

## **Board Voice Agenda – Jan. 18, 2021**

**Vision:** a clear and effective voice for volunteer community-based boards supporting high-quality social services and strong, vibrant communities.

**Mission:** the members of Board Voice create healthy communities and champion the value of collaborative, high-quality, community-based social services to governments, communities and the social service sector.

### **Principles:**

**Respectful** – We show respect for those with whom we work by demonstrating courtesy, honesty, integrity and fairness.

**Collaborative** – We envision an integrated system of community-based services that is driven by the needs of the people who utilize our services. We are committed to collaborative engagement with our board members across agencies and within communities to create a service delivery system that is integrated and makes the best use of available resources.

**Transparent** – We engage our agency board members and other stakeholders in an open process, with transparent purpose, goals, expectations and accountabilities, expectations and constraints.

**Responsive** – We respect, and respond to, advice received from our fellow board members and other stakeholders. Wherever appropriate, we modify our plans and actions to reflect their advice.

**Timely and Appropriate** – We engage our fellow board members and other stakeholders early and often in the planning process, allowing sufficient time for meaningful dialogue, consultation and plan modifications. We utilize levels and methods of engagement that are appropriate to the purpose of engagement.

**Inclusive and Balanced** – We engage our fellow board members and other stakeholders who have a stake in, or will be represented by, our actions. We respect the diversity represented by the people working in our agencies and the people who receive our services. We balance the participation and influence of stakeholder groups.

**Accessible** – We provide clear, accessible and comprehensive information in order to facilitate involvement of our fellow board members and other stakeholders to assist us with addressing issues and making decisions.

**Accountable** – We monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our engagement with our fellow board members and other stakeholders and are accountable for our actions and for the appropriate utilization of resources.

**Innovative** – We seek innovative ways to improve our communications and plans. We are committed to continuous learning.

**Meeting Outcomes:** by the end of the meeting we will have:  
Confirmation on date of AGM

<b>Time</b>	<b>Tasks/Item</b>	<b>Supporting Documentation</b>
5-5:15 pm (15 min max)	<b>Welcome/Acknowledgement/Check-In</b>  Purpose: to give all a chance to speak so we can be fully present for this meeting; to hear brief updates on what is happening in directors' agencies/communities	
5:15 – 5:25 pm (10 min)	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>  <b>Consent Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes from last meeting</li> <li>• ED written report</li> </ul>	
5:25-6:05 pm (30 minutes)	<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer's report</li> <li>• Provincial project</li> <li>• Roundtable</li> <li>• Meeting with Karin Kirkpatrick</li> <li>• Federal advisory committee on charitable sector</li> <li>• Board Voice insurance</li> </ul>	
6:05 – 6:20 pm (15 minutes)	<b>Action items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signers on BV account</li> </ul>	
6:20-6:30 pm (10 min)	<b>Wrap Up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions this month</li> <li>• Topics for next agenda</li> <li>• Feedback on meeting</li> </ul>	

## Executive Director's report

### **Board Voice advocacy:**

Letters to cabinet ministers of the social ministries were sent from Board Voice at the end of December. Some of the letters were letters of introduction to Board Voice, but we asked for meetings in several of them, and are awaiting confirmation of a meeting later in January with Social Development and Poverty Reduction Minister Nicholas Simons.

The Board Voice advocacy committee met Jan. 12 with MCFD Critic Karin Kirkpatrick, who left her position as CEO of Family Services of Greater Vancouver to run as a Liberal in the 2020 election. The conversation was informative and engaging, and I'm sure we'll be connecting with Karin more often. Her positioning as such a recent leader in community social services and now straight into the MCFD critic role means that she sees issues that she knows are shaping up to be a problem – like the delay of the BC budget until as late as the end of May with no plan yet put forward on what to do about all the MCFD contracts that will come due before there's a 2021-22 budget! We have now flagged this issue with the Roundtable for our Feb. 1 call.

We are also looking into the long-standing issue of wage differences based on nothing but who is funding the work. The current issue involves wages paid to housing support workers who serve adults versus those who serve youth, with BC Housing wage grids for adults notably lower than those that MCFD uses for youth, even though adults are easily as complex to support as youth. We are working with a member agency and PARCA to bring this to the attention of BC Housing and the Attorney General, who has responsibility for housing.

There is a new opportunity to engage and consult with the federal [Advisory Committee on the Charitable Sector](#), which formed in summer 2019 but appears to be just beginning its consultative work now. We have sent an email to the group Secretariat to ask how we might go about being part of consultation on some of the five themes the committee is exploring.

The Social Services Sector Roundtable has resumed meetings, with the next one scheduled for Feb. 1.

### **Advocacy issues for members:**

While COVID and recovery from the impact of COVID have been major issues for our sector, we are beginning to hear about other issues now that the pandemic has become an issue that we're getting slightly more used to dealing with.

A board member of one of our organizations has sought our support for bringing the issue of BC Housing contract rates to the Roundtable's attention, as their salary grid is considerably lower than comparable grids to the point that recruitment and retention is an issue. In this member's case, they operate both youth supportive housing (MCFD) and adult supportive housing (BC Housing), so the difference between those two salary grids for a comparatively similar client group is particularly noticeable.

This example fits well within the topics of recruitment and retention as well as human resources, both of which are part of the Roundtable's work. The Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies (PARCA) also sits at the Roundtable and is supportive of bringing this topic to the table, as is the Federation of Community Social Services of BC.

**Financial processes:**

I am now picking up more of the financial role as I move into a position of more oversight now that Craig East has left the board. I'm working with Treasurer Bill McMichael and the rest of the Finance Committee in these changes. We are developing a document on Board Voice financial processes that will be very useful for keeping updated and handing down to new treasurers (and executive directors) in the future. The contracts of both myself and administrative assistant Rosie Forth have been updated, with no changes to compensation but just some necessary updates to processes. With her approval, Rosie Forth has reduced her average hours per month from 15 to 10, which more closely represents her typical month workload.

**Government relations:**

See the advocacy bullet above for the update.

**Memberships:**

Board Voice welcomed a new member in December, Arrow and Slocan Community Services.

**Miscellaneous:**

Financial Statements – sent in separate document