

All Together Series

Session 9: *Wind Phones: Transcending Time and Space, Keeping Relationships in Place* Wednesday, July 17th, 2024 1pm-2pm

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Facilitator: Stephanie Stuerle, Program Coordinator, BC Centre for Palliative Care Presenters: Heather Fraser, Operations Manager, Oceanside Hospice Society (Qualicum Beach) Brittany Borean, Bereavement Services Coordinator - Youth and Young Adults Program, Crossroads Hospice Society (Coquitlam)</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>Phone of the Wind (風の電話) - Compassion, Shared Sorrow & Hope (youtube.com)</p> <p><u>Brittany's Experience at Crossroads Hospice Society on Setting up a Wind phone and how it's been received in the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wind phone at Crossroads Hospice society was established in August 2021 right in the middle of the pandemic and this idea initially started from a volunteer at the hospice who saw an article about the wind phone in Olympia Washington. • The hospice wanted to do something as a way to give back and create a space for people grieving in the community due to the impacts of Covid on grieving individuals in the community. • The wind phone was set up after getting the go ahead from the City Park superintendent which features a QR code that is attached to the poster that links directly to the hospice's website on the history of the phone of the wind and also providing a guide on how to use a wind phone. • It was launched through social media and received attention from a couple of local newspapers/ TV station and has been well received in the community. <p>Q&A</p> <p>Comment: currently working in harm reduction and in supporting the community for those using substances and are often unhoused or unsafely housed. Thinking of the possibility on how to create a space for grief and loss within such community due to the lack of access to grief support and to counseling services and that by creating a wind phone in the community, this will serve as a way to allow people space in place to have their grief held.</p> <p>Q: Is there a map or locations of wind phones in BC? A: Not aware of anyone specific to BC but there is a website called My Wind phone that someone has created serving as a global repository (linked under resources at the end of the last page).</p> <p>Q: Working towards setting up a a wind phone in the community and the issue of having a QR Code keeps coming up. How did Brittany's organisation go about with the QR code system and would also like to know if they have engagement with the website like a guest book or just information alone?</p>

A: QR code is created through Canva subscription. All it takes is to scan the camera around the QR code which links directly to the website provided they have data and the website provides information on the history of wind phones and how it can be used. No virtual or physical guest book at this time.

Heather's Experience at Crossroads Hospice Society on Creating the Wind phone and how it's been received in the community

- It's only been in existence for about a year now and still at the beginning stages. Located In Qualicum beach, the attention of the wind phone was brought up by one of the volunteers who sent an article on it. After a lot of discussion, it was built on the property of the resource centre. Another volunteer came up with the design plan. The counsellors ensure they talk about it which got people more curious after being featured in the local newspaper. It is a private place where people can say what is in their hearts.

Q&A

Q: It was mentioned that the counselors referred clients there. Has there been some form of concerns received from people maybe feeling left alone in their space of grief without that support, like a counsellor not being with them?

A: Hospice information is made available by the phone also some people come into the front door as they are open 5 days a week. No complaints or concern has been received in that regard for now.

Q: Currently in the process of creating a windphone and thinking of where to put it with some concerns around privacy and also safety. What do people think about creating one in a cemetery?

A: A participant shared their own story as they are in the process of creating a wind phone in Revelstoke. A roadblock encountered was that one of the City's requirements was to consult with the nearby neighbours and the neighbours were not interested in having the wind phone being set up. In as much as public lands might be great but due diligence should be done in reaching out to the municipality to follow the due processes.

Q: How to figure out privacy in such a way that when someone is using it, another person won't stumble into their space?

A: Having a sign at the beginning of a path to ensure privacy.

Q: Have those who have established a wind phone in their community considered creating a written resource that would be helpful for other places to establish one locally?

A: Not yet but sounds like a great idea and "My wind phone" has ideas if people are looking for ideas, that's a really good place to start.



Additional Resources and connect

- [Home | My Wind Phone](#) can sign up and see locations around the world. Can submit information on your community's Wind Phone, gallery of pictures, signage ideas, grief supports & resources
- Presenter's contact: Brittany Borean- brittany@crossroadshospice.org Heather Fraser- heather@oceansidehospice.com Angela- Angela.Choudhury@crossroadshospice.org (Angela can be contacted as of September).
- Session recording: [YouTube link](#)

Next session: Monday, Aug 12th *Psychosocial and Nutritional Support for Hospitalized Vulnerable Seniors Transitioning Home*

Register: <https://echo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc-uorT0vGtHWSDXgkyziOjHkljk9zbM4>

All Together Symposium, Oct 4th, 2024 in Vancouver. Details here: [All Together 2024 Event page](#).
Registration Open!