



Cranbrook ♥ Kimberley
HOSPICE SOCIETY

Hands that Serve | Hearts that Care

Volunteer Business Meeting

Date: Monday, February 9, 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Kimberley McPhersons Lounge

Attendance: Francine G-S, Jeff W, Karen W, Mark C, Mike J, Jackie, Marla T, Cheryl T, Cheryl S, Diane K, Bobbie S, Gary T, Brian Clifford, Darcy R, Karen W.

Recorder: Karolyn F.

Marla welcomed everyone. A quick round of introductions was made.

Board Update:

Francine reported on behalf of George.

Hospice House update:

- The steering committee and CKHS board are currently investigating the possibility of a land donation, more information disclosed when we have more information.
- Some of our investments have come due and need to be reinvested. We are in great financial health.
- The board will be talking “strategic planning” consistently over the next while to get a plan in action, this may include staffing.

Education Update:

Online Modules & New Recruitment Our three online modules continue to be a success for new volunteers. Mark, Jeff, and Marla have noted that following up with student volunteers after they complete their modules has been a very positive experience; they’ve been consistently impressed with the caliber of our new recruits.

Upcoming In-Class Sessions New in-class sessions are slated to start this April. We want to extend a huge thank you to Jeff Williams for scheduling these sessions and serving as our lead instructor for so many years. Jeff, your dedication is greatly appreciated.

New Scheduling Strategy: To streamline our workflow, the board has decided on a new strategy:

- **Centralized Scheduling:** All future in-class sessions will now be scheduled by the office administrator.
- **The Process:** Once the office admin and Francine have interviewed applicants, checked references, and confirmed memberships, training will be scheduled.
- **Group Minimums:** In-class sessions will be triggered once a group of four or more vetted volunteers is ready.

Given the office's heavy involvement in the initial onboarding—from membership packages to reference checks—it is a natural fit for the admin to follow the process through to the final scheduling phase.

******Call for Facilitators****** CKHS is always looking for dedicated individuals to help lead our volunteers and support our clients. If you have a passion for teaching, speak to the office.

- **Module Facilitators:** Lead training for Modules 4–7 to help prepare our newest volunteers.
- **BSG Facilitators:** Facilitate our Bereavement Support Groups, providing a vital space for healing and connection.

Office Update:

42 paid volunteers

3 not renewing

77 members in total right now

60 clients in total, 44 in Cranbrook, 16 in Kimberley - 6 people completed their palliative journeys so far this year.

Total volunteer hours for the 2025 calendar year reached is 5,396.5. Roughly 450 volunteer hours recorded monthly for 2025.

Grant Writing & Funding The office has been highly focused on securing future funding, with three major grant applications recently submitted:

- **Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies**
- **CBT & RDEK:** REDI Grant program.
- **RDEK:** Discretionary Grant.

Interior Health (IH) Contract: We have transitioned from a 2-year to a 3-year contract. We receive \$25,000 in funding annually from Interior Health.

Marsh Insurance: The annual renewal process has started.

Walk & Talk Program (Now called Healing Hearts Nature Walks)

Cheryl Savage is the new coordinator of the Healing Hearts Nature Walks program. She thanked Mike Jensen for his assistance as he passes the torch. Karen Grant and Judi Watson are assisting with the pilot program too.

Healing Hearts Nature Walks will start in April and it is a trial redesign of the old program. This program will be advertised to the community and open to everyone that has experienced a significant loss. Participants will need to register through the office. At time of registration the participant will be provided with all the information about the walks, dates, etc.

Some great ideas that will possibly be trialed include:

- Participants would be encouraged to wear arm bands to signify their loss. The hope is to open the lines of communication if participants know that someone who wears a pink arm band has suffered the loss of a child and they have to.
- The public will be encouraged to pre-register for the 6-walk series through the office.
- The program is slated to start in April weather depending and will run until October. There will be one walk a month, dates to be determined.
- Six walks are scheduled, with three of them taking place in the same location. Different walking areas are being explored, with Idlewild park being the most popular.
- Walks will proceed at a gentle pace.
- McPhersons is sponsoring 2 backpacks for the nature walks. The backpacks will have our logo and McPhersons.
- Inspirations cards will be provided, more information to come
- No fees are required but donations will be happily accepted.

Cheryl invites all volunteers to participate with assisting with the new nature walk program. It does not matter if you have not completed bereavement training or even the basic primary training. There will be a facilitator guide to use as a resource. Please let Karolyn in the office know if this is something you may be interested in.

Bereavement Update:

Francine reported the following:

4 BSG groups have occurred since September 2025, 2 are still ongoing. 1 women's BSG in Kimberley, 2 women's BSG for Cranbrook and 1 men's BSG in Cranbrook. Bereavement support groups need more trained facilitators. The goal of hospice is to be able to host more BSG throughout the year. BSG are very popular in the community and participants and volunteers are grateful for the group interaction, which allows them to learn a lot about themselves. One volunteer new to facilitating BSG says she has experienced a lot of personal growth and is learning from the group as they proceed through the sessions.

Lots of talk about the lower number of men that are currently joining the men's BSG. A different strategy is needed to advertise and have men that are in grief to want to attend a BSG.

Areas of discussion:

- Who is following up with spouses when the husband or wife has passed?
- Men's BSG needs to be advertised
- Do men feel more comfortable sharing their feelings in a more comfortable setting (meeting for coffee)
- Men's Shed that Jeff W is part of may be a could place to talk about Men's BSG

There is an overall concern that CKHS needs to do better for the men that are grieving the loss of a significant person in their life. We would also like to see a children's program offered.

Substance Abuse BSG

In a collaborative effort, Marla, Chris O, Cheryl S, and Rikki have developed a specialized supplement for our BSG facilitator guide, specifically tailored for substance abuse bereavement. This new resource addresses the unique complexities of this type of loss, equipping our facilitators with the tools necessary to support families through their journey. Please note that the original facilitator guide remains unchanged; this enhanced version is a dedicated resource used exclusively for our substance abuse bereavement support groups.

Fundraising & Upcoming Events

50/50 Draw: Our latest 50/50 fundraiser is officially underway! We look forward to the community's support in making this a success. We have 3 months to sell 6000 tickets. Special reminder all funds raised are for our operating expenses not the EK hospice home project.

Gaming License Eligibility Rules from Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch

- **Board Members & Licensees:** Anyone listed on the gaming license and all members of the Board of Directors are strictly prohibited from purchasing tickets.
- **Volunteers:** * Permitted to purchase entries only when they are not actively volunteering.
 - Final approval for volunteer participation is at the discretion of the board.
- **Family & Spouses:**
 - Spouses and family members of board members or licensees are permitted to participate with board discretion and should be clearly decided upon before the event.

This topic will be added to this month's agenda for discussion and clarification.

Feb 15 – *For the Love of Music fundraiser* sponsored by Kimberley Shared Ministry

February 19th – *CKHS Board Meeting* at 6pm

Feb 20 – *Coffee, Cookies & Conversation* (hosted by the Cliffords)

February 24 – MAID presentation at Kimberley Senior Centre 1pm to 2pm

March 1-March 31 – Burger of the Month – multiple restaurants in Cranbrook will be offering a specialized burger at their restaurant. Most restaurants will be selling their 'burger of the month' for \$25, \$10 from each burger will go toward the hospice home project.

March 6 – *Coffee, Cookies & Conversation* (hosted by Jeff Williams)

March 20 – *Coffee, Cookies & Conversation* (hosted by Mark Cameron)

April 18- Advanced Care Planning Symposium at McPherson (more info to come)

May 4th – 50/50 Raffle closes and winner is drawn

May 7th – *Mr. Mikes BBQ* 11:30-2:30 (more info to come)

June 26 – *Trio on the Mountain* (more info to come)

August 29th – *Charity Golf Tournament* (more info to come)

Advanced Care Planning

ACP Workshop – Friday, February 20th in Kimberley

Our next Advance Care Planning workshop is scheduled for February 20th, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, located upstairs at the Kimberley Library.

Marla will be facilitating the session, with Karolyn (and potentially another volunteer) in attendance to observe. We are actively seeking to grow our team of ACP facilitators. If you are interested in learning how to run these workshops or would like to assist in the future, we encourage you to attend or contact Karolyn for more information.

Kudos

First, a warm thank you to Marla for her leadership in preparing and guiding our collaborative volunteer meetings. We truly appreciate the heart and organization you bring to our team!

I also want to share a quiet, heartfelt and profound "thank you" to one of our volunteers who wishes to remain anonymous. Recently, this volunteer provided unwavering support to a mother and daughter at the hospital during their final journey together. The mother chose MAID, and our volunteer remained by their side until the very end, offering a gentle, comforting presence when it was needed most for the mother and daughter.

When asked about it, the volunteer simply said it "felt like the right thing to do." This level of selflessness and compassion is beyond words—it is the very heart of what hospice is all about. I continue to be in awe of the kindness you all bring to this community; this is just one of the many stories I hear about our volunteers and their incredible acts of grace. Thank you!

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13th at Cranbrook McPherson's lounge, 10 am – noon.