

Hosting Community Dialogues

Breakout Room Discussion Notes



Breakout Room #1: Sharing Community Dialogue Experiences & Ideas for Future Ones

How can they be hosted well? Where is there opportunity?

- Providing sheets with guides and notes
- Being a good host is very important-more so than the educational pieces
- Establishing agreements at the beginning to manage expectations
- Facilitation training is helpful, moderation, supporting challenging conversations
- Plan to meet with folks 1:1 to introduce topic ideas and discuss having a larger dialogue
- Good resource: NCDD National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation
- In Kelowna we have a meeting once a week with the “Coordinated Outreach Circle” which consists of partnering community organizations, RCMP, Ki-Low-Nah Friendship, Social Development, IH MHSU, Outreach Urban Health and BC Housing we discuss trends, gaps, concerns in the community as well as organizational updates and a small bit of it is for by name discussion to connect high risk individuals to resources and services in the community.
- It would be beneficial for Outreach Providers to get together with community business owners and build/strengthen that relationship as well as pull some compassion and understanding for PWUD and talk about how we can help each other out, people could attend calls for clean up outside businesses or assist in helping individuals get connected to resources. Provide business owners of a business survival guide (similar to the KCR Street Survival Guide) with resources and phone numbers to call for assistance when dealing with an individual who may be residing nearby.
- Connecting with RCMP, neighbouring communities, regarding individuals in need. The prevention piece is a lot harder in smaller communities, Harm reduction Policies would be beneficial.
- Politicians, police, fire – city staff, councillors, mayor and – build common knowledge, commitment to specific actions within their domain, responsibilities. Hope to continue conversation further, bring in people who might not have been involved. Bring in background, policies/history of substance use, racism, and current stats (high proportion of trades people). How can they get involved, what can they do.
- Bringing different leaders together. Example - during COVID lots of leaders coming together to form a network of care and support. Share information in confidence. Missing was debunking myths, providing education and some of the perspectives and experiences that aren’t known. How do you facilitate a space that is open and safe? Orient people to ask questions without worrying about being politically correct.
- “Town hall meeting” – creates instant tension! Sometimes panelists get targeted. As opposed to “Compassion Conference”. Title matters!
- Had Kiosks set up prior so there could be opportunities to understand the issues, etc. This kiosk idea really helped create a safer space for panelists.
- Food – consider a community feast! Create a trauma-informed layout!
- South Surrey CAT doing a dialogue with business and community members – contention and stigma –World café style and panel
- White Rock CAT in May spent since January planning – there was a speaker, dialogue at event – there was no stigma,
- Langley physician attends CAT meetings – no bigger meetings – indigenous health review – lenient open and safe space – stipends were provided
- Wellness together

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- Use the programs to highlight programs that are positive, try and have a peer at each table and not have people continue to silo (have physicians, police, peers, community, politicians at each table and have café style) - Have paper to draw on for awkward moment
- If there are community problems, try to end stigma by ensuring they're heard. Have them explain (say needles or body excretions like urine or feces in front door – well that's a city problem not a homeless problem – if there's a place to drop your needles, or use a washroom people will use it). Use groups to find solutions, find out why these things are happening
- Seniors and bylaws officer dialogues since we've been talking about it
- Seniors seem really engaged in the community and open-minded
- Could join with the Senior Resource Centre
- Cops and Officers have been harassing an elderly unhoused Indigenous folks
- Doing a dialogue with bylaws officers
 - Would they even want to talk?
 - Would need to involve the city and city council
 - Dialogue with mayor, city council, bylaw
 - Bring CAT team into dialogue?
 - We need to tell stories of trauma
 - Trauma informed care is needed and lacking
 - Need experts in harm reduction, mental health and housing present
 - Have to remind people that this is Indigenous peoples' land, you're on land