



## UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK CONTRACTS WITH ISLAND HEALTH

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Regional District of Nanaimo advise Island Health that the contract for the Nanaimo Community Health Network will not be renewed at the end of its term on November 30, 2022.
2. That the Regional District of Nanaimo request the City of Nanaimo to consider administering this services contract with Island Health beyond the end of term.
3. That if the City of Nanaimo or Island Health refuse the new term contract, Island Health be requested to consider the United Way for this services contract.
4. That Island Health be requested to consult with RDN Recreation Services in their review of how to involve local governments in their social determinants of health.

### BACKGROUND

Island Health's Community Health Networks (CHNs) bring together multiple partners to improve community health and wellness through collective action to address locally prioritized social determinants of health. Primarily funded by Island Health (IH), there are nine Health Networks, one administered by each regional district with the exception of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) area, which has two.

The Oceanside Health and Wellness Network (OHWN) began in 2015 aligned with the boundary of School District 69. IH provided an initial expense budget of \$15,000 and a 3-year \$30,000 per year contract to develop and coordinate the OHWN. In 2020, the Nanaimo Community Health Network (NCHN) was formed, which aligns with the School District 68 area. Given the experience of the OHWN, the contract for the NCHN was increased to \$50,000 annually inclusive of a 10% administration fee for the RDN's administrative services. Both Networks have been supported by one full-time Coordinator position, subcontracted to the RDN, and one RDN planning staff (0.15 Full Time Equivalent) plus additional administrative and finance support time.

At the end of 2021, the contract for OHWN expired. Given experience that proved the current level of funding (\$30,000 annually) was insufficient to manage and function the contract services, RDN staff requested an increase in the renewal contract to \$80,000 per year, which is commensurate with most other CHNs. This request was refused by Island Health on March 2, 2022. The Board did not renew the OHWN contract at its meeting on March 22, 2022. IH has subsequently contracted with the Society of Organized Services (District 69) to administer the OHWN.

The Board requested a copy of the OHWN member survey conducted as part of its strategic plan review (Board Resolution 22-216: It was moved and seconded that staff be directed to provide a report on the recent survey

conducted on the Oceanside Community Health Network). A copy was distributed to the Board via email and is also attached (Attachment 1).

The NCHN contract expires on November 30, 2022. As noted, the annual contract fee for most CHNs on Vancouver Island is \$80,000 per year in 3-year contracts. The RDN is the only regional district requested by Island Health to run two CHNs for one contract amount (\$80,000 per year). Even with a 10% administration fee for NCHN, the RDN subsidizes the contract with professional and administrative staff time. The RDN does not have a social planning service to subsidize this contract for Island Health, so the additional costs cannot be recovered, and further, have not been authorized by the Board.

IH has the authority to directly contract with other service providers but wishes to continue with its regional district service provision model. They have advised the program will be reviewed at the end of 2022. As an alternative, the RDN may request the City of Nanaimo to consider administering the contract for the NCHN as the City of Nanaimo provides a dedicated social planning service. Meetings have been held between RDN, IH and City of Nanaimo to discuss this possibility. IH raised a concern about the contract being solely within the new Strategic Planning Organization. The City of Nanaimo supported further review and discussion of service contract options. A second alternative is to request the United Way consider administering the service contract.

It is also recommended that IH be requested to consult with RDN Recreation Services in their review of how to involve local governments in their social determinants of health.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

RDN staff time has subsidized the CHN contracts. Without a social planning service or adequate administrative fee, these additional costs cannot be recovered and are currently not authorized by the Board.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

Social Wellbeing - Prepare a Social Needs Assessment study, which identifies the broad range of social service providers at the local level, and develop a strategy to identify the RDN's role where appropriate.

### **REVIEWED BY:**

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### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Oceanside Health and Wellness Network Member Survey Results - 4 March 2022