

This last year saw some ups and downs with their Lived Expertise Advisory Committee (LEAC). We averaged about 2 people per meeting, with the highest attendance being 5 people. Of the 5 people who attended on and off, only one person disclosed that they were on the by-name list. Meetings dropped down to quarterly as I continued to look for more opportunities for engagement. I held many informal conversations with folks from the HUB to discuss some of the topics put forward by the Coordinated Access Program (CAP) for the LEAC. Discussions included any concerns over privacy in adapting the CAP into the HIFIS programming through BC Housing as well as asking folks about who they think should be involved in their care team through CAP. I have some plans in the works to make myself more accessible to folks on the by-name list. These plans include being present at REDUN meetings, and hopefully being able to host the LEAC meetings at the North Shore Inn (NSI). The NSI has still yet to be confirmed but I will continue to work on this.

Over the last year I had implemented my life skills programming at the HUB. These happened every second Wednesday for about 5 or 6 months. Participation was good, however it was challenging to present during the daily chatter at the HUB. I had received permission to move my life skills over to REDUN, and was also cleared to present life skills at the clubhouse - however this has been postponed for the time being. I will need to adapt some of the life skills groups to be more participation friendly by adding worksheets and activities such as ice breakers and whatnot.

I have also begun the process of representing the Good Neighbourhood Policy (GNP) at the HUB. This policy saw some success last year as I introduced myself to most of the neighbouring businesses along Vernon street. I was able to provide information on how to respond to crises and how to better manage relationships with our vulnerable communities. This saw some challenges and some business owners are hesitant to support our endeavours and hold alternate expectations from me to manage some of the people congregating in front of the business. I continue to work with them to understand the importance of harm reduction approaches. Moving forward I will be working with the PEERS Employment Program to have peer workers join me on street cleans/rig digs twice weekly. I also hope to train a peer ambassador to assist in reminding other peers to be respectful of the surrounding community, while also engaging with the broader community to explain the work we are trying to accomplish. I will be at the HUB on Wednesdays and Fridays to carry out these clean-ups and community connections.

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