

BRELLA COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Brella
Community Services Society

***"Together we can create a
caring community"***



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Diversity and Inclusion Statement	1
Land Acknowledgement	1
Board Members	2
Executive Team	3
Chair's Report	4-5
Executive Director's Report	6-8
Community Services	9-12
Words from Mary	13
Community Engagement	14
Human Resources	15
Caregiver and Family Services Community	16-18
Day Program for Older Adults	19-21
A Tribute to our Founders	22-24
Looking Back	25
Recognition	26-27

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

Brella values diversity and inclusion and is committed to creating an environment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. This includes individuals of all ages, colours, ethnicities, nationalities, faiths, beliefs, cultures, abilities, socio-economic and education levels, sexual orientations and gender identities. We strive to create an environment that actively embraces diversity and inclusion by recognizing the value in the uniqueness of all individuals. We expect that all who provide or receive services, or those who volunteer for us will extend the same respect to all.

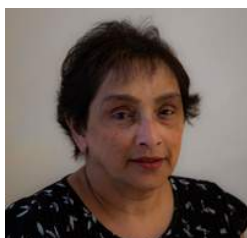
Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that we work, learn and connect on the shared, unceded traditional territory of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples.



BOARD MEMBERS

Board chair: Doug Hart
Vice Chair: Heather Martin
Treasurer: Gordon R. Barefoot
Secretary: Cherry Harriman
Director: Eryn Jackson
Director: Adam Medeiros
Director: Jasper Macabulos
Director: Sarabjeet Dua
Director: Gordon Hogg



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Director:

Louise Tremblay

Director, Day Program:

Arlene Lewchuk- Hartley

Director, People and Community:

Mehtab Rai

Director, Community Services:

Amy McKinnon

**Director, Dementia, Family
and Caregiver Services:**

Ric Dilworth

Accounting Administrator:

Annemarie Davis

Day Program Manager, Newton:

Angela Nial

Day Program Manager, South Surrey:

Raj Sahota

Day Program Manager, Guildford:

Kim White



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



As Board Chair of Brella Community Services Society, it is my pleasure to present the Chair report for our 45th Annual General Meeting.

Although Covid-19 has played havoc with many not-for-profit organizations, I am pleased to say that we have been successful in maintaining our operating position

and recognized that new opportunities were available to develop additional programs and services to continue to better service older adults, their families and caregivers. However, this would not have been possible without the help and guidance of our Board of Directors, and the leadership, staff and support of our volunteers.

With prudent fiscal and operations management and good relationships with our sponsors and donors, our financial position at the end of the past fiscal year remains strong, resulting in a sustainable organization positioned to meet the increased demands for our services.

We are now entering this fiscal year under our new name, Brella Community Services Society. This rebranding project came as a part of the strategic plan and recognition that our community has changed and the need for a stronger identity people will know and remember.



Currently, we are in the process of finding a new site to replace our existing Newton location. We are optimistic that we may have found a new location that will allow us to become operational later this year and in turn provide an increased Day program and facilities for local community support programs.

At the beginning of this year, we were pleased to welcome Gordie Hogg and Gordon Barefoot as two new Directors to the Board. Gordie Hogg brings to the Board his past experience as MP for South Surrey/White Rock, MLA for Surrey/White Rock and Mayor of White Rock. Gordon Barefoot was a partner at Ernst & Young and brings executive and financial corporate expertise to the Board. He was appointed Treasurer of the Board in May of this year.

I would like to recognize our current Board of Directors - Heather Martin, Cherry Harriman, Adam Medeiros, Eryn Jackson, Jasper Macabulos, Sarabjeet Dua, Gordie Hogg and Gordon Barefoot for their governance and commitment to the Society's mandate in servicing the community.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank everyone involved for your dedication and commitment in providing service and care for older adults, their families and caregivers in our community. I would also like to thank our many sponsors and donors for their generous contributions that have enabled us to enhance our programs to have a positive impact on our community.

Respectfully submitted

Doug Hart
Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

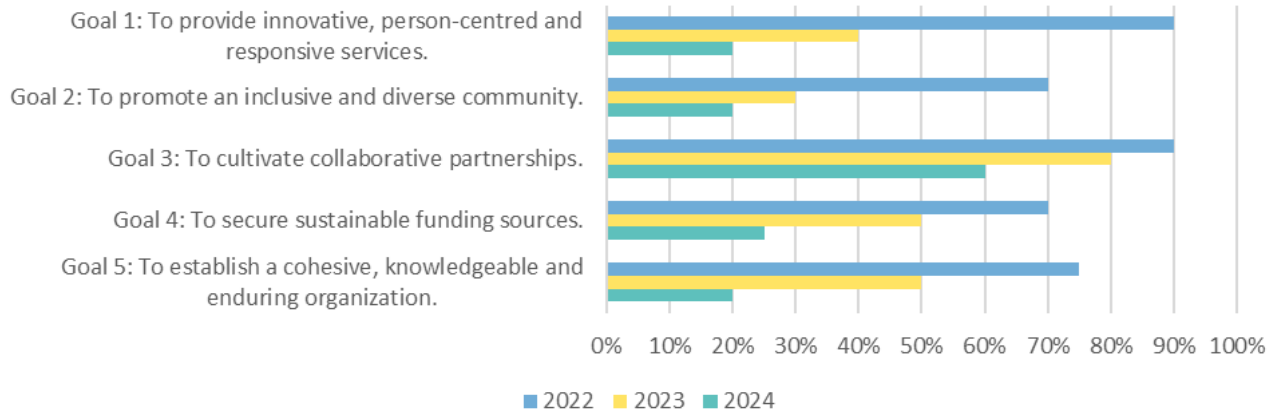


The last fiscal year was freckled with ebbs and flows of ambiguity and resurgence. Nevertheless, we succeeded in making considerable progress toward achieving our annual objectives, not only for the first year of the strategic plan, but also for the second and third years. These achievements are described in the paragraphs below and in the reports that follow this one.

Our team members and volunteers demonstrated courage, determination, and creativity in performing their work during these uncertain times. From laminated wallet-size vaccine passports delivered to participants as far as Manitoba, to Tech 101 courses promoting digital literacy, and the delivery of innovative virtual and in-person programs, our staff and volunteers served the community with care and compassion. I credit the leadership of our Directors, Amy McKinnon, Arlene Lewchuk-Hartley, Mehtab Rai, and Ric Dilworth, and Day Program Managers, Angela Nial, Kim White and Raj Sahota for fostering a productive, collaborative, and harmonious workplace where people felt empowered to make a difference in the lives of the people they encounter. Further, I really appreciate the dedication of Annemarie Davis and Debra Uliana, our finance staff, who amazingly managed a substantial workload to ensure that we met our financial and legal commitments. I feel truly honoured and privileged to be associated with such a wonderful team.

Arlene Lewchuk-Hartley, Director of Day Program, surprised us in March by announcing her early retirement. Her last day will be July 8, 2022. We will sorely miss Arlene's caring resolve, passion for therapeutic recreation, methodical approach to operations, and sense of humour. In her ten-year tenure with the organization, she created a solid foundation for the Day Program and helped thousands of people in their lives' journey. To be sure, Arlene was never lacking in courage. With 40 direct reports, working under two separate collective agreements, at three different sites, serving up to 440 participants from Monday through Saturday, the work was abundant. While I do not plan on immediately replacing the director position, Arlene's portfolio will be transitioned to the Day Program Managers, Raj Sahota, Kim White, and Angela Nial, who were appointed to the newly created positions to oversee operations at each site.

Progress of Long-Term Goals



While we have been providing community-based services to older adults, people with dementia, and caregivers for the last 45 years, we recognized that the community has changed since our genesis. It has changed in the way of diversity and in the way our participants, some of whom not identifying as seniors, are wanting to receive support. Aging adults may need a little help, but they also want to be perceived as capable, vibrant, and valuable members of the community. More and more, they wish to distance themselves from labels that suggest otherwise. In their service providers, they seek a person-centred environment where they can access the services they choose, delivered in the way they like and when they want them.



Therefore, with careful consideration, we decided to change our name to Brella Community Services Society. Inspired from the word *umbrella*, our new name better reflects our vision for safe, caring, and inclusive communities where aging adults can live engaged and meaningful lives within their own aspirations and abilities.

In anticipation of the lease agreement at the Newton site expiring at the end of 2022, we contemplated various options to ensure the continuity of services in that neighbourhood. Given the sturdiness of our organization, we determined that purchasing property would be a great strategy to sustain our financial strength and provide operational flexibility. After conducting an extensive search that spanned over a year in an overzealous real estate market, we realized that the dream of ownership would need to be deferred until a more auspicious time. Fortunately, we were able to locate a suitable property for lease which, after a few improvements, will allow team members and participants to seamlessly transition to a pleasant and comfortable setting. The new facility will have the space to house our Day Program and other community-based services.

As this year was not exceptional enough, we were honoured by Spark Movie, a production company, when they approached us to use our South Surrey facility as a set to shoot their short film entitled *Spark*. The film features Harold, an eccentric older scientist, who lives in assisted care and is presumed to have dementia. The movie highlights the fact that people with dementia, while routinely underestimated in their abilities, are capable to act in their own agency, develop strong bonds, and achieve amazing feats. Given that the script aims at creating awareness and removing social barriers for people living with dementia, which closely aligns with our own perspective and values, we will help promote the movie when it is released later in 2022. Stay tuned for the announcements.

What else did we do? We introduced a few initiatives to promote inclusion and diversity, including encouraging the use of language that is sensitive to gender identity, aging adults, and people with disabilities. Our team members participated in more than thirty working groups or communities of practice to stay relevant and share experiences for the betterment of the community. We partnered with organizations that advocate for more affordable housing options for vulnerable people. Our project development team met monthly to brainstorm new opportunities and seek the resources necessary for their implementation. We expanded our services to caregivers whose dedicated supports seemed to have been overlooked in government policy and by the health care system. We coordinated opportunities for internship for students of Therapeutic Recreation, Personal Care and Social Work, which resulted in providing prospective candidates to fill our own vacant positions.

In closing, I would like to convey words of appreciation. The quality and impact of our work would not have been so meaningful if it were not for all the dedication and commitment of the many people who form the building blocks of our organization. The reason we exist is to serve the aging adults and caregivers of our community. I appreciate the trust they afforded us in supporting them through complexity and making a difference in their lives. Our staff and volunteers created the positive conditions to enable them to lead full, engaged, and meaningful lives. I am thankful for their caring contributions to our community and for solidifying our organization. I am grateful for our Board of Directors who interacted respectfully and harmoniously. They provided the governance to guide us toward a definite future. The success of our services depended on the generosity of our funders and our collaborative partnerships. Thank you for supporting us.

Together, we can create a caring community.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Tremblay
Executive Director

COMMUNITY SERVICES



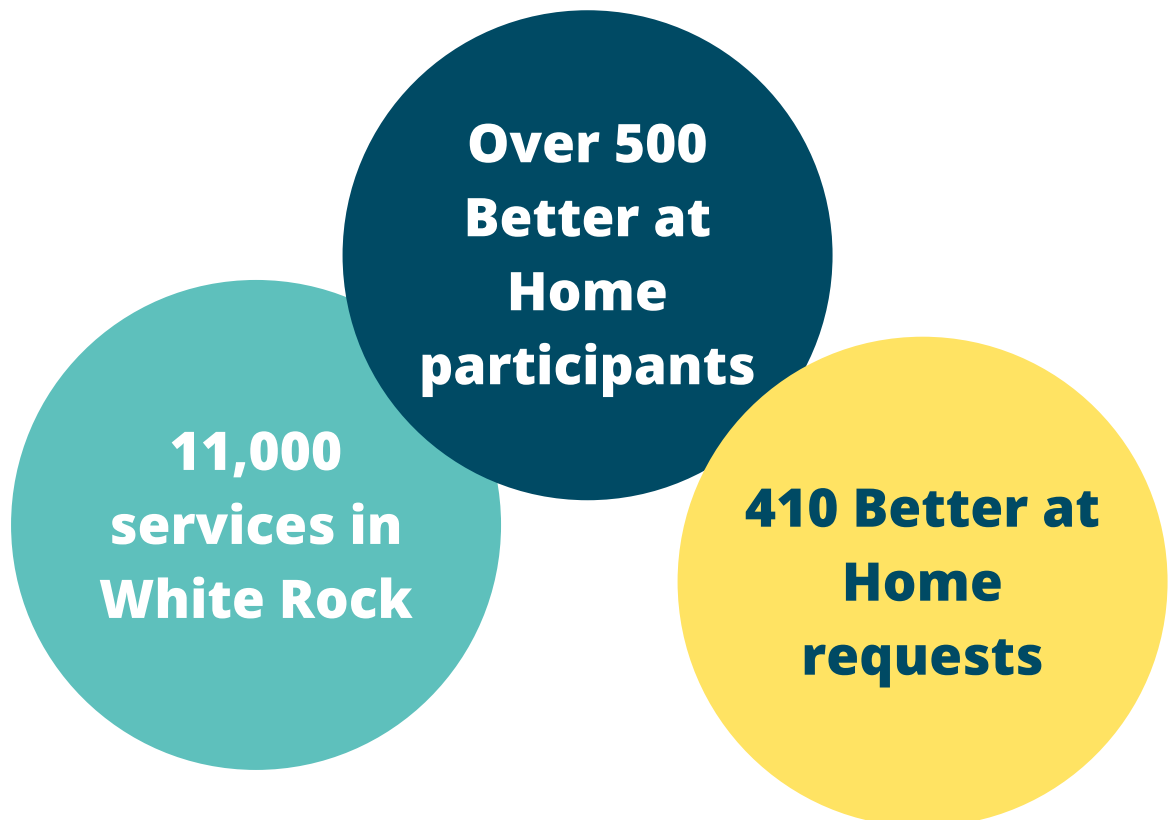
Community services has continued to provide responsive and person centered programs and services during the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic and the varying restrictions faced during this time.

We have connected with our community in numerous ways with the continued expansion of our virtual services and digital programs we have fostered the growth of community partnerships and connection. Participants have met virtually to enjoy classes and events such as painting class, trivia, bingo, zoo travels, space center classes, Royal BC museum virtual tours, cooking classes, lunch and learn, theatre classes, internet safety webinars, abuse and neglect information webinars, exercise classes and many more! We held 183 virtual classes, programs and events with 2,136 participants joining online. Our tech buddies program continues to grow with the addition of in person classes now available in community services. While the phased reopening of in person services has brought forth a mixture of excitement and concern overall the feedback from our community has been positive. Our volunteer led frozen meal delivery program served 1,726 meals until the end of November.

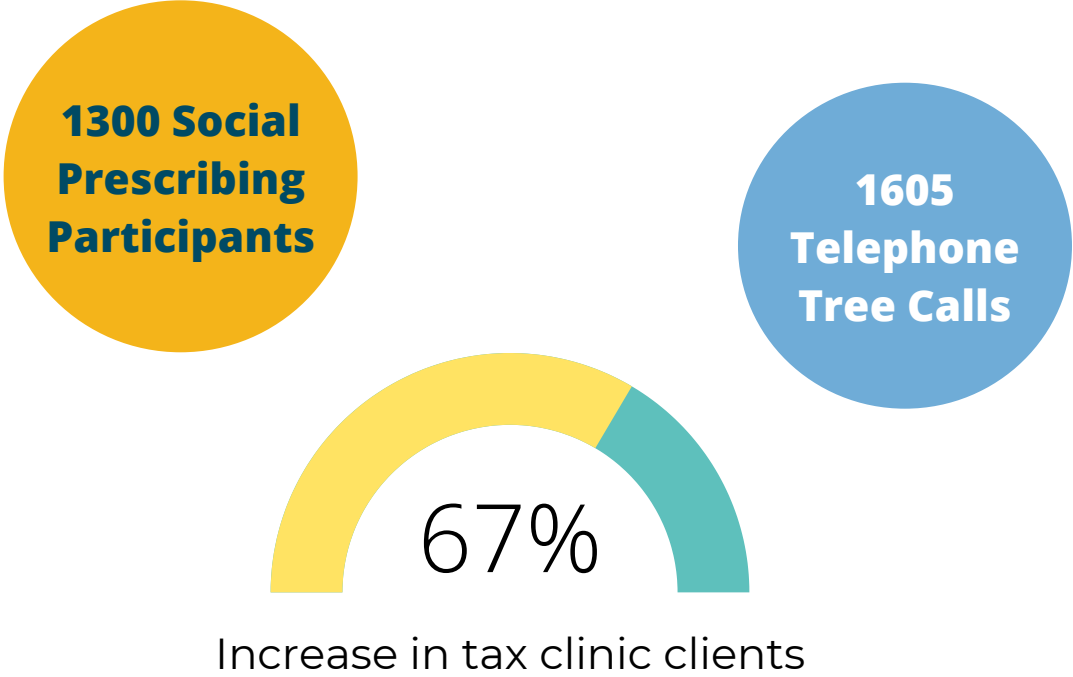
One of our longest standing Fraser Health funded community meal programs has reopened to in person dining alongside Kent street activity center which hosted 30 excited participants its first day of in person dining in over 2 years.

This year we secured 2-year funding with the United Way for the Better at Home program, our continued support from United Way is a testament to our hard work and dedication to the community, this is our 8th year receiving funding from United Way for Better at Home. Services include housekeeping, yard maintenance and minor home repairs as well as grocery shopping and transportation services to medical appointments. The expansion of the BC 211 program included our agency as an identified “super hub” to receive client referrals directly from BC 211 which further expanded our Better at Home central intake and our connections with our community partners PICS, DiverseCity, SUCCESS, Delta Assist and Langley seniors resource society to complete intakes on behalf of clients and forward them to the appropriate agency based on geographical location. Better at Home intake completed 410 client referrals. Our agency’s Better at Home in South Surrey/White Rock served over 500 clients and provided over 11,000 services this year.

Volunteer programs continued to grow with a substantial increase in telephone tree participants and volunteers. Isolation and loneliness have been identified on the rise and our volunteers rose to the challenge and connected with 1,605 clients via telephone with the aim to combat isolation and improve clients wellbeing and community connection.



In person friendly visiting resumed this year and over 32 new matches were made with clients and volunteers meeting weekly in client's home to connect and socialize.



The income tax clinic served over 140 clients and was done online and over the phone with volunteers and submitted electronically to the CRA, as in person services were not available. Volunteer Programs are designed to support social wellness for individuals and communities through volunteerism. We assist individuals to find volunteer opportunities that match their personal needs and goals. In the process, we aim to promote the spirit of helping and raise awareness about the benefits of volunteerism in our community. Volunteers are invaluable to the success of our organization.

Our continued collaboration with the White rock/South Surrey division of family practice to offer Social Prescribing with funding from United Way has seen growth in the referrals coming from community care physicians, social workers and a new partnership with Fraser health and Home health. Upon discharge from hospital a referral form is sent to our Senior's community connector who then reaches out to the client and assists with setting up access to community based programs and services based on client's individual needs. Social Prescribing connected with more than 1,300 clients.

Seniors Center without walls has seen an increase in client participation with 5,228 participants accessing the telephone based programming this year, Seniors Center without walls program offers participants brief 30-minute interactive telephone conference sessions where you can laugh and socialize, learn new skills, and create new connections many community collaborations and exciting new telephone programs have been held with community members joining as far away as Ontario. Telephone based programming included programs such as- you be the judge, poetry, storytelling, information sessions, theatre and much more!

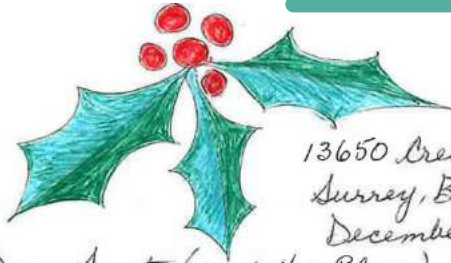
5,228 SCWW Participants!

Overall, the community services team has provided innovative, person centered and responsive services while promoting a diverse and inclusive community. We have cultivated collaborative partnerships and secured sustainable funding sources and are well on our way to establishing a cohesive, knowledgeable and enduring organization that is recognized as a leader in the sector.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy McKinnon
Director, Community Services





13650 Crescent Road
Surrey, B.C.
December 27, 2021



Dear Santa (and the Elves),

One of your busy elves delivered a handy canvas bag holding many lovely presents from you, Santa. I've never been on the receiving end of such a delightful Christmas experience and this was my first Christmas Day spent alone.

Santa, you somehow know just what presents bring me pleasure.

I still remember with great delight the CCM bike, adult size, you left by the Christmas tree when I was nine years old. I rode around my neighbourhood, usually 'hands free', with that same bike for many years.

This year I planned to visit my children and grandchildren, as well as my brother John, who was visiting from Ontario, on Boxing Day. However, more snow arrived, too deep to attempt to drive over without snow tires, a long driveway and a very steep hill. The party I had planned had to go on without me on the North Shore as I became completely 'snowed-in'.

The happy memory of receiving your thoughtful gifts, and opening them on Christmas Day, became an extra special blessing.

A DEEP THANK YOU SANTA and
the ELVES!



Mary Harris

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Activities relating to community engagement are essential to our strategic plan and long-term goals. Community engagement is a part of each team member's portfolio as it engages all members of the community, older adults, caregivers, team members, volunteers, funders, partners and elected officials. Our efforts have an impact on the community as a whole.

This year, much of our community engagement efforts were conducted through a hybrid model, in person and virtually. To stay engaged within the community we attended networking events organized by the Surrey Board of Trade, White Rock Baptist Church, Surrey Cares Community Foundation and Peace Arch Hospice Society. We brought awareness to healthy aging by participating in committees with United Way, Semiahmoo Seniors Planning Table and City of Surrey. We collaborated with community partners such as Retirement Concepts, Amica, A Rocha, Splashes, BCCRN, UNITI, Division of Family Practice, to name a few.

We received grants from Peace Arch Hospital Foundation to continue our efforts within our Dementia, Family and Caregiver Services for three years, New Horizons, Government of Canada and Petro Canada Grant.

We have begun onboarding in a donor management system which will aid in managing our community outreach, mailing lists and charitable impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Mehtab Rai
Director, People and Community



HUMAN RESOURCES

Competent, dedicated and passionate team members and volunteers drive our mission and strategic plan. Their strong effort creates a difference within the lives of older adults and our community members. Navigating the ever-changing waves of the COVID-19 pandemic has not been easy. However, our team members and volunteers have shown their resilience and passion through their hybrid work models and adaptation skills.

We have strived to create a unified and strong organizational culture by fostering good relationships through transparent communication and a person-centered approach. We started a monthly employee Pulse newsletter to engage our team members in relevant events, information and success stories. We held Coffee Chats, both in person and virtually to update team members on organizational change and to address any questions or concerns. Furthermore, we conducted an employee experience survey to gauge how employees are feeling at work. Focus areas were employee supportive experience, dynamic experience, meaningful experience and transparent experience.

We put a strong emphasis on hiring qualified and passionate team members as we navigated the change in services. We streamlined the orientation and onboarding process to ensure we are creating a consistent, engaging and informative experience for all our new hires. There have been challenges in recruitment and labour attraction due to the global challenge in this area. We have continued to recruit for our open roles and tried to maintain a pipeline of candidates.

We combined our Human Resources and Community Engagement role under one as the Director, People and Community. The nature of both roles involves engagement, people, culture, organizational exposure, awareness and well-being. Combining this role has helped strengthen our impact within our organization and community.

Respectfully submitted,

Mehtab Rai
Director, People and Community

DEMENTIA, CAREGIVER & FAMILY SERVICES



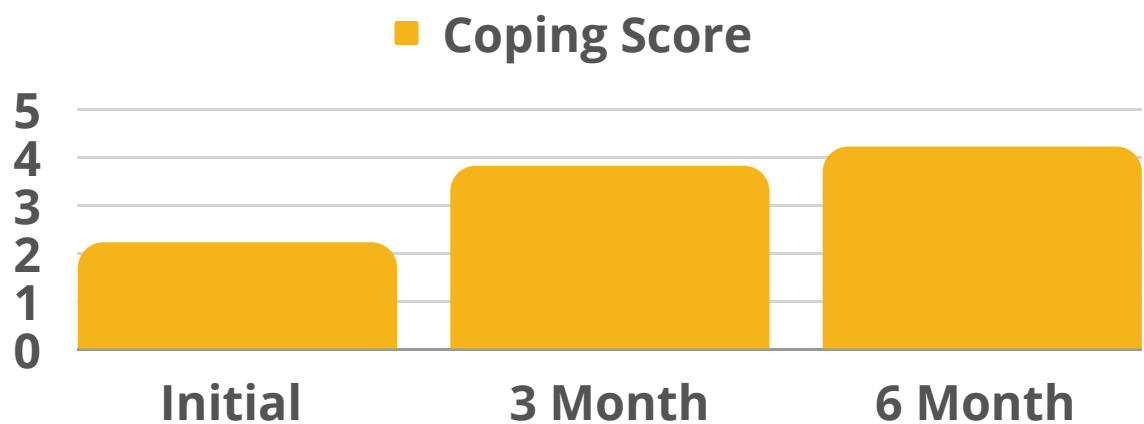
The year 2020-21 was a period of considerable expansion for Caregiver and Family Services, due in large part to an infusion of funding from successful grant proposals. Funds were presented to Brella, primarily through a Healthy Communities Grant generously provided by Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, as well as some additional funding through Surrey Cares and Tech Emergency Response Grant, all totaling approximately \$140,000.

The key support service that these funds allowed to be implemented was comprehensive case management for caregivers, including invaluable blocks of in home respite. Respite services continued from February 2021 to August 2021, with a few services taking place thereafter as funding allowed. We were able to deliver 372 respite sessions to clients in our funder mandated region, which was the South Surrey/White Rock area. This only began to touch the needs of caregivers in the area, as shown through the overwhelming response we received when the services became available. We limited our waitlist for respite services to 25 people in order to be realistic about how many additional clients we would be able to serve due to limited resources.

In surveying the caregivers being case managed, with majority of those respondents receiving respite, we were able to discern just how invaluable this service has truly been. The one question in the survey that received the most compelling answers was “On a scale of 1 to 10, how difficult will it be for you to no longer receive this block of respite on a weekly basis?” In their responses not a single caregiver placed

themselves below a 10, meaning it would be extremely difficult for them to continue on without this respite service. The other statistic that emerged from Caring for the Caregiver that has garnered significant attention was the “ability to cope” score of those measured during initial intake and then at 3 and 6 month points. The ability to cope scores nearly doubled from the time of initial intake, to the score that was produced after receiving respite for 3-6 months.

Amidst the challenges caused by the pandemic we have worked to adapt our services in order to keep isolated caregivers as connected as possible. This was achieved by offering our traditional one-on-one and in-person services to those remotely. Face to face supports like counselling, family meetings, discharge planning, group therapy, etc. switched to dual delivery models. The addition of virtual communication allowed for an effective response to the ever growing need for caregiver and families support, essential to our ability to continue serving clients during COVID19.



0 to 3 months we saw an increase of 72.7% (2.2 to 3.8)

3 to 6 months we saw an additional increase of 10.2% (3.8 to 4.2)

Overall services delivery increased year of over year, with 400+ families receiving direct services from April 2021 to March 2022. One method of pivoting to meet demand was our new virtual Caregiver Support Group. Starting in September the support group ran on a bi-weekly basis, with a total of 15 facilitations, all 1.5 hours in length. The group saw a total of 83 registrations, with a core group of caregivers

strongly gravitating towards the group and making the space their own. These numbers continue to rise as the support group continues on and more members continue to join. This support group was somewhat unique to traditional support groups, taking on a 'book club' approach, with the current focus being on Jann Arden's novel "Feeding My Mother." By centering the weekly sessions on the themes that come up in Arden's novel that week, participants are able to reflect on how they relate to what Arden is going through. This chance to reflect, discuss, and share has been incredibly beneficial in processing what the caregivers themselves are going through and implementing different coping strategies.

In the coming year, Dementia, Caregiver and Family Services (DFCS), as our service area has recently become titled, will focus on some challenging, yet very exciting projects that focus on supports specifically aimed at those living with dementia and those caring for them. Giving Voice to Caregivers (a committee formed in part to focus on creating awareness and helping address stigma associated with dementia) and Caring Companions (friendly visitor program specifically for those living with dementia) are just a few of the programs we will be spending energy focusing on over coming months.

As always we continue to maintain key relations with community partnerships as well as developing an ever increased network, while keenly focused on moving Brella's strategic goals towards fruition. DFCS is looking forward to working with our fellow Brella teammates and our board of directors in reaching even greater numbers of those in need of our services province-wide.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Dilworth
Director, Dementia, Caregiver and Family Services

DAY PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Day Program therapeutic services continued to be creative, innovative, energetic and supportive to our participants and caregivers as we continued to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. The delivery of virtual programs have been vital to maintaining participant's health and well-being with 1,320 remote programs offered with a participation of 4,878. LPN's conducted 1,217 clinical follow ups, 2,834 check in calls to clients and caregivers were completed by the recreation facilitators and care aides, 529 meals delivered and a total of 10,642 monthly newsletters sent by mail and email.

Discussion of reopening the day programs began to build momentum with Fraser Health identifying the Guildford location as being a candidate for a reopen plan. Writing the required health and safety plans and procedures for approval occurred in July that included fourteen documents and several templates. Once the Guildford location documents received approval, we proceeded with site preparations, conducted in-services to ensure the team had the required information and training on protocols, and purchased the required materials. On August 4th, the Guildford Day Program began its gradual reopen with a mix of emotions from participants and their caregivers. Many were eager to return and new referrals were ready to start. Other participants were hesitant expressing fears of being in a group setting.



With Guildford up and running, the health and safety documents were completed, submitted and approved for the South Surrey location. More preparations, in-services and purchasing occurred for the gradual reopen date of September 1st. Newton location was last to open due to being part of a residential care setting. This situation required a set of documentation that identified no crossover with those living or working in the residential side of the facility. Newton Day Program's gradual reopen date was October 8th.

Fraser Health implemented monthly regional meetings with day program providers to discuss the gradual reopening's and to receive safety protocol updates. As we worked towards rebuilding capacity, the virtual sessions continued as did the newsletter distribution and one on one phone calls.

With the increase of referrals for adults with early onset dementia, Parkinson's and other health related diagnosis, inclusion, participation, choice and independence are key factors for the planning and implementing of therapeutic programs and services.

A range of programs to engage, empower and enhance the quality of life for the individual is used. Therapeutic programs are designed and based on individual assessments, strengths and leisure interests. The specially designed exercise program, physical activities, brain health stimulation, music and creative and sensory stimulation programs embrace the holistic person-centred approach.

Additional therapeutic services assist participants with dietary needs, health monitoring and personal care support. The Day Program offers a well-balanced and nutritional lunch, promotes hydration and provides snacks. Health monitoring, education in-services and sharing of community resources assist participants in maintaining good health and well-being to remain living at home and within their community.

The Day Program team engages with caregivers and includes them as partners to meet the needs of the participant. We feel it is essential to provide emotional support, information and resources to assist with strengthening the caregiver journey. From the start of the intake process, relationships are developed with the participant and caregiver as they learn of the therapeutic programs, services and supports provided all within a safe and friendly environment.

The range of benefits to a community based Day Program has been evident in the outcomes observed by participants. The social interaction, cognitive engagement and physical activities promote purpose, friendship, independence, confidence, improve mood and over all well-being. We follow the evidenced based research to develop, enhance and incorporate therapeutic programs and services.

Hosting practicum students within the multi disciplinary team of Recreation Therapists, Recreation Facilitators, Health Care Aides, LPN's and Cooks allows us to demonstrate best practices through modeling and teaching future professionals in the health care field. Students learn and gain experiences and the networking with the educational institution allows to be in the forefront of new methodologies and research.

Team members at each location, Guildford, Newton and South Surrey demonstrate passion and dedication to the participants and their caregivers. Each bring a diverse background and skill set that attests to the success stories, smiles and enhanced well-being to each participant that attends.

It has been an honour and privilege to work with an innovative and compassionate organization.

Respectfully submitted by,

Arlene Lewchuk-Hartley
Director, Day Program



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS

In this annual report, we announced that Seniors Come Share Society has changed its name to Brella Community Services Society (Brella). When considering such a major change, it is always a good practice to reflect on our journey and to honour our pioneers. With that in mind, Gordie Hogg and I met with the last surviving founder of our organization, Ellen Kennett. Now 93 years old, Ellen is the remarkably intelligent woman who, along with her co-founders, had a vision 45 years ago to help vulnerable people in their community.

In 1977, Ellen Sinclair (now Kennett), Ida Miller, Joyce Kennett, Joyce Palmer, Muriel Brodie, and Reverend Howard Filsinger recognized that dedicated services were needed to support their older neighbours who struggled with feelings of loneliness and isolation. The founding members, four of whom would become our first board of directors, learned about the Day Program for Older Adults that was offered in a couple of neighbourhoods in Vancouver, and they determined that a similar program would have a huge impact on their neighbours.



Ellen and her husband Howard when she was named Citizen of the year.

Knowing that the federal government provided funding under the New Horizons for Seniors initiative, they obtained the application package and met at the White Rock Health Centre to write the first grant application. To their delight, they received word from the government that their submission was successful. The White Rock Come Share Society was born, and the first Day Program for Older Adults opened in White Rock.

The initial grant from New Horizons only extended for one year, but that was sufficient time to demonstrate the value of the Day Program. The Board went into high gear writing grant applications and making presentations to potential funders. Their efforts were rewarded by receiving long-term contracts from, initially, the Ministry of Health and, eventually, the Fraser Health Authority, whose financial support continues to this day.



Ellen with Rita Whyte who served on the Board for a time.

Over the decades, the Day Program evolved from being provided two days a week to six days and expanded to include three locations: South Surrey, Newton, and Guildford. The White Rock Come Share Society was renamed Seniors Come Share Society to reflect its expansion outside the geographical boundary of White Rock and to underscore the integration of new services under the Community Support Program, and now Brella to demonstrate inclusiveness and embrace the changing demographics in our community. At present, Brella offers services under three banners: Day Program for Older Adults; Community Services; and Dementia, Caregiver and Family Services.

Listening to Ellen and Gordie reminisce about the history of our great organization, I realized that, while it had developed over the years, the foundational ideology was still relevant. Ellen and her colleagues articulated objectives back then that remain in our lexicon today. These include: to connect isolated adults, to develop social skills, to provide recreational activities, to delay institutionalized living, and to contribute to emotional and physical well-being.



Ellen's contributions did not end there. During our visit, we talked about the rationale behind the name change from Come Share to Brella. She admitted that she and some of her friends felt very connected to the name Seniors Come Share, but, in the end, she understood our reasons and pledged her support to promote Brella to her friends. Further, Gordie and I indicated that we had made a few attempts at finding an appropriate tagline, but to no avail. After thinking about it for one minute, she came up with "Brella, a caring community." So, it is!

Thank you, Ellen and colleagues, for your collective wisdom and vision. Your courageous actions have made a real difference in the lives of tens of thousands of people. Your legacy will continue to prosper. That is our promise to you.

Louise Tremblay
Executive Director

Looking back...



RECOGNITION

As a non-profit organization, we could not deliver our services without the support of generous funders, sponsors, partners and individual donors. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to those who contributed to our success. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of older adults, their families and their caregivers.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Over 300 individual donors

PROGRAM, PROJECT FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Fraser Health
United Way
Peach Arch Hospital Foundation
Government of Canada
Government of BC
Surrey Cares
BC Association Community Response Networks
Teck

A Rocha
Alexandra Neighbourhood House
Alzheimer's Society
Amica Seniors Living
Better Business Bureau of the Lower Mainland
Board Voice
Bouygues Energies and Services
Centre for Spiritual Living
City of Surrey
City of White Rock
Cloverdale Community Kitchen
Comfort Keepers
Crescent Quilters Group
Douglas College

CORPORATE DONORS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS (CONT'D)

Eryn Jackson General Solicitor
Fraser Valley Footcare
Ikea
Labourer's Advancement Fund
Langara College
NexGen Hearing
Osteoporosis Canada
Ouest Business Solutions
Pacific Carlton Seniors Community
Peace Arch Stamp Club
PICS
Royal Canadian Legion 6
Royal Canadian Legion 8
Semiahmoo Seniors Planning Table
Shoppers Drug Mart
Sikka Foundation
Sources
Sheila's Catering
Sunnyside Manor Seniors Community
Surrey Historical Society
Surrey Public Library
Tonari Gumi
Urban Impact Recycling
University of Victoria
West Coast Duty Free
White Rock Division of Family Practice
White Rock Pride Society



NOTES:



Brella

Community Services Society

South Surrey
15008 26 Ave.
Surrey, BC
V4P 3H5

Newton
13855 68 Ave.
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