than A Roof Society	Venus Matuguina, Gerald Phang
Council Liaison (Non-Voting)	Councillor Bill McNulty
Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)	Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning

Financial Summary

The RCSAC collects an annual membership fee of \$50 from organizational and individual members. These funds are used for work program initiatives.

RCSAC Vancity Account Balance brought forward December 31, 2021	\$4,580.70
Revenue	
Membership Dues	\$50.00
Bank Interest	\$5.46
Total Revenue	\$55.46
Expenses	
Website + IT	\$224.91
Volunteer Appreciation	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$274.91
Total Balance	\$4,361.25

In 2022, the City allocated an operating budget of \$11,000 for RCSAC. These funds were used for administrative expenses:

Revenue	
City funding	\$11,000.00
Expenses	
Executive Secretary	\$10,124.48
Balance	\$875.52

Conclusion and Acknowledgments

The RCSAC has been serving the City of Richmond for over 35 years. With the support of Councillor McNulty (Council Liaison) and Dorothy Jo (Staff Liaison), the RCSAC has been successful in its mission of encouraging and promoting social policies and community services that improve the quality of life for the residents of Richmond.

The circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic have created challenges for the RCSAC in terms of recruitment, retention and engagement of the membership. Social service agencies are under extreme pressure and time constraints making it difficult to advance relevant initiatives that require decision makers at the RCSAC table. For those of us who have been a part of this Committee for a considerable length of time, we have witnessed the change that can occur when the RCSAC membership unifies their voice around a significant issue concerning the community of Richmond.

To that end, with the support of Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning and Kim Somerville, Director, Community Social Development, the Co-Chairs have been reviewing and amending the Terms of Reference for the RCSAC to reflect the concerns leaders around this table have expressed in the research project undertaken by Athena Estremadura, a Public Policy graduate student from Adler University, as well as the concerns discussed at the Executive table about the level of engagement of our general membership. It is our intention to ensure these amendments to the Terms of Reference that we will recommend to Council in 2023 will get us back to the purpose of having a community leaders table that will bring forward the identified gaps, strengths and challenges we face in our collective work to support the general health, welfare and well-being of the residents of Richmond.

Prepared by:

Sarah Louie and Janice Lambert, Co-Chairs

Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, November 2022