Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network Interagency Meeting

Wednesday December 1st, 2021

Time: 9:00am | Location: Online Teams

# In Attendance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cassandra Chalifoux | Debbie Deak | Lisa Despas |
| A’paana’ki Linda Weasel Head | Jason Bishop | Kathryn LLG |
| Caitlin Gajdostik | Beth Moulton | Billi-J Heavy Shields |
| Angelo Remo | Margaret Lyster | Jamie Groenenboom |
| Charlene Bruised Head-Mountain Horse | Elisabeth Hegerat | Miranda Hargreaves |
| Treena Tallow | Lisa Sowinski | Marilyn Contois |
| Chevie Lee Mitchell  |  |  |

# Meeting Opening by Cassandra Chalifoux

* -Notice of Meeting Recording
* -Land Acknowledgement
* -Prayer offered by Cassandra

# A’paana’ki Linda Weasel Head-Lethbridge Public library

* Indigenous Film Festival. Still most likely January or February. Has not received the names of the movies yet.
* The videos are anywhere from 30seconds all the way up to a documentary that is over an hour.
* They will send out a poster.
* The City of Lethbridge launched their land acknowledgement video at the Blackfoot leadership summit. It is well made and professional. They used people that are well known on the reserves here and in the city. Impressed with the effort put in and that they are following their plan.

# Beth Moulton-Children’s Allied Health Services

* Just a reminder that they are a pediatric rehabilitation team with Alberta Health Services. The main office is located in the Lethbridge Melcor Center where The Bay is.
* Referrals are self-referral by any parent or caregiver that are concerned with their children’s development or are worried about connecting with Allied Health Services.
* Ask for Beth directly and they will patch you through to her cell phone or email then she can get a hold of you or the families and make the referral process for supports that much simpler.
* Speech language pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, augmentative communication, and audiology supports

# Billi Jae Heavy Shields-Alberta Health Services-Addictions and mental health recovery

* Also works for Sweet Grass Youth Alliance in Lethbridge doing outreach work.
* Trying to get warmer clothing for people on the streets.
* Offer access to an addictions counsellor every Tuesday in Stand-Off at the Stand-Off clinic.
* After seeing the counsellor they can see her for things like AISH, employment, schooling, cultural supports in the community.
* On Wednesday’s they are in Laverne, Thursday’s they are in Brockett, Friday they end the week at the ODT clinic in Cardston.
* They offer referrals to mental health therapists as well as children’s mental health therapists in those communities. If you know anyone in need of those services contact her via her work phone #(403)894-8111.
* Billi-j was one of 30 Indigenous creators chosen for Canada through the National Screen Institute. She gets to share about Blackfoot Culture as well as humor for healing. \_DeadlyBlackfoot\_ma

# Caitlin Gajdostik-Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta

* They give out grants to Charities and Community groups.
* Grant submissions are still closed until the new year.
* If any of your organizations, schools, anyone that you work with need funding please reach out to her.
* Currently closed for grant submissions but still have exciting things going on.
* They have an initiative to thank the Alberta Health Services workers in the southwest region of the province.
* For the month of December and January they are offering 2 free tickets to Nikko Yukko Japanese gardens festival of lights for anyone who just show proof of health care worker ID on Wednesday nights.
* Even though grant submissions are closed if you are thinking of any projects to serve those that you are working with or the staff in your organization. Right now is a good time to have a discussion because Caitlin is not as busy and you can talk about what you need and how much to ask for. If you have any question feel free to reach out.
* Random Act of Kindness Day went really well dozens and dozens of entries from across the region.

# Chevie Lee Mitchell-Opokaa’sin Indigenous Community Support Navigator

* She helps people navigate the supports in Lethbridge.
* December 2nd and December 9th Shantilly Prairie Chicken will be doing Indian status cards at Opokaa’sin. Have to phone for an appointment.
* Partnered with Sik-Ooh-Kotok Society and are doing a Christmas market on the 11th and 12th at the friendship center. 9 am -4pm
* Will send Cassandra the poster.

# Debbie Deak-South Alberta FASD Network

* They are launching their Christmas campaign. It has two fronts to it: 1) Awareness and Prevention of prenatal alcohol exposure.
* All of the messaging in what they are doing is to support pregnant women to be alcohol free throughout the Christmas season
* 2) Providing supports to families across the region who are effected by FASD.
* They are working in partnership with angel tree Lethbridge family services this year to support 64 of their families both non-indigenous and indigenous. They are probably member of vulnerable populationsin communities across the region.
* They are serving families in Brockett, Pincher creek, Lethbridge, Coaldale, and Coalhurst.
* All of the children ages 0-18 will be receiving a gift bundle in the value of $80-$100. Families will be receiving a $100 grocery gift card that comes in a Christmas card attached to a gingerbread house kit delivered to their homes.
* If they receive more referrals, those families will also be taken care of.
* City buses will soon be running with their messaging on them, there will be 6 of them.
* There will also be 2 billborads, one on Mayor Magrath north and the other on 3rd ave south close to the Sutton group downtown.
* They have their poster running through the month of December at the movie mill and in the leisure guide.
* Something new for them this year is they have partnered with Firestone restaurant in the form of rounding up. All of the staff will be wearing masks with their network insignia on it that say lets talk about alcohol and pregnancy, they will have brochures at the front where you check in and will be asking customers to round up their bill to the nearest dollar. They are a registered charity so that money will be going to supporting their families at Christmas because they are not funded to do that.

# Angelo Remo- Service Canada

* Service Canada is working to remove the barriers for people with disabilities accessing federal government benefits and services.
* They are working to identify and improve elements of their service delivery that negatively affect persons with disabilities.
* They are looking to connect with service partners with a specific focus on persons with disabilitiesto arrange an informal conversation to gather information on what the clients face when trying to access services and benefits.
* Also looking for other organizations that support other at risk populations like senior and youth organizations.
* If that is something that may be of interest then connect with them.
* As Christmas looms they do have a couple of presentations on their digital services scams and fraud. The dates and times were already passed by the time minutes were prepared. Same day at 2pm and next day at 10am. Link was provided in chat.
* Shared a couple of slides during meeting. Will try to get a copy.

# Elisabeth Hergerat- Lethbridge Public Library

* -Update on a program that they just launched a couple of days ago. For 6 weeks they have Indigenous authors signed up as Virtual Writer in Residence.
* Richard van Camp is a , has been publishing for 20 years and has spots open for people to book a one on one’s for half an hour to answer questions about writing and publishing or anything else people would like to ask him about.
* Towards the end of November they will be starting a 4 week workshop series with him.
* Free to sign up all you need is a library card for any of the Chinook Arches Regional libraries.
* Link to sign up(<http://www.lethlib.ca/promotion/2021-virtual-writer-residence>)
* Email(elisabeth.hegerat@lethlib.ca) provided for if anyone has questions or would like a copy of the poster or anything else.

# Marilyn Contois-Lethbridge Public Library

* Just joined the team in June, she is a library technician indigenous services. She helps people with the computers, printing, scanning as we as they loan out chrome books and myfi for up to a week to anyone that has a library card. She is also a Jingle dress dancer and doing some indigenous programming.
* She started and indigenous learning circle called Bannock & Jam.
* They also hosted a Bannock and taco soup making night in partnership with the Interfaith Foodbank Chinook Country Kitchen Family Center which was a virtual cooking class.
* Nov/Dec they have a berry soup making class online, all the food is free people just need to register with Kimberly at the Chinook Country kitchen and then they can pic up their supplies and join in.
* They did have events going on in person like a round dance, but the dance had to be cancelled and they are back to online only. In Lieu of the dance they are doing Honoring Indigenous Youth Talent. (http://www.lethlib.ca/event/honoring-indigenous-youth-talent)
* Submissions can be made by any Indigenous, Metis or Inuit youth for all kinds of talent singing, storytelling, dancing, poetry ect. They just want to take the time to recognize their talent and give them a chance to be part of the community and try to get them past being shy. Hopes are that in the next year when they are able to do in person things again, they want to have an in-person talent sharing night locally.
* Hopefully getting agencies together to honor those youth. A lot of youth go un recognized in our communities.
* Wanted to develop something other than a Round dance. A round dance is a social gathering where people can come together and dance, do some drumming, singing which is enjoyable by anybody in the community but now that we are on the online platform it would be nice to be able to see the talented youth that are out there
* Hope to do in person in the future. For now they would like to showcase the talented youth online and try to inspire other indigenous youth to discover their talents.
* Ends on the 10th all the information is on the Lethbridge Library website ([www.lethlib.ca](http://www.lethlib.ca)) as well as on the Facebook page.
* She and Linda were approached by an employer who wanted to know more about the Blackfoot people of this land in terms of reconciliation and understanding the history they endured especially with the awareness with the children that are being found. They decided that it would be good for the public to learn about the tool kits that the City of Lethbridge has developed.
* There will be a presentation (Allyship in Action Lunch & Learn) with Perry Stein (Indigenous Relations) and Elder lambert Fox on Wednesday November 17th, 2021 from 12pm to 1pm
* Email:(Marilyn.Contois@lethlib.ca)

# Madeline Gormley- Lethbridge Public Library

* Vaccine clinic every Wednesday in November.
* Printing and laminating of Vaccine passports will be done for free for them as well.
* Not allowed to do anything in person right now, but will update.
* Shared link for Honoring Indigenous Youth (http://www.lethlib.ca/event/honoring-indigenous-youth-talent)

# Miranda Hargreaves-Chinook Sexual Assault Center

* Open group every Tuesday at 2pm at the center. More information available on their social media.
* Partnering with Streets Alive to do a peer support group for the genesis program.
* Open to partnering with other agencies that are in need peer support in any way to do with sexual violence.
* Their youth and advocacy center is now taking files.
* They are triaging cases from police and children services.

# Lil Radley- Read on

* Just finished second Moving Forward program. This was a program focused of workplace experience and culture. As part of the 80-hour 4-week program They involved 16 agencies and local employers who participated in different ways. They had a multitude of participants including indigenous participants. Very positive reviews were received by the participants.
* These were pilot programs but will be integrated into the normal programming at Read-On.
* One on one tutoring continues all year round.
* If you know anyone who needs help raising reading, writing, listening, or speaking skills up to a grade 9+ level they are here to help.
* The spring will be starting with some new programs.
* Also currently working with Red Crow college on the literacy side of things.
* Email:(readon@lethlib.ca)
* Phone: (403) 320-4071
* Call or email for all literacy/learning assistance.

# Peetah Bastien-Blood Tribe

* Just completed their work on the Blood Tribe Opioid Response TikTok contest. Using #forahealtykainai. You can find information on the communications Facebook by the end of the day.
* Entry restricted to Blood Tribe members. What they are trying to do is create awareness as to what the tribe believes is a healthy community.
* TikTok’s will be 30 seconds to a minute and can show what a healthy Blood Tribe community looks like for each individual.
* 3 categories for awards.
* 1)Ages 10-14
* 2)15-18
* 3)19-Older that are young at heart.
* Prizes from 1st t 3rd and one Viewer’s Choice award
* Had fantastic Halloween events throughout their administration building as well as their support groups and entities. They were able to give out candy safely with a drive through and the outdoor use of their properties. Happy to report that they were able to bring an uplifting event like giving out candy to the community during this pandemic.
* Tom Jackson visited the blood tribe who is a world-renowned indigenous actor.
* He reached out to the Blood Tribe of his own accord with a mission of support to the front-line workers of the Blood tribe who have been working tirelessly to save the lives of the Blood Tribe. He wanted them to know that they were seen and recognized. He then visited the vaccination sites and testing sites and received his flu shot while there.
* Continuing to print opioid flyers and distribute then throughout the Tribe. Giving people the tools to assistance someone that is experiencing an unhealthy lifestyle at this moment as well as emergency numbers.
* Given out all the businesses and gas stations as well.
* They have launched an internal newsletter that goes out to the BTA all user staff updating on the happenings with the Blood Tribe.
* Working from home as much as possible except for essential workers that have to at the office.
* Looking at ways to keep the Tribe safe but put on Christmas events at the same time.

# Cassandra Chalifoux

* SISN website is currently being updated to hopefully allow for individual agencies to post their goings on without having to first sent them to Cassandra.
* They will hopefully be starting out with different levels for agencies in the beginning and moving up to where approved agencies can post their events, workshops, awareness posters ect. without approval.
* Asked that everyone send an email letting her know if 9am the first Wednesday of every month was a good time for the monthly meetings.
* Still accepting submissions for postings.
* Also wanted to let everyone know that she is here to help. If there is anything you need help with don’t hesitate to ask.

# Meeting Duration

**Start Time**: 9:00am **Adjourned**: 9:52am **Duration**: 52 minutes

# Next Meeting

**Date**: December 1st, 2021 **Time**: 9:00am **Location**: Online Teams