

Introduction - Foundry Sunshine Coast

DPAC Meeting

May 28th, 2026

Tamara and DPAC members,

Youth and Caregiver Engagement

My name is Lisa Weitendorf and I am a Youth, Family and Caregiver Engagement Facilitator with Foundry Sunshine Coast. My role is to support youth (12-24) and caregiver participation in the design and development of our local Foundry centre. In April, I had the opportunity to meet with Tamara, learn about the work you have been doing in 2025-2026, share updates about Foundry centre planning, and future services. My hope is to visit one of your meetings in the coming school year.

Foundry – a Local and Provincial Initiative

Foundry is a province-wide network of health and wellness centres that support youth aged 12–24 and caregivers. Their vision is to transform access to services for youth in BC by bringing together a wide range of health and wellness services under one roof through meaningful partnerships. Foundry services are delivered through an integrated, team-based model, supported by a central team (Foundry Central Office), to ensure coordinated care and easier service navigation for youth and their families. Locally, our Foundry centre is led by Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, and supported by official partnerships with the Shishalh Nation, Vancouver Coastal Health, Division of Family Practice, Pender Harbour Health Centre, Sunshine Coast Association for Community Living, Community Living British Columbia, School District 46, Ministry of Children and Family Development and Child and Youth Mental Health. Through these partnerships, Foundry will offer services of the following areas:



Virtual Supports

While we are working towards opening our centre, youth and families can connect with Foundry BC's virtual services through the Foundry BC app, available now on the Apple App Store and Google Play. These supports are FREE, and available to youth (12-24) and their caregivers living in BC.

[Foundry Virtual BC | Access Free & Confidential Support](#)

A Centre for Youth and by Youth

Foundry Sunshine Coast will be a hub for young people ages 12–24 and their families/caregivers; a place where they can access free, same-day, drop-in health and wellness services. Our goal is to involve youth and caregivers at all stages of centre development. By involving youth and caregivers we can create a space that is welcoming, accessible, youth-friendly and responsive to the needs of youth and families. Currently, I am hosting two monthly advisory groups – one for youth and one for caregivers. This year, our youth and caregiver advisors have contributed in the following areas:

- Collaborating with architects to design the centre layout, and landscaping around the centre
- Advising on interior design, artwork and furniture
- Supporting the creation of a safer, welcoming, community space for their peers
- Creating proposals that influence operations and services at Foundry
- Advising on accessibility and safety
- Participating in youth-driven events that raise awareness of Foundry in our community.

These advisory groups have been integral to planning for our centre. At this time, we estimate that our Foundry centre will open in fall 2027.

If you have any questions about centre planning, youth and caregiver engagement, or virtual supports do not hesitate to reach out. For more project updates you can follow us @foundry_sc on Instagram and Facebook. I look forward to connecting with DPAC in the coming school year.

Lisa Weitendorf (she/they)

Youth, Family and Caregiver Engagement Facilitator

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