



Moms Stop The Harm
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, June 8, 2019 - 1PM
Adler University
Vancouver, B.C.

Attending: Petra Schulz, Corinne Woods, Samantha Homenick, Helen Jennens, Marina Richards, Donna Wells, Deb Bailey, Jennifer Howard, Krista Shea, Karma Leroux, Marilyn Bueckert, Cheryl Wolbers,, Nancy Murphy, Judith Conway, Dana Dmytro, Deborah Watson, Sandra Tully, Patricia Bentley, Ruth Verkerk, Tara Taylor, Jan Mahoney, Jill McCullum, Louise Cameron, Carolyn Mills, Lizzy O'Sullivan, Sharene Shuster, Julie Cochrane, Kathryn Garcia, Patricia Murray, Tracy Thompson, Juanita O'Reilly, Leona Morley, Rebecca Beattie, Tricia Highley, Jeanie Seward Magee, Niki Lucas, Darlana L Treloar, Sheila Jennings, Mary Werba, Deb Dukes, Robert Fitzpatrick, Diane Hannah, Ashley Balan, Diane Davis, Valerie Wilson, Cammie Tirrel, Lorna Thomas, Kimberly Christianson,, Cindy Liefke, Tyla Savard, Niki Hanson, Carol Pelletier, Nancy J Garland, Amber Geissler, Leslie McBain, Sheila Pope, Tracy Thompson, Sangita Alviar, Shelley Cox, Marie Agoritis, Jennifer Hedican, Kamala Morrison, Julie Cochrane, Jeanie Bourke, Kathy Wagner, Millie Schulz, Cheryl Guardiero, Sherry MacDonald, Terry MacLean, Karen Little, Kat Wahama

Welcome:

Petra - Welcome to this year's AGM - Rather than giving lengthy reports, we have written statements from our leaders attached to these minutes.

Minutes of the AGM from 2018 approved by Marie Agioritis, seconded by Jenny Howard, all in favour and carried.

Introduction of board members:

Petra Schulz - Membership

Helen Jennens - Treasurer

Marie Agioritis - Member at Large

Lorna Thomas - Secretary

Leslie McBain - President

Deb Hale Bailey - nominated to the board

Sheila Jennings - nominated to the board

Full Board and Director Reports were distributed and made available by print. The following Regional Leadership updates were made:

Jennifer Howard - Healing Hearts Bereavement Group Update: We have 12 Healing Hearts groups across Canada and one virtual based support group. In addition, 4 groups are GRASP groups (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing) with MSTH members as facilitators. There are other bereavement support groups taking place with MSTH members facilitating in Comox, Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray and Kitchener. We are offering a growing movement across Canada. In Edmonton there are 73 participants registered. In Victoria there are 48 families registered. Average attendance is 9 to 12 people per meeting. Some of feedback from participants is that the groups are supportive, a lifeline and a safe place to share their experience. Some of the challenges are the disparity in personal loss (some participants are newly bereaved while others are further down their journey). If anyone is interested in starting a Healing Hearts group, please connect with Jennifer Howard or Angela Welz.

A pilot project has been started called Holding Hope by MSTH member, Nancy Murphy and is for families with loved ones who are in active use. It is a closed format model which provides education and mutual support to families. Nancy offers training to anyone interested in starting a group in their area. Everyone is very appreciative of the support and this fills a big need in our community.

Louise Cameron - reported that she and Deb Baily were present as the new Vancouver city council members were sworn in. The new Vancouver Mayor is wanting to restart the Opioid Task Force. They were approached by a CTV camera man who produces documentary films. He was working on a documentary called Toxic about the opioid crisis. Louise was interviewed as well Deb and Sharene Shuster. They are waiting for the documentary to be ready in September 2019. A trailer is posted on Facebook and more information on the premiere is to follow. This documentary will be shown at festivals around the world. Louise was also approached by a documentarian from BBC World on the overdose crisis in Iran. He lost his nephew to an overdose. The crisis in Iran is very tragic as there are no supportive efforts for people struggling with substance use. Several other MSTH members were involved in this documentary. It has not been released for public viewing at this point but eventually will be shown to an international audience.

Deb Hale Bailey - reported on a couple of initiatives she is working on including confidentiality - is it possible that the people you are trying to help can be hurt by that. Deb will be working with the Vancouver General Hospital emergency department. There is a physician who is wanting to address how the hospital supports individuals who struggle with substance use. Please refer to her report for more information.

Leslie McBain - explained how important the work is that she is doing and is happy to be doing it. Leslie is involved in Provincial and Federal committees and maintains a part time position as Family Engagement contact for the BCSSU. She continues to do public speaking and will talk later in the meeting about how to efficiently and powerfully respond to public speaking engagements. She is involved in many committees and continues to advocate and value the connections even though not much is happening with the crisis. It is baby steps and it is important to take care of your hearts.

Lorna Thomas - explained the work she is doing in preventing suicide and substance use deaths and continues to work with men in the trades. The trades can be a difficult place for many people. She continues to be involved in the educational program developed for the trades called "Tough Enough to Talk About It". This talks about positive mental health, harm reduction and suicide prevention. She is also involved in the "Living Hope" program which assists in preventing suicide. Lorna continues to work on several committees in Edmonton.

Deb Watson - spoke a little about what's happening in Alberta and the new premier, Jason Kenney and his review of Supervised Consumption Sites in the Province which will be problematic for many individuals struggling. A mother in Medicine Hat named Kym Porter is taking the Premier to task by creating a facebook campaign against the closure of SCS. She organized a march with the opposition leader to the Health Minister office. Deb shared that Red Deer raised \$10,000 for local overdose prevention services at their IOAD event.

Dana Dmytro - involved with Medicine Hat Overdose Prevention FB and is fighting hard for the SCS in Medicine Hat because of the change in government and attack on SCS.

Petra Schulz - discussed the concern for harm reduction in Canada. She explained how the interconnectedness between all of our members is powerful. We will continue to forge these coalitions and bring power to our organization. Petra shared that working with providers, scientists, researchers, health ministers and politicians continues to build our advocacy movement with MSTH. She thanked all of the members who work so hard for MSTH. Petra spoke about her involvement with recent video productions and how we can use these tools to reach more people (See-Beyond videos and the crackdown videos).

Marie Agioritis - spoke about the conservative government in Saskatchewan which is driven by financial gain and humans have been forgotten. Less than 5% of the provincial budget is spent on mental health, so it is very challenging. Over a six month period she worked with the opposition critic. They introduced individuals impacted by the crisis who shared their stories. She continues to challenge the government as much as she can to establish policies. It's hard work, but we are making a difference.

Sandra Tully - Kamloops is a community of 100,000. Sandra and a group of Moms do what they can to raise awareness. She and some other members in Kamloops have connected with Addiction Matters on a photo project called PhotoVoice. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect. The project was very powerful. Local Moms also attended the premiere of the movie "Beautiful Boy" and they had an opportunity to speak at a local festival. Local members also worked with interior health who recognized the three year anniversary since the announcement of the Provincial emergency. They developed a Burning Candle ceremony to honor and remember loved ones lost. The community was touched by this display and left messages and photos of loved ones. She and local members continue to participate in as many speaking opportunities that arise.

Sheila Jennings - There is so much to say about Ontario in a short presentation time. We are about 35 strong now and there is a regular FB chat where discussions are being held. Ontario is a province in trouble and is becoming more American which is a problem and is

having an impact in advocacy. She briefly explained the lack of support towards OPS and SCS. On a positive note - a law firm in Ontario has filed a class action lawsuit against 28 pharmaceutical companies. More information will follow. This is an Ontario only lawsuit but will set a precedent.

Juanita O'Reilly - An advocate from New Brunswick. There is not a lot happening in NB. Juanita does what she can to raise awareness. She has spoken at several events, Coordinated a Harm Reduction Symposium and continues to raise awareness and supports harm reduction. She assisted in the organizing of Overdose Awareness Day. Juanita shared that she is working with an organization called Halifax.

Treasurer's Report:

- A more detailed Financial Statement was sent via email.
- Banking accounts have been set up with the ability to receive e transfers.
- A MSTH paypal account has been set up
- A donate button will be set up on our website.
- Helen mentioned the importance of tracking any money being donated or raised on behalf of MSTH and emphasized that a financial report has to be sent to Helen to document funds coming in and out of MSTH.
- In 2018 we had no funds in the bank.
- Year end December 31, 2018, our balance was \$11,960.71.
- Our money for the past year was mostly personal donations and a donation from Telus Health. At this time we have had small expenditures but that will change as we grow.
- Healing Hearts has not been using money from MSTH during the past year. In general facilitators are covering the costs for the group. Any special fundraising requests can be submitted for approval.
- Liability insurance is provided for Healing Hearts and Holding Hopes groups.
- Receipts are to be submitted to Helen on the 1st & 15th of each month whenever possible.
- Funding requests must be run through Lorna, Petra and Leslie for approval
- Any fundraising initiatives must be reported to Helen. All funds raised must be run through the MSTH books.
- Donations have been received from various donors such as: United Nurses, Rotary clubs, Telus (it was noted that MSTH receives donations only from donors whose beliefs and values are in alignment with MSTH beliefs).
- Budget for the coming - there was discussion on the importance of identifying a clear budget for the coming year. The AGM needs to identify targets for fundraising and expenses. A detailed budget is needed that identifies goals. *Leadership will work on the budget.

Motion made to accept the financial statement as presented by Lorna Thomas and Juanita O'Reilly seconded the motion, all in favour, carried.

A suggestion was made by Jennifer Hedican (Comox BC) to formally make a motion related to the goal of fundraising in the coming year.

Motion made that "MSTH engage in fundraising activities that support local groups in their goals related to the organization's vision and key beliefs." Jennifer Hedican and seconded by Marina Richards and all in favour, carried.

Election:

Returning board members:

Leslie McBain
Petra Schulz
Marie Agioritis
Helen Jennens
Lorna Thomas

Nominations to the board:

Sheila Jennens
Deb Hale Bailey

Petra asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and Samantha Homenick added her name to the nominations.

All in favour for Deb joining the board, carried.

All in favour for Sheila joining the board, carried.

All in favour for Samantha Hominick (Vancouver Member) joining the board, carried.

Congratulations to the 3 new board members.

Lorna Thomas moves to adjourn the AGM, seconded by Leslie McBain ,all in favour, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm

