



BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other stakeholders

August 11, 2011 (Via email)

Greetings friends of the BC-Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG):

*This information update is being sent to people who attended community forums on BC's community living crisis as well as subscribers to the CommunityLivingAction.org email list. If you do not wish to receive these communications, please reply with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject heading.*

In the news:

Today: "[Closure of Group Homes Shocks Parents](#)," appeared in the *Times Colonist*. The story features two families. Journalist Lindsay Kines attended our Victoria "Skills & (Dis)Abilities" community meeting last fall.

Yesterday: BC-CLAG's Opinion/Editorial, "[The Crisis in BC's Community Living Sector](#)," appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*. However, one key paragraph, explaining our group's repeated requests to meet with the Minister of Social Development and the Premier, was edited out.

We need your HELP!

- CTV news producer Philip Sedlacek is working on a story for TOMORROW. He wants to interview the Greenways and Pollard-Elgerts (*Times Colonist* story), as well as other families. Email him ASAP: Philip.Sedlacek@bellmedia.ca

Other ACTIONS:

- Email a **letter to the editor** (max 200 words) to the *Times Colonist* (re: article), *Vancouver Sun* (re: OpEd), and your local paper to share your story. **Mention BC-CLAG and call on the Premier to meet with our group.**
- Share these articles and your views on personal or group **Facebook** pages, **Twitter**, and other **social media**.

Outreach to Politicians:

- After several attempts to request a meeting with the Minister of Social Development, [Harry Bloy](#), BC-CLAG turned its attention to the [Premier](#)
 - The [Premier responded](#) promptly, advising our group that Minister Bloy would contact our group "directly."
 - After several weeks with no word, we phoned the Minister's office. Still no action.
 - We sent a [second update letter to the Premier](#), urging her to meet with our group. The Premier's office phoned to notify us that the Minister would meet (after his holidays) with organizations represented in our group, but not with our group specifically. We stated our opposition.

Help US help YOU!

- In recent weeks, the Minister of Social Development and the Premier have received dozens of letters about the impacts of CLBC cuts to services and supports. **If you haven't sent a letter, now is more important than ever. In your letter:**
 - cc your local, regional, and provincial media, as well as your MLA.
 - say you are a BC-CLAG supporter, that you support the recommendations in our [report](#), and that the group is a unified provincial voice on this issue. Call on the government to meet with the BC-CLAG as a group, rather than selected organizations separately.

Recent Actions undertaken by the BC-CLAG:

- Read the **Freedom of Information Requests*** that we recently submitted:
 - Records re: [number of CLBC funding requests received, approved in full and in part, or denied](#)
 - Records re: [number of complaints received and resolved by CLBC; and length of time to resolve complaints](#)
 - Records re: [deaths of individuals in CLBC residential services; locations, causes/circumstances; and investigative processes undertaken](#)
 - Records re: [recent and forecasted group home closures and projected impacts](#)
 - Records re: [numbers of individuals in BC group homes, including new placements](#)
 - [Criteria to measure service quality outcomes relative to service redesign; and measurable outcomes to date](#)



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- Records re: recent and forecasted cost savings associated with residential and community inclusion redesign; and service allocations arising from cost recoveries
- Records re: average number of hours of CLBC-funded respite services provided per family

**Any information released provides statistical/aggregate information only; no individuals or families are identified and personal privacy is strictly protected.*

- Read the Request for Information sent to the Advocate for Service Quality regarding complaints received by their office. According to information provided, the number of complaints registered with the ASQ has decreased in recent years. This information is surprising, considering the extent of program and service cuts, and wait-lists, but may be partly explained by the restricted mandate of that office.

New Report:

Alanna Hendren, Executive Director of one of BC's largest and most successful non-profit agencies serving people with developmental disabilities and their families, has been involved in BC's community living movement for more than two decades. She provides a context, an explanation, and an analysis of the crisis in the following report:

- Services for People with Developmental Disabilities – Contemporary Challenges and Necessary Solutions

BC-CLAG wants to know your story:

We invite families and caregivers to share their personal thoughts and experiences to demonstrate the human impacts of BC's community living crisis. Please confirm permission to post your submission on our Website and state whether you wish to include your name or to avoid including any identifying information. Submissions for publication should be 150 – 500 words maximum. Please provide:

1. **Background:** statement of the family situation/problem with CLBC (eg: cuts to services, housing/support, waitlists, other)
2. **Issues/concerns/impacts:** how this situation has impacted the person receiving services and the family; and why you have contacted the BC-CLAG
3. **What you need:** what action needs to be taken to address/resolve the problem
4. **Your name/city/email address:** please indicate your preference to use your name or an Anonymous identifier on the Voices section of the website.

We will continue to keep you up-to-date on our activities. Visit www.CommunityLivingAction.org for updates

Emet Davis

*For the BC-Community Living Action Network
www.CommunityLivingAction.org*