

BC Society of Transition Houses Selection Framework for Inter-Provincial Member Agency Selection of Working Groups

Purpose

BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) is a **Centre of Excellence** enhancing the continuum of services and strategies necessary to end violence and abuse against women, youth and children. We envision a world where every person lives violence free. In 2010 BC Housing released the *Review of Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program*.¹ One report recommendation was to “create a new program to deliver post-transition house supports...” (p. 65). It is with this vision and mission that BCSTH will work in collaboration with its members to create a program that develops and pilots post-transition house support services for women who are leaving transition house, safe home and/or second stage programs. The project will identify and modify existing models of service delivery from other jurisdictions, and implement a pilot model in two communities in BC. The pilot model will be evaluated for effectiveness and impact on women's lives. The project will ensure BCSTH's commitment to inclusion through an *Intersectional Feminist Framework* and to services that are women and child/youth centred. To guide this process, BCSTH will establish an Advisory Committee comprised of key stakeholders (individuals and agencies) that will assist us in modifying existing tools and resources and guide the project through to completion.

Diversity Statement

BCSTH works from an *Intersectional Feminist Framework* incorporating a critical lens to the systems of power. Without ranking, we identify power as including our experience with and ability to access systems, our social or economic status, age, occupation, education, religion, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, ability, geographic location, citizenship/nationalities, refugee/immigrant status, experience of colonization, Aboriginal, First Nations and health. BCSTH acknowledges that this list is not exhaustive.

Membership Selection Consideration and Process

BCSTH's Project Coordinator will lead the Advisory Committee under the direct supervision of the Director of Women's Services/Executive Director.

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of 14 members including:

- 4 women* with lived experience of violence and abuse as well as
- 4 of any combination of transition houses, second stage, safe home programs
- Provincial Partners: BC Non-Profit Housing Association, BC Women's Hospital, Women's Abuse Response Program, Legal Services Society
- Government Consultants: BC Housing, Ministry of Health Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Ministry of Social Development (Income Assistance).

* An honorarium will be provided for service recipients who participate in this project.

¹ Review of Women's Transition Housing and Supports Program, Consolidated Report: Key Findings and Recommendations, 2010. (http://www.bchousing.org/resources/Programs/WTH/Transition_Housing_Key-Findings-And-Recommendations.pdf) viewed on October 6, 2011.

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BCSTH aims to create an Advisory Committee that represents both urban and rural communities that have access to varying levels of programming support. Representatives from the Violence Against Women sectors will include front line workers, managers, and executive directors. Only BCSTH's full members will be considered as representatives from the Violence Against Women's Sector. Finally, the Working Group will be comprised of women from various points of oppression, as outlined in our *Diversity Statement* above. As well, to avoid potential conflict, an advisory member will not be affiliated with a pilot site.

BCSTH is sending a call for *Expressions of Interest* to women with lived experience and all full members for participation on the advisory. This call will be sent to all BCSTH Regions through all BCSTH communication channels. Responses to this call must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. December 16, 2011.

Advisory Committee members accept that, although they provide input to the project, BCSTH represents the data collected from the project.

Objectives

To ensure an effective, efficient, and transparent process into the creation and piloting of post-transition house services.

To encourage service that is women-centered and also incorporates an *Intersectional Feminist Framework*.

To determine the effectiveness of a model of post-transition house services in meeting the needs of women who are fleeing violence. This will be done by:

- developing a service delivery model for post transition house supports that are comprised of continuous comprehensive supports for women/children fleeing violence;
- piloting and externally evaluating the model to gain insight into effective/efficient service delivery;
- including women with recent lived experience in the process of the development of the model.

BCSTH Commitment

To work in collaboration with all Advisory Group members.

To facilitate an effective, efficient, and transparent process into the development of post-transition house practices, ensuring cultural competency as an integral part of the process.

To share information resulting from the findings of the post-transition house project with all internal and external stakeholders.

To create a set of recommendations on implementation of practices and practice tools that will serve the most important stakeholders of all, which are the women, youth and children seeking to live violence free.

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Advisory Committee Member Commitment

To collaborate with BCSTH and other Advisory Group members to develop post-transition house services for women experiencing violence and/or abuse as they exit transition house services.

To provide support with the implementation of the post-transition house practices once piloting begins with facilitating connections between your membership/agency and the communities we pilot in.

To participate, where possible, within the 18-month term (until March 31st, 2013) of this project, including:

- Monthly and/or semi-monthly conference calls at the onset of the project (calls will last approximately up to 1.5 hours); or one-to-one phone calls with the project coordinator.
- Time to read all content, correspondence, and reports and provide critical feedback.
- There will be no in person meetings for this project, so travel will not be required.

Communications

Communication will be via email, phone, and conference call.