
**MINUTES OF THE YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES COUNCIL MEETING
WHITEHORSE
October 2 & 3, 2009**

**MINUTES OF THE YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNCIL MEETING**

Windsor Boardroom, Edgewater Hotel

October 2, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin McDonnell: Chair
Members Graham Lang
Maxwell Rispin
Doug Kearns
Marie Cox
Joseph Graham

SECRETARIAT: Joyce Bachli, Mega Reporting Inc.

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Kitchen, Director of Policy, Health & Social Services
Emily Aasman & Brianne Meister, Health Promotion
Kurt Dieckmann, Workers' Compensation Occupational
Health & Safety

REGRETS: James Allen
Douglas MacPheat
Cindy Gosselin

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

1.0 Call to order

Chair Kevin McDonnell called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Graham Lang has decided to step down as Co-Chair but remain a member, and Kevin McDonnell will continue as Chair

[Roundtable]

2.0 Check-in

Graham Lang advised that he will be running for City Council.

Doug Kearns was just appointed to Council. As the terms of reference call for 12 members with eight to form a quorum, Doug questioned whether that is an issue. He also asked whether it is normal to only have five or six members in attendance. Chair Kevin McDonnell advised the last meeting had the same number of members, and the meeting did proceed. Preference is to proceed, but it is a challenge. For out of town members, this involves travel. The issue of late reimbursement for out of town residents traveling to Whitehorse for medical appointments was also raised as an issue. This issue will be brought forward for further discussion by the Council.

1. Chair Kevin McDonnell Chair and the Secretariat will follow-up with members in advance of the next meeting to confirm / encourage attendance.¹

A concern was raised by a board member about individuals in rural communities who wish to get out of social housing but are facing a number of problems. Once they gain employment, their rents escalate to unreasonable levels. It seems the process is meant to keep people on E.I., which acts as a disincentive to people becoming gainfully employed. Teachers in Dawson City have subsidized rent and pay less than others, and this may become a Human Rights issue, similar to discriminations with the pet policy. Graham Lang noted that YTG had a policy under discussion to mitigate transition from social assistance to gainful employment, and the proposal was that people transitioning would keep a percentage of housing or payroll benefits until they reached a certain threshold.

2. Chair Kevin McDonnell will follow-up with the Department of Health and Social Services to request information for the Council on the Department's transition

¹ See Appendix 1: The Yukon Health and Social Services Council October 2 & 3, 2009, Meeting Action Items by Person Responsible

programs and especially whether the transition from social housing to paying rent poses an undue hardship on those trying to make the transition.

Whitehorse resident Joseph Graham and Watson Lake resident Doug Kearns are welcomed as new members on the Board. Marie Cox stated her hopes the Department can fill the Board with other rural community members.

3. Chair Kevin McDonnell will follow-up with Minister's office regarding filling Council vacancies, preferably with representatives from the rural communities.

3.0 Review of Agenda

Motion 2009-10-1: That the Agenda be accepted as presented;

**Moved by Graham Lang; seconded by Marie Cox;
Carried unanimously.**

The agenda was reviewed, and Chair Kevin McDonnell noted it may be a challenge to get through the agenda on Friday and Saturday. All agreed to the benefits of having a discussion with Brian Kitchen, and it was suggested this be a standing item on the agenda.

Doug Kearns asked if Friday and Saturday were good days for government people involved in the meetings and noted there is a need to accommodate them so they can attend.

Saturday: Discussion of Thomson Centre will be the first item on the agenda. Discussion can continue over lunch and perhaps the meeting will be finished Saturday by noon.

4.0 Review of Minutes – May 29 & 30, 2009

Comments:

- The minutes were e-mailed in July and comments requested.
- Only three members were in attendance at that meeting.
- Minutes finalized at the last meeting were circulated, together with the draft May, 2009, minutes.
- Additions: Update of Website (Patricia Living) Action from Previous Minutes (ability to e-mail questions)
- Update: Terms of Reference, Operating Procedures and strategic plan
- Bringing forward of action minutes from outstanding minutes.

Motion 2009-10-2: That the Minutes from the Meeting of May 29th and 30th, 2009, be accepted as amended;

**Moved by Graham Lang; Seconded by Maxwell Rispin;
Carried Unanimously.**

- 4. The secretariat will issue a draft list of action items issued shortly after the meeting so that members can start actioning them without having to wait for the minutes to be issued. The finalized list of action items will be attached to the meeting minutes.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:02 a.m.

Joseph Graham reflected whether current issues such as H1N1 pandemic are items covered at the meetings.

5.0 Update on Health and Social Services Initiatives (Brian Kitchen, Director of Policy, HSS)

5.1 H1N1 Presentation

- Brian reviewed the planning that's happening vis-à-vis the pandemic and what the Health Department is doing in overall planning.
- There are three areas of planning and response (interrelated): health care provision, business continuity (essential and vital services with a reduced work force), community stability (led by the EMOs to monitor, assess and make decisions; communication network).
- During the summer, a community tour was undertaken with a H1N1 presentation to all Yukon First Nation governments. There was an excellent turn out, keen interest; also municipal governments and public meetings. There has been a request for more, and the plan is to do more outreach as a basic information item.
- The PowerPoint presentation repeats some of the information on the videos: Community Information Tours August 2009: basic facts about H1N1, self-care, rules and responsibilities and details about the health plan. Influenza is a respiratory illness, rather than a stomach ailment. The range of illness was reviewed.
- The vaccine should be available in November for H1N1. Four vaccine programs are planned for this fall: annual flu in October, specifically H1N1, in November pneumococcal protection for people who are high risk for developing complications (protects against pneumonia and is available year-round from Healthcare Centres), and HPV vaccine for young women.
- Whitehorse General Hospital has a pandemic plan to keep their services going, and there is a stockpile of supplies available, both locally and nationally.
- Monitoring will occur in the communities and an exchange of information with the Public Health Agency of Canada. Testing is only being done in cases where

complications are suspected to be caused by H1N1, so no hard numbers will be available.

- www.fightflu.ca is a very good website.

5.1.1 Questions/Comments – H1N1 Presentation

- Chair Kevin McDonnell asked what Council's role is, other than to be aware of H1N1. Brian advised they are a way of providing nongovernment individuals and the communities with how they see things unfolding, much like a barometer. The Council can advise what is/is not working or any apparent contradictions in information.
- Questions from board members ranged from what the approximate duration of the H1N1 flu is, and the timeframe of when H1N1 can spike.
- Chair Kevin McDonnell felt the Council would not be much of a conduit of information for people. Having a lot of avenues for information may be good, but they must be consistent and factual.
- A Council member noted that some people feel they will get the flu if they get the flu shot and thus the Department needs to ensure that they continue to get the message out that this is not the case.

5. The Council believes people still have some misunderstanding about the flu shot and therefore encourages the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to provide factual information to people on the flu and the flu shot (such as you won't get the flu from getting the shot).

5.2 Aging Symposium

- The opportunity to have an Aging Symposium and what the Council's role would be was discussed. Brian advised that this topic has not had a lot of discussion within the department, and was raised in conjunction with the Minister commenting on the implications of an aging population having significant impact on the healthcare system, people retiring and keeping a base here. The Minister believes it would be prudent to take a look at the aging population and its impact on the healthcare system.
- Two health symposiums were held in the late 1990's/early 2000's; featuring formats with keynote speakers, with large events held in Whitehorse and smaller ones in the communities. Reports from the Federal Government on healthcare systems provided the catalyst for this at that time.
- Healthcare sustainability was identified as an issue under the Healthcare Review.
- The chair noted the Council would not be able to undertake this work without the department's support. Brian felt that the Minister had an idea that the Council could take a leadership role in this area.
- Timing was questioned in view of the report flowing from the Healthcare Review. Brian noted any work undertaken by the Council may help to inform the Healthcare Review as to future steps. Changes to the Healthcare System will not happen overnight. There are many different aspects that need to be examined.

5.3 Prevention Programs

- The Council is taking this on as one of their major initiatives, and Chair Kevin McDonnell asked what the department is undertaking in this area. Brian advised that since the department is so large, there are prevention initiatives being undertaken in many different areas. To be made aware of what the department is doing would assist the Council.
- Brian felt that simply knowing the planned programs at a high level, together with a brief description (rather than the details) would simplify the matter and make the process quicker. The timeline of three weeks to get this information was requested.

6. The Council requests Brian Kitchen provide the Council with an inventory of prevention programs that the Department is implementing. The Council would also like input from Brian on areas that the Council might focus on. The Council requests this information be provided as soon as it can be gathered, so the Council will have time to review the information before the next meeting

5.4 Other Initiatives and Updates

- It is expected the legislature will be reconvened after Thanksgiving. For the fall session, highlights for the department include: important amendments to the *Public Health and Safety Act* to help deal with H1N1. One provision is to authorize emergency licensing for Outside healthcare professionals to come into the Yukon for specific and general emergencies. The legislation will enable the Medical Officer of Health, Minister and Cabinet to declare health emergencies, as well as the provide the ability to bring in healthcare professionals
- Changes to limitations of disclosure of personal information are being contemplated. This will allow going beyond ATIPP to share information with people who require it.
- One provision would allow the Medical Officer of Health and Cabinet to suspend the sale of medical supplies and equipment, and then, reallocate it as needed.
- Other Legislation *Registered Nurses Professions Act* amendments, which empowers the regulating of nurse practitioners as a separate category. These practitioners are critical to the healthcare profession, especially in the communities.
- Initiatives: Major antipoverty initiative (Mike McCann), Tobacco Regulations implementation in a two-phased process in the near future, the Continuing Care Facility (Copper Ridge) is undergoing an accreditation process by the Accreditation Board to look at operations, management and service delivery as compared to standard benchmarks. The results will be public, with recommendations for improvements, identification of strengths and weaknesses and a comparison with similar institutions across Canada.
- The end of THAF funding will be a critical challenge for the department. This funding was instituted to increase the capacity of healthcare across the North.

The funding comes to an end March 31, 2010. It has funded special initiatives of all Territories and pan-Territory initiatives, e.g. 8-1-1 health line, health resources, health legislation, etc. Yukon is attempting to get a successor agreement and fund to keep the initiatives alive. Chair Kevin McDonnell asked if the Council should write a letter to the Federal MPs as a lobby effort.

- The Department of Health and Social Services is being audited by the Auditor General of Canada this fall, with the audit focused in December. Education was the last department with Yukon Government that was audited. A report is expected in the spring.

7. The Council requests Brian Kitchen to provide an update on the Accreditation Board Report on the Continuing Care Facility at Copper Ridge (Cathy Morton-Bieltz) to the Council at it's next meeting.

8. The Council is interested in learning more about the THAF funding program and implications if funding were to end. The Council requests Brian Kitchen identify a Departmental person to speak to the Council on this issue at their next meeting.

5.5 Transition Social Assistance into the Workforce

- Graham Lang asked about the transition policy that was being considered to get those on social assistance into the workforce. Brian noted there is nothing new in place, and various ideas have been discussed. As well, there is a bit of an overlap with the anti-poverty initiative. Brian noted that wage supplement is one of the initiatives that is working in other jurisdictions. It takes years to conduct pilot projects to determine the benefits of such programs.

5.5.1 Questions/Comments – Transition Social Assistance into the Workforce

A question was raised about publishing emergency reception centres. Yukon College has always been the first choice of a reception centre to Whitehorse, with the Canada Games Centre next on the list, followed by schools that have backup. Regarding providing notification to the communities, this information is provided at the time that an emergency actually occurs.

Regarding which radio station is considered the emergency station in case of power outages, it was noted that although CBC is the only station online when the power goes out, their programming is run from the south. Brian believes getting the word out quickly was an issue that was addressed by CBC after recent power outages.

9. The Council requests Brian Kitchen follow-up with EMO on their providing information on emergency reception centres and the designated radio station to the public ahead of an emergency occurring.

5.7 Reimbursement for Travel Expenses for Rural Residents

- Doug Kearns reflected on the lengthy waiting period rural residents are presently experiencing to be reimbursed by government for their travel expenses related to medical appointments.
- As well, Doug asked what happens with residents who do not have enough money to upfront the expenses.

10. The Council requests Brian Kitchen investigate and report back on the policy for reimbursing rural residents who travel in to Whitehorse for medical including information on the time it takes for people to be reimbursed for expenses, as well as measures in place for those who cannot afford to upfront such costs.

5.6 Tracking of Recommendations

- Chair Kevin McDonnell noted that an Excel Table of Recommendations, complete with a status report as to what has occurred with them, would be helpful to determine if Council's recommendations are being implemented.
- What should be included in the synopsis was discussed, e.g. budgetary and prioritization of items.
- Part of Council's mandate is to ensure their recommendations are fiscally appropriate.
- It was noted that the Council's role is to make recommendations; not follow up on whether they were acted upon.
- Some of the recommendations supported what the department was already undertaking.

11. Council members will follow-up with the Secretariat if they need a copy of previous Council recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:08 p.m.

6.0 Update on Thomson Centre (Kevin McDonnell)

Chair Kevin McDonnell led this discussion:

- Topics to consider: Whether the centre is being utilized in the best manner possible, as well as being used for what it was originally built for.
- Whitehorse General Hospital is being assessed for expansion purposes and looking at such issues as capacity for continuing care, i.e. 20 more units for continuing palliative care are being considered. The assessment is to be completed this fall before making any formal decisions.

- Deputy Minister Whitley noted the focus been on the Copper Ridge facility vis-à-vis long-term care, and Mr. Whitley is interested in any recommendations the Council can make on utilization of the Thomson Centre.
- A BCE elderly facility is one possibility
- Prevention path is a good topic, look at what is happening around the country, and Yukon College could do some research.

12. Chair Kevin McDonnell will invite Deputy Minister Stuart Whitley to come and meet and the Council and the present to the Council on the relationship between the Council and the Department and his perspectives on the Council.

5.2 Aging Symposium

- The Council is geared up to advise people and process information but may not be able to run an event like a symposium.
- Someone in the department should be tasked on the project, with the Council providing input and recommendations.
- A skeleton outline of plan should be provided to the department to work on.
- Communities should provide a representative or group contact.
- Two phases: information session, which will allow a decision to be made about whether a symposium is necessary and of value, focusing on challenges and recommendations.
- Put together who, what, how and sell the idea through the department
- The Council will discuss this issue further tomorrow.

7.0 **Update on Safe Drinking Water** – Chair Kevin McDonnell

- A number of departments in Yukon are involved in this initiative.
- Yukon is extremely fortunate regarding quantity and quality, compared to challenges across Canada and internationally with demands on water supply.
- The Water Board issues licenses and regulates sewer waste discharge to receiving water.
- Environmental Health and Health and Social Services are a key body in relation to regulating drinking water, i.e. legislation for drinking water standards, enforcement role and regulations in relation to rural water systems and wells for large pipe systems.
- Yukon Community Services is responsible for the construction and operation of water infrastructure services in the communities where it is not done by the municipalities, e.g. new well at Marsh Lake.
- Under the Yukon Infrastructure Plan consultation carried out by the Yukon Government, one of the high priorities is drinking water systems.
- Municipalities manage and operate their own water supply systems.
- Gaps include: well standards for individual domestic wells and a regulatory and management regime and information system for domestic wells. A number of wells are highly mineralized, e.g. arsenic and metals are higher than current drinking water standards, and new treatment systems are necessary.

- Canadian Council Ministers of Environment develop water quality standards, and these standards can get changed, e.g. arsenic was just lowered.
- DIAND also has some role.

7.1 Questions and Comments – Update on Safe Drinking Water

- There was extensive discussion on the current requirements of testing of potable water and the need for consistent Yukon standards.
- Joseph Graham asked about the cross-over between Community Services, HSS and the Energy Centre. Some funding arrangements require a drilling well log, which there is a database for. Joseph asked what issues the Council would be addressing in the area of drinking water.

13. Chair Kevin McDonnell will request a representative from Environmental Health present information on drinking water testing, standards and compliance for Yukon communities to the Council at their next meeting.

8.0 Meeting of Co-Chairs and Minister

Chair Kevin McDonnell provided an overview of this meeting:

- Items for discussion included the Thomson Centre, Aging Symposium, a discussion with Brian, Healthcare review (final report should be tabled this fall) and it may refer some issues to the Council, Support for Prevention Programs Topic.
- Recommendations from the last meeting were tabled, and Chair Kevin McDonnell read them into Record.
- Discussion re: dispensing of prescription drugs, Health Canada was putting in a system, but Northwest Territories Yukon and Nunavut's systems were incompatible with it. The Council was investigating why the system is not in place for tracking of prescriptions and information-sharing in Yukon. This can lead to abuse by obtaining prescriptions from multiple doctors.
- Consideration was given to positive methods of accountability for recommendations made by the Council.

14. Chair Kevin McDonnell will check with the Minister's Executive Assistant to ensure that manner of conveying past recommendations was adequate.

15. Council Member Graham Lang will follow-up on the previous action item assigned to Cindy Gosselin regarding hours of homecare beyond business hours (Dawson City) per May 29th minutes.

16. Council members are to review the Council's recommendations and identify any recommendations that they feel remains outstanding and should be followed-up on. The Council will review these outstanding recommendations and discuss follow-up actions at its next meeting.

9.0 Website

- Updating the Website has been recommended in the past.
- It was noted that the minutes are no longer appearing on the website.
- There should be a link to Yukon Government HSS & H1N1 website.
- An e-mail suggestion box would be useful. This could be linked to Yukon Government Boards and Committees.

17. Council Member Joseph Graham will review the website and report to the Council on suggested areas for improvement.

10.0 Terms of reference and Operating Procedures

- These are extremely outdated (1990) and need to be reviewed and updated.
- Maxwell Rispin noted that under the Council's mandate, one meeting per year was to be outside of Whitehorse.
- Doug Kearns pointed out that the Last Annual Report was 2007.

18. Chair Kevin McDonnell will address the Council's outstanding annual reports.

19. The Secretariat will correct Marie Cox's address in the Secretariat's contact list.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 2:31 p.m.

11.0 Health Promotion (Emily Aasman & Brianne Meister)

Emily Aasman and Brianne Meister provided this presentation:

- Meister and Aasman work in the Health Promotion Unit of HSS
- Their main focuses are: tobacco, sexual health, healthy eating (nutrition), injury prevention and the effect of media awareness.
- Many of their presentations are made in schools, plus public events and social marketing; one-on-one, as well as mass media campaigns.
- The target audience is all ages.
- Sexual health – main focus teens to mid-20's/30's.
- Success is measured according to the program. E.g. with tobacco they put out a brochure on smokeless tobacco healthcare clinics, schools and doctors. Evaluation forms are now being completed. Focus groups are hosted to establish a need, and then, another focus group is held after a program is initiated.
- For every program, a survey is conducted.
- On condom use, their survey indicated that the program has been successful. Rich data feedback was received, 42,000 condoms in 2008. Six jurisdictions across Canada have asked for assistance.

- Regarding sexually-transmitted diseases, Yukon is definitely higher (five/six times national average); plus teen pregnancies are much higher.
- New resources for Grades 4-6 are planned, plus teacher training, including follow-up sessions. Eventually, they hope to have their information included in the school curriculum. Completion of this goal will be required to make sustainable changes.
- Tobacco: They have the quit-pack-plus program, involving four counseling sessions. A phone line will be launched for assistance. Nicotine replacement therapy (patches for up to three months) then becomes available.
- Regarding recommendations on improvement that could be made to the program, comments were: There are barriers to getting the teachers onboard with the curriculum: The transitory nature of teachers means consistent training is necessary every year, plus including it in the curriculum. How important health is to learning, liaison person for distribution of health promotion products in the schools, good communication. Make health programs part of a subject that is already in the curriculum, e.g. science or math. As guest speakers, they have more impact on the students than the regular teacher.
- Most presentations are request-based. They try and form a relationship with the principals in the community. All materials are available to the community. They try to be part of the teachers' annual meeting every year.

12.0 WCB Presentation (Kurt Dieckmann)

Kurt Dieckmann, Director of Occupational Health and Safety Workers' Compensation attended for this presentation:

- Workers' Compensation involves more than injury prevention; there is also the disability perspective. The main focus is employers/workers workplace safety and preventing disability in the workplace.
- Partner with other organizations on communication initiatives, program in the schools adopted as part of Planning 10 curriculum (the age when kids are just entering into the workforce).
- Occupational Health and Safety's primary mandate is workplace inspections for safe conditions.
- Another big piece they do is to partner with other organizations to educate on workplace safe initiatives. Two major partners: Northern Safety Network (safety programs/practices for employers and supervisors) and Yukon Mine Training Association. YMTA is an industry initiative, which has developed a program for training supervisors in safety.
- Stakeholders are worked with regularly on the Regulations. There is a prevention group made up of industry representatives from every industry and labour representatives, Safe Communities, Skills Canada and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Smart Risk is new program introduced in Yukon schools that deals specifically with youth with the message to assess the risks and make smart choices.

- Basic philosophy is hazard identification and risk assessment. Mitigation of risk reduces injuries.
- Claims: Look at mitigation of harm after something has already happened, which is the other side of preventing disability. When somebody is injured at work, they recover much better if they're back at work and participating in life. Partnerships: Yukon Federation of Labour on return to work and Physio Plus.
- Most communication is done through partnerships, rather than media and mail-outs.
- Kirk advised that WCB encourages they strongly encourage companies to set up a alcohol and drug testing program. From a legislative perspective, they have mirror legislation from other jurisdictions. If someone is on prescription drugs, which impair their operation of equipment at work, that is frowned on. If a company establishes a drug and alcohol program, it cannot just be random testing. Human Rights Tribunals – backed up by the Courts – have determined that preemployment screening is acceptable. Different companies have different policies, depending on the test results. Most companies have a blanket policy that if there is an incident, every one involved in the incident will be tested. Local companies: Minto Mine (preemployment and random screening) and Pelly Construction have policies in place. There are a variety of disciplinary policies that companies have for treating workers under the influence, ranging from warnings to disciplinary layoffs to completing a treatment program. Any work considered safety-sensitive has higher standards than something like office work.
- There is not much in the way of First Nations' programs, the reason being that First Nations are Federally-regulated, and the *Indian Act* still applies, because the management of First Nation falls under Federal legislation. However, First Nations are included in the general communication schemes. Although First Nations themselves are not involved, they target First Nations' economic development arms, e.g. as part of the mining industry or a hotel. Programs are offered to the First Nations through partnerships. An injury of a First Nations person is covered under WCB. This is applicable, whether or not the First Nation has signed a land claim agreement.

13.0 Tour of the Thomson Centre (Joe MacGillivray)

The Council adjourned to partake in the tour of the Thomson Centre.

14.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNCIL MEETING**

Windsor Boardroom
Edgewater Hotel
October 3, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin McDonnell: Chair
Members: Graham Lang
Maxwell Rispin
Doug Kearns
Joseph Graham
Marie Cox

Regrets: Cindy Gosselin
James Allen
Douglas MacPheat

SECRETARIAT: Joyce Bachli September 9, 2006

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m., and Chair Kevin McDonnell welcomed everyone back.

15.0 Recap

Chair Kevin McDonnell provided a quick recap of Friday's meeting and the presentations that were made to the Council:

- Health Prevention Programs and WCB.
- The tour of the Thomson Centre was really interesting. However, it was sort of disturbing to have a facility like that sitting in that state. It was recommended that the Council remain positive in recommendations for trying to find uses for the centre.
- Overview on drinking water and follow-up on standards.
- Discussion on the Aging Symposium will continue.
- Council is now aware of the possibility of directions they can go in. They should choose topics where gaps that need to be addressed have been identified.

20. Council member Graham Lang will draft a letter recommending that Health Promotion work in conjunction with the annual teachers meeting.

16.0 Review of Agenda

Chair Kevin McDonnell reviewed the current items on for discussion for Saturday:

- 17.0 Thomson Centre
- 18.0 Prevention Programs (Next Steps)
- 19.0 Aging Symposium
- 20.0 Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures Update

Additions:

- 21.0 Dinner (continue or not)
- 22.0 Alternative Means of Participating from Communities (Skype)
- 23.0 Review of Action Items
- 24.0 Date of Next Council Meeting
- 25.0 Adjournment

Motion 2009-10-3: That the Agenda be accepted as revised;

Moved by Joseph Graham; seconded by Graham Lang;

Carried unanimously.

17.0 Thomson Centre

- Chair Kevin McDonnell noted a lot of uses that are being considered for the Centre have been identified; council members questioned whether or not the building could revert back to its original purpose, now that HSS has signed it off and handed it over to the Hospital Corporation, or it could be used for specialists rooms, and all spaces can be filled up by the hospital
- Maxwell Rispin noted HSS controlled all elder-related buildings: Copper Ridge Macaulay Lodge and the Thomson Centre. HSS has given ownership over to the Hospital Corporation and is now part of Whitehorse General Hospital. Although the funding comes from the same place, the control factor has been removed. This does not appear to be public knowledge. Macaulay and Copper Ridge have a mix of patients. The configuration of pods within Thomson Centre is the ideal way recommended to house Alzheimer's patients, which would free up beds in the other centers.
- Chair Kevin McDonnell noted that the government may be looking at it as a palliative care facility, rather than aging. It was asked whether people under medical care are under HSS or the Hospital Corporation. The challenge will be to retrofit the centre.

21. The Council requests that the Department of Health and Social Services provide information on the Department's long-term strategy for providing senior care to the Council at their next meeting, including information on the future plans for the Thompson Centre.

22. Chair Kevin McDonnell will draft up a letter of appreciation from the Council to presenters.

23. The Secretariat will circulate correspondence to Council members as it becomes available or during subsequent Council meetings.

18.0 Prevention Programs (Next Steps)

Chair Kevin McDonnell noted the need to support the work of Emily and Brianne and to encourage Education to partner more with them.

24. Council Member Graham Lang and Chair Kevin McDonnell will follow up with Emily and Brianna regarding the value of the Council sending a letter to encourage the Department of Education to partner with individuals to work with the communities on Health prevention programs, and to send the letter if appropriate.

Regarding Kurt Dieckmann's presentation, Joseph Graham asked what WCB does for mental health, i.e. if someone who is depressed or has mental health issues in the

workplace is “left out to dry”. Marie Cox noted that someone who is not able to work can develop depression. Graham Lang advised the Council of WCB’s policy on depression.

25. The Secretariat will bring forward to the next meeting’s agenda, the issue of WCB’s role on mental health issues for further discussion.

19.0 Aging Symposium

Chair Kevin McDonnell reviewed the outline, and Council members revised on-screen.

A number of options for other participating groups were identified: Golden Age Society, ElderActive, Sign Post Senior Group (Watson Lake), some non-profit organizations could be utilized to organize the event, including NGOs like Hospice. Graham Lang suggested the Council could be a conduit for facilitating funding between HSS and the Golden Age Society. Marie Cox noted the Golden Age and ElderActive are always short of money, and this would be a means of assisting them with funding.

26. Chair Kevin McDonnell will provide the Department of Health and Social Services a copy of the draft Aging Symposium Outline (See Appendix 2: Aging Symposium Outline), solicit feedback from the Department regarding next steps and implementation, and report back to the Council at it’s next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

20.0 Deferral on Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures Update

Both Chair Kevin McDonnell and Graham Lang stated they have a plan for this item.

Graham Lang identified the need to revamp the terms of reference (May, 1990). Although a subcommittee was suggest, Graham Lang volunteered to work on the terms. Chair Kevin McDonnell noted the terms would belong to the Council and the Mission Statement would be incorporated into the future strategic planning for the Council

27. Council Member Graham Lang will review the Council’s Terms of Reference and propose amendments for updating them for further discussion at the next Council meeting.

Marie Cox reflected on the lack of committee members mandated to be on the Council and its structure.

Chair Kevin McDonnell noted meeting four times a year restricts the Council’s ability to provide continuity and complete its work.

Logistics of usual number for quorum was discussed, and the members were asked for input.

28. The Secretariat and Chair Kevin McDonnell will endeavor to schedule meetings so as many members as possible can attend and those attending form the quorum.

21.0 Dinner (continue or not)

Chair Kevin McDonnell noted the importance of members attending the dinner and for those from the communities, it is a nice break from their hotel rooms.

29. The Council noted that the Friday dinner is an important event to bring the team together, facilitate further discussion, and to acknowledge the efforts of the rural members to attend. In that regard, Council members will make a concerted effort to attend the Friday dinner at future meetings.

22.0 Alternative Means of Participating from Community (Skype)

Chair Kevin McDonnell noted there are alternative methods of participation from the communities if a member is not able to attend in person. Each community has Yukon College sub-offices, which have video available. Also, Whitehorse General Hospital has video capability, which has a nicer boardroom.

30. The Council notes that the nature of the Council's business is such that it is preferential that the Council members meet face to face. However, the Council also recognizes that it can be difficult for rural members to travel to meetings and thus alternative means of participating in the meetings, such as through 'skype', might be an option. Chair Kevin McDonnell and the Secretariat will follow up as required, on available mechanisms to enable members to participate if unable to attend the meetings in person.

23.0 Review of Action Items

The action items were read into the record, with comments and revisions provided by Council members. These are to be distributed asap after the meeting.

24.0 Date of Next Meeting

Joseph Graham proposed 8 & 9 or 15/16 January, 2010. Chair Kevin McDonnell noted he would like to meet before Christmas. Marie Cox recommended that the Minister be pressured to get representatives from the communities. The Council reviewed how appointments are made, and the consensus was the matter of appointment of members should be quite a simple procedure. It was felt that there should be more members appointed before the next meeting.

31. The Secretariat and Chair Kevin McDonnell will endeavor to structure future Council meetings so that presentations are done on the first day of the meeting, thereby allowing for Council discussions on the second day.

Agreed date was: December 11 & 12, 2009

25.0 Adjournment

Motion 2009-10-4: That the meeting adjourn;

**Moved by Graham Lang; seconded by Doug Kearns;
Carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.