



November 22, 2018

Program Committee Report to the AGM of Powell River Hospice Society

Number of palliative referrals so far this calendar year = 53 (there were 37 in 2017) *

Number of bereavement referrals so far this calendar year = 25 (there were 23 in 2017)

* Note: This number does not reflect the numbers of clients supported in the hospital, ECU and Willingdon Creek by our cadre of 12 regular hospice visitors to these facilities.

Number of volunteers trained = 15 this past Spring

Total Number of trained volunteers = 65 Active: 38

Number of volunteer hours so far this year = Over 800 to date

Programs this year:

MSP has (5) regular hospice volunteer visitors; Willingdon Creek has a hospice volunteer in (4) of the houses; there are 3 ECU volunteers. We are running an 8-week Adult Grief Support Group as well as an 8-week Caregiver's Support Group (Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Grant); We hosted three Advance Care Planning Workshops (2 – one in PR and one on Texada; total of 34 attendees). A small subset of participants (6) asked for and were provided a follow-up workshop to complete the appropriate forms. We also began a Bedside Singing program lead by volunteer Clare Mervyn.

Music Therapy intern, Julia Adam, started her practicum with us in the Spring this year, working on the 4th floor of the hospital, in Willingdon Creek Village, and for some individual community clients. She runs a 'Tea and Tunes' hour for patients in hospital awaiting longterm care. We were successful in our application for a PR Community Foundation Grant to support the continuation of Music Therapy for PRHS, as a new program. Anna has also continued to facilitate monthly volunteer support meetings.

Events this year:

In February, our coordinator, Anna Byrne, board member Jodie Young and board ex-officio, Dr. David May, were presenters of the workshop, Palliative Care 101, to the nursing staff on the 4th floor of the hospital.

In partnership with the Powell River Film Festival and the Division of Family Practice, the film, *For Dear Life* was screened during the festival and Anna Byrne, along with other professionals in the Hospice field, participated on a panel for audience discussion following the screening.

Anna staffed a PRHS booth at the Health Fair hosted by Texada Aging Population Initiative (TAPI) at the Legion in Van Anda, on May 5th. She presented to Texada Women's Island Network (TWIN) regarding hospice and ACP on October 11th.

In November, we participated in the first community *Memento Mori* which featured a number of community events to honour the deceased and to find meaning in life and death. The event was planned by many individuals and organizations in the community including The Art Centre, The PR Arts Council, The Library, Powell River Living magazine, Base Camp, Literacy Outreach, and Hospice. There were lantern-making workshops, Cranberry cemetery tours, the creation of an alter, a lantern procession, music in the mausoleum, candle lighting and more.

We have been assisting the Division of Family Practice with their second survey on the community's awareness of palliative care.

In December, we will have our Celebrate-A-Life Memory Tree at Towncentre Mall.

Anna attended *Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care (LEAP)*, a 2-day workshop at Victoria Hospice (Feb. 2-3). She also attended the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association Conference with our board member, Kim Barton-Bridges in May.

Anna has been in discussion with Mental Health and Addictions as to how hospice can support people whose loved one has died by overdose. On June 14th she met with two members of the Provincial Overdose Mobile Response Team to discuss local needs and the possibility of providing some additional training around these issues to our volunteers.

In October, we applied for a BC Gaming Community Grant to support our operational costs.

I want to thank Anna and board member, Jodie Young for their assistance as members of the Program Committee. Their insights are hugely valuable as we continue to plan for services.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy McCartie
Program Committee Chair