



Cranbrook ♥ Kimberley

HOSPICE SOCIETY

Hands that Serve | Hearts that Care

Volunteer Business Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025

Attendance: Marla T, Cheryl T, Zena W, Jeff W, Francine GS, Darcy R, Diane K, Jackie J, Mike J, Jenn G, George W, Karolyn F

Call to order:

Marla introduced new Kimberley volunteer Jenn to the group.

Board Update:

The Chair commented on the significant increase in Hospice activity and fundraising events. George extended thanks to all volunteers!! George passed on a thank you from our palliative social worker Kim Miller, she appreciates the help that CKHS provides to patients she sees on a daily basis through her work with Interior Health.

George mentioned that we don't get the referrals that we should be getting from the palliative care team. Health care staff are understaffed and super busy and don't always have the time to explain our services to their patients. Kim Miller and Dr. Greg Andreas aim to help promote hospice and the services we provide. Dr. Andreas will be meeting with the local doctors asking for their support for our future hospice house and working with them to remind them of our services.

George is looking into how we can expand our brand; this would include educating the public that we are more than end-of-life services. Hospice care does not mean that someone is approaching imminent death.

Fundraising Highlights:

- Bridge BBQ – raised approximately \$1200
- Sunrise Rotary Gran Fondo - \$5000 (largest Gran Fondo event to date)
- McPherson's BBQ -- \$5000
- Cranbrook Rotary club "Rock the Kootenays festival raised \$15,000
- Trickle creek Golf tournament Sept 21 - \$815 raised for hospice

- July 18th – Charity Golf Tournament – still waiting on final total
- Cranbrook couple donated \$50,000
- Royal Canadian Legion donated \$1000

George, supplied a quick short update on our Hospice House project.

We are currently waiting on the transfer of land from the city. Securing a contract with Interior Health (IH) remains a significant challenge. The Steering Committee met with IH Interim CEO Sylvia Weir on September 11. Ms. Weir was forthright in stating that IH does not have funding for a project of this nature. David Wilks, also in attendance whole heartedly supports our efforts in building a Hospice House for the East Kootenays. David Wilks has considerable political clout within BC politics, and is now accelerating our request with the government. We wait to hear from David.

We have numerous community supporters that want a hospice house as bad as we do for the area. Including:

- Ktunaxa Nation
- EKFH
- Sunrise Rotary Club/ Cranbrook Rotary Club
- Ministerial Association
- EKRH Palliative Care Team
- City of Cranbrook/ City of Kimberley
- Local Hospice Societies including Creston Valley Hospice & Elk Valley Hospice
- BC Hospice Palliative Care Association
- Local businesses

And the list continues to grow!!

Office Admin Update:

August & September Client Intake: 11 (2 on hold)

Palliative Journeys for 2025 is 29

Volunteers 70 members

Kimberley 19 clients

Cranbrook 44 clients (4 which are on hold)

Starlight Gala Donations

CKHS is looking for volunteers to form a small steering committee. EKFH Starlight Gala will be providing a large amount of silent auction items that they collect, we need to do our part to support the event. 2-4 volunteers needed.

AGM Date – *Save The Date*

Date: Thursday, October 23

Time 6:00 pm -8:00 pm

Location: Cranbrook McPherson's Funeral Home Lounge.

CKHS is looking to see their board grow from 5 members to 7. Representation from Kimberley is greatly needed. If you are interested in putting your name forth to be a member of the board, please let Karolyn know in the office. You will need to provide a written short bio for the board. Any other questions please ask George or Karolyn. Please know that we are a cohesive friendly group and time commitment to be a board member is not significant.

Nav-Care

The board has approved the ongoing investigation into Nav-Care services. Please click link below for more information:

<https://www.nav-care.ca/>

What is Nav-Care?

Nav-CARE (Navigation: Connecting, Advocating, Resourcing, Engaging),

is a program offered at no cost that supports people living with declining health to live well at home for as long as possible. Specially trained volunteer navigators help persons and their families access resources and services in their community, while providing companionship and emotional support.

It is not mandatory that all CKHS volunteers have Nav-care training. CKHS is in early stages of finding additional information about what services may be included with providing a Nav-Care service for our area.

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation

Thanks to Judi Watson for organizing these alternating Friday mornings get togethers. We are seeing a board room of volunteers the last 2 sessions, so full I may have to look into getting extra chairs for the office. Great conversations are being had!! It would be great to see some Kimberley volunteers join us. Please contact Judi if you would be interested in hosting a Friday at 250-919-9463.

Next meeting will be Friday, October 3 at 10:00 am.

Education Update:

Jeff shared that new training class begins September 25 and will run consecutive Thursdays until October 16. The new training approach launched earlier this year appears to be working. New volunteers interested in being a client facing volunteer, now take the first 3 modules online and last 4 modules in class. After they have completed each module online, they then submit to either Marla, Jeff or Mark for follow-up.

Advanced Care Planning October 17th in Kimberley at the library. Unsure of exact start time. Cranbrook is need of a lead for Cranbrook that would be interested in hosting information sessions in Cranbrook about ACP. This is not a huge time commitment, but would be appreciated if we could find a lead for the program. Please contact office if you have questions or may be interested.

Walk & Talk Update:

Cheryl Crich continues to connect with a group from Calgary for suggestions on a “Walk & Talk” program that would be successful for CKHS.

Bereavement Update:

Kimberley BSG will run Sept 23-Dec 2 for 11 sessions. Seven women will be attending the bereavement support group at Centennial Hall.

Cranbrook BSG for both men and women is set to start in November and run until February.

Bereavement support group for parents with children that have passed from drug abuse will hopefully start in the new year. The groups will be small, not more than 4 participants per group.

Marla reminded the group that even if a volunteer does not feel qualified to work with a client that is experiencing this kind of grief, we still can help, if you are unsure, please reach out to the office to see what kind of support can be provided.

MAID Discussion

Below is our current policy on MAID.

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9. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (M.A.I.D)

9.1 MAID Policy

In the event a hospice client/patient/family member enquires about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), the interim policy for a Cranbrook Kimberley Hospice Society Volunteer or Board Member is to:

1. Respond in an open-ended and therapeutic manner by:
 - a. Acknowledging the importance of the person's questions and concerns;
 - b. Informing them that the process for medical assistance in dying, though new, is in place;
 - c. Reassuring as with any questions the individual has albeit refraining from discussion of specific questions about medical assistance in dying;
 - d. Refraining, as with other considerations related to an individual's physical or emotional health, from offering related opinions regarding MAID
2. Encourage the individuals to speak with their family physician or health care provider.
3. Direct individuals to the Interior Health MAID site: www.interiorhealth.ca/YourCare/Maid
The current link above highlighted in red is no longer in service. Use the link below for more information. Link to be updated as part of updating the Policy & Procedure Manual.
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/palliative-and-end-of-life-care/medical-assistance-in-dying>
4. If asked, as a volunteer, to attend or participate in some form in the actual MAID experience, extreme caution must be exercised acknowledging that the volunteer is vulnerable to personal impact. Hospice does neither recommend nor endorse such activity but expresses that the volunteer should proceed with extreme caution.

Below is the government of Canada website with more information.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-services-benefits/medical-assistance-dying.html>

Francine also mentioned a book *“This is Assisted Dying: A Doctor’s Story of Empowering Patients at the End of Life”* in 2022 written by Canadian doctor Stefanie Green that is a valuable resource.

Next Meeting: For all volunteers in Cranbrook at McPhersons, Monday September 17th at 10:00am.

October Volunteer Meetings will be held separately for Cranbrook volunteers and Kimberley volunteers.

Adjourned: 11:30 ish