

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**CBR in BC Quarterly**  
**October 28, 2014**  
**2:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

Location: **BC Centre for Excellence's Board Room at 608 – 1081 Burrard Street.**

Time: 2:00 – 2:30 – **Networking and Snacks** for folks meeting in-person  
2:30 – 4:30 – **Meeting**

**Attendees:** Allison Carter; Heidi Safford; Janice Duddy; Otto Von Bischoffshausen; Johnathan Postnikoff; Chuck Osborne; Surita Parashar; Saranee Fernando – DPC Study Coordinator; Terry Howard; Sandy Lambert; Darren Lauscher; William Booth; Dawn Allen; Sarah Kesselring; Joanna Mendell; Patrick McDougall

**Video Conferencing:** Heather Picotte; Andrea Langlois; Marcie Summers

---

Agenda:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Approved
3. **Approval of Agenda** – add in items under #7 Emerging Issues and #8 Updates
4. **Update from Summary of BC Research Projects Website on PAN Site:** On the PAN website there are short summaries from CBR projects in BC. At the moment there are 6 projects, and if you would like your project included contact PAN. You can access the form here: <http://pacificaidnetwork.org/programs-projects/community-based-research/cbr-pan/quarterly-cbr-in-bc-meetings/summary-of-bc-research-projects-form/> If you have info about events that you would like sent out, PAN can do that via our e-news.
5. **Update from Peer Research Meeting (Chuck & Terry):** Prior to the CBR Quarterly meeting a Peer Researcher meeting was held for the first time. This meeting provided space for peers working on CBR to get together to discuss common issues. There was good attendance. At this meeting Terry gave an update on his work supporting peer researchers and workers in BC (i.e. focus groups, café scientifiques, researcher dialogues, and developing resources). Terry had taken the lead on initiating a number of projects that have helped grow CBR in BC. Attendees agreed that they would discuss how they would like this meeting to happen going forward (will it be attached to the Quarterly Meeting? Will it be more often? How will we include PRAs working in more isolated communities?).
6. **Updated on Terry Howard's work on supporting peer workers:** focus groups, Café Scientifique and peer researcher dialogues

A lot of people doing work with PRAs had been working for projects who had little or no experience in this area, even in things like creating job descriptions. Not a lot of consistency across projects and many issues were coming up with inadequate supports. Terry held focus groups with peer workers, academic researchers and EDs/staff that hired PRAs to discuss what was working, where there were gaps, what models exist that were working etc. From these focus groups lots of info was gathered and compiled into categories and resources to support people working with PRAs. The Café Scientifique was a more public forum to hear about the focus groups results, and to provide more input. The goal is to provide an open access “toolbox” that people can access when starting a project working with PRAs. This will be available in a number of places (BC HIV CBR website, Positive Living website, PAN’s CBR website, CATIE and others).

In June CAHR hosted a peer research associate dialogue session in Vancouver. Group of 14 PRAs from across the country came together to look at differences in support and what needs there are regionally. Round 2 is being planned for March in Halifax, cohosted by Jacquie Gahagan. Will be by invitation but will hopefully be broader and wider than the last call. Will be trying to make attendance as representative as possible, acknowledging that not everyone can be there. The original report from the dialogue has gone to PHAC for approval to be shared – but will be disseminated when possible.

## **7. Emerging issues discussion: What are common/cross-cutting Issues that would benefit from a discussion at the CBR Quarterly table?**

Expanding training for PRAs to further build capacity. Where are these opportunities and how can we support PRAs who want to further their training?

Question: What is being done with regards to evaluating the community based research process?

- Patrick – The Dr. Peter Centre received a grant to document their process of hiring PRAs and is in the process of creating learning modules to describe their process and culture shifts within their organizations.
- Andrea – PLPH did a process evaluation with an external evaluator, written into a community friendly report and presented at CAHR. It would be helpful to create a repository of questions that we should be asking about the process. For PRAs but also for coordinators, and academics within a project. What kind of impact is the process having, and how can we make this better? Important to consider ethics when doing evaluations and making sure to work within your ethics parameters. **Action Item:** Andrea will ask for permission to share this report.
- Allison: CHIWOS is exploring four avenues of evaluation: 1) evaluating the PRA training process; 2) a survey with PRAs on how to improve the operationalization of GIPA principles; 3) looking at the process of moving from participant to PRA; 4) a piece that highlights the benefits and challenges of working peer-to-peer.

- Janice: there is a tool that helps you map out questions and informs you if you are approaching the ethics line – **Action Item:** <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/outreach-learning/arecci-a-project-ethics-community-consensus-initiative/> and screening tool: <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/arecci/screening/54509/54f56047f6b0cc90afd0159797217d02>
- Andrea: should we form an adhoc working group to talk about process evaluation in CBR? Interest from John, Patrick, Janice, Joanna, Andrea **Action Item:** Janice will organize this group's first meeting

## 8. Program and Project Updates:

***Please provide a short summary of each project and consider these three points:*** one success, one problem encountered, and one lesson learned (*if we have more time at the end of the meeting we can provide people additional time*)

- CIHR REACH CBR Collaborative Centre and REACH 2.0** – Andrea Langlois & Janice Duddy  
CBR Collaborative – program of the Centre for REACH that funds representatives across the country. A lot of things happening at PAN are under this umbrella.

REACH 2.0 – refunded in May. Bringing together academics, community based organizations, people with lived experience, and policy makers to work on a focus of program science and participatory evaluation.

Success: Janice takes on a new role at PAN and will be helping orgs look at evaluation programs. Is now talking to core team and figuring out this will roll out in BC

Challenge: Defining program science and being able to describe in simple terms “programs are driving the science”

- CHIWOS** – Allison Carter

Success: 1) recruitment – CHIWOS was launched Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and is now at about 75% of target goal. 2) Growing capacity among women to do HIV research in BC and nationally.

Challenge: recruiting particular communities – only about 12 younger women (<30) in BC, nationally there are about 50 or 60. Also, Trans women, nationally there around 45, but recruitment has been challenging.

Lesson Learned: Going to community events (i.e. New West Pride, Hoopla Events). Great to be out there in the community sharing info about the project and giving back to the community.

- ENGAGE** – Sarah Kesselring and Chuck Osborne

Survey based study with people who have just started treatment. Looking at what the influences are for people's decisions to start treatment.

Challenge: Recruitment has been slow, about 10-15% of those eligible have enrolled. 46 have completed baseline survey, 11 have done follow up about 10-15% of those that are eligible.

Lessons learned: Engagement with community partners, i.e. with Oak Tree.

- Rethinking ASOs?** – Andrea Langlois

Research planning process with partners in Atlantic Canada thanks to a CIHR planning grant. Have done background research working towards a deliberative dialogue event in

November where we will be speaking about integration, moves away from exceptionalism, and policy shifts that affect AIDS service organizations. Where are we now? Where we are going?

Success: Filming videos leading up to the event – available on PAN website

Lessons learned: Using webinar technology and balancing timing around these pieces

**e. Dr. Peter Centre Evaluation – Patrick McDougall**

Recruitment and surveys by PRAs went very well at first and after a while has dwindled. Recruitment letters are being sent out through reception desk – this has been successful and more surveys are booked. Check in with Rob and Flo around training process – would have wanted even more contact with peer mentor. Peer mentor was a really important element for them. Success – debriefing sessions with coordinator. Wise/best practice of writing in peer mentor role into funding.

**f. Positive Living, Positive Homes – Heather Picotte**

Three case study sites looking at housing experiences for people living with HIV in BC. At the point of relationship building and getting back on track after pause.

Success: meeting people at PAN conference.

Challenge: working remotely and connecting communities to one another

Lesson learned: learning about PAN and PLPH, CBR moves at a specific pace that will differ based on the community – how to keep things moving without rushing things.

**g. “At Home at Howe” McLaren housing study -- Surita Parashar**

At Home at Howe is investigating McLaren’s Howe street housing unit, 100 bedrooms for people who are positive. Qualitative and quantitative work.

Success: hiring PRAs Heidi and Otto

Challenge: moving fast enough for them

Lesson’s learned: no project can go on without Terry – training was a great process.

**h. Projects at HIM**

Janice will engage with Greg and Jodi to invite them to this meeting

**i. Food Security – Nourishing Communities Dissemination – Joanna Mendell**

Received a CIHR dissemination grant to create knowledge translation products and engage with communities that participated in the study. We are just getting started on this KT project so stay tuned...for postcards and factsheets and webinars, and we will also be visiting communities and having community engagement events in the spring.

**j. Momentum Health Study Terry Howard**

Gay Men’s Health study in Vancouver – respondent driven sampling – get as far and deep into the gay men’s community to build cohort and reach people that would not otherwise be reachable. Have reached target numbers for HIV negative men, but still recruiting positive men. Going well but still challenges around recruitment.

Success: Offshoot project - positive deviance with sub cohort of momentum study - small group of men that identified as being members of group sex events.

Lessons learned: Using RDS – there were strong reservations about using this process but it has been a huge success.

Challenge: RDS – incentivized so may get people involved who may not actually identified as men who have sex with men.

**k. Moving Mountains – Jamie Reschny and Andrea Langlois**

PAN in partnership with folks from UNBC and Prince George, and a community advisory committee in the North held a community engagement conference. On the PAN website there is a blog post with summary report around CBR priority setting. Moving Mountains 2.0, will be happening thanks to Jamie Reschny receiving a fellowship from University without Walls – will be developing a resource for sex trade and drug use in northern BC.

Success: pulling it off

Challenge: still focused mostly on PG – how to engage folks from outside of PG and facilitating engagement with more people with lived experience;

**i. Stigma Index – Darren Lauscher**

International qualitative project looking at the experiences of stigma and resilience. Has not yet been funded nationally, but feedback will make project better, and the team has reapplied to CIHR. BC did their own application that has been funded by the Vancouver Foundation. Matching dollars, and still seeking more funding.

**m. Gay Poz Sex Study – Johnathan Postnikoff**

Initiated out of an identified gap where poz guys aren't talking about sex and the role sex plays in our lives. Randomized control trial. Just applied for another grant. Groups of 6-8 guys using motivational interviewing helping them identify changes that they want to make in their lives. Help them unpack their own motivations.

Challenge: Recruitment has been a challenging since there is a large time commitment and many reservations about researcher motivations. Building trust.

Success: connecting with other poz guys, and seeing what similar experiences they may have. Lessons learned: Have changed the process to start once 10 guys are recruited OR if 3 months pass since people were waiting a long time.

**n. Food as a harm reduction strategy -Patrick McDougall**

Funding from Vancouver Foundation. Currently recruiting community advisory committee. People living with HIV who use illicit drugs who are familiar with food services. Application deadline this Friday at 3pm.

**o. Others**

**9. Other Agenda Items – Everyone**

**10. Next Meeting – Proposed Dates February 2-6, 2015 (McLaren) – No conflicts**