Background
The Riverview Village Intentional Community Society (RVICS) envisages an innovative, ground-breaking community for the Riverview Lands.

For the seriously mentally ill who are unable to reach their potential, or often even cope, in the urban landscape at large, the Riverview Village Project brings the creativity and power of community to bear in a new model for the Riverview Lands. The proposal envisages a community of mentally ill and non-mentally ill living together on the Lands. Its goal: to engage those seriously ill, especially those with schizophrenia - give them a true sense of belonging - and help them work through residual symptoms such as lethargy, the physical impact of their illness, and anxiety. It will be a community for the mentally ill, but not exclusively of the mentally ill, taking advantage of the rare opportunity for such a community that the Riverview Lands present.

Members of the Riverview Village Project Group are Herschel Hardin, Sean Flynn, Ric Matthews, Keith Johnston, Eileen Callanan, Penny Gurstein and Michael Clague.

Some key pieces that will be needed in an integrated vision:

- Community engagement with the Tertiary Care facilities so as to integrate and ensure a seamless interface with the local community
- Proactive animation of community building, community inclusion and mutuality
- Committed supportive relationships and “family pods” based on mutuality not on transactional accountability

For this to be successful requires:

- Input into design and structure (the old maxim of "form follows function" implies that that there is a critical need to first clarify, expound and align approaches and bases for what we want to do and how we want to do it before we set about creating the physical structure, design and layout.
- Ensuring an ongoing "engine room" for building community, nurturing mutuality, deepening inclusion and enriching immediate support

The unique and critical contribution being made by RVICS is to complement the existing depth of experience related to building health care facilities and related support systems, with the skills, expertise and input that foster within a wider inclusive community belonging and support for those with mental illness. In planning the developments at Riverview there is an implicit cognizance re what it takes to build a health care campus but we need to ensure an explicit awareness and input re building a welcoming and healing village within which to situate the health care facilities.

Need for an Intern
The Society could benefit significantly from the services of an Intern. The work of an Intern would substantially improve our ability to be best positioned to

- advocate for the vision of the village as an intentional community,
- identify, leverage and integrate resources presently available
- design structures, practices and processes to best establish, nurture and sustain the village as an intentional community
Position and Work Description
The following outlines the job description for the Intern opportunity at the Riverview Village Intentional Community Society:

- **Position Title**
  *Research and Design Intern* (accountable for producing a proposed Delivery Model for building an intentional community at Riverview for the benefit of those with mental illness)
  This position will work under the supervision of the Vice president and in tandem with the *Coordinator, Implementation Strategy Development* (a part-time volunteer position, accountable for identifying stakeholders, potential contributors, local resources, and local best practices for nurturing community inclusion, addressing social isolation, and building inclusive communities)

- **Location:**
  Lower Mainland, BC, Canada (Can work from home or location of personal choice, with regular weekly meetings via virtual technology and/or face to face in Vancouver, North Vancouver or Surrey). Research will include meetings and visits with non-profit and government organizations in Lower Mainland and possibly Victoria

- **Duration**
  The Intern will ideally be available either full-time or part-time for the time required to do the work (envisaged as a total of 6 to 8 weeks, or 240 to 320 hours). However, we would be very willing to adjust the work and duration to accommodate the needs and availability of the intern.

- **Salary or Salary Range**
  The position is unpaid, but we are actively exploring options for securing grants that might fund such work (and welcome participation in that by the intern and/or UBC).

- **Description of the main duties**
  Work with Subject Matter Experts (with deep expertise in working with, supporting and living with those with mental illness) to propose how best we might build at Riverview an intentional inclusive community for the benefit of those living with mental illness.
  Specifically, produce a detailed Report and Recommendation that will:

  1. Identify existing resources and support for people with mental illness that could be included and integrated within the village: Contributions, learnings, modus of operations, resources of community mental health teams and ACT Teams, Institutional Care, siloed Govt Services, related nonprofits - and interfaces between them
  2. Identify Best practices, resources and leading case studies related to breaking social isolation, building community and fostering community inclusion for those who otherwise find themselves on the margins of society (Possibilities, CLBC Employment, CLS and Semi integration initiatives, other intentional communities)
  3. Identify Funding options (within Provincial and Federal Govt departments, cities, Foundations, etc) and document long term land lease arrangements/examples and parallel long-term development financing (primarily in non-profit housing and similar projects).
4. Propose structures, strategies, processes, etc for how to build and sustain the Village at Riverview as an intentional community for the benefit of those with mental illness such that:
   - Individuals within Tertiary Care facilities have meaningful connection with the surrounding community
   - Individuals with mental illness who are living in the community are optimally supported
   - Individuals with mental illness develop rich relationships of mutuality within the community
   - Individuals without mental illness consciously celebrate the enrichment of their own lives produced by their relationships with those with mental illness
   - Individuals with mental illness experience formal and informal support that exceeds what they would otherwise have received from traditional contracted/funded services

5. Identify Options for integrated management, funding and delivery of community-based support as in #4 above

- **Responsibilities**
  Produce the Report and Recommendations as outlined in the Description of Duties above.

- **Requirements**
  Strong analytical skills
  Good understanding of, and/or significant interest in, mechanisms for supporting people with mental illness
  Good understanding of, and/or significant interest in, building intentional communities
  Solid understanding of, and/or significant interest in, community and regional planning
  Good report-writing skills

- **Application deadline and process**
  Applications are invited (and will be considered) immediately but the deadline for application is September 30, 2017. Interested parties are required to indicate in writing:
  a) their understanding of the need and the work required
  b) their suitability and fit with what is needed
  c) their availability and preferences re time they can commit to the work
  d) their aspirations, objectives and reasons for applying
  e) the expectations, needs, requirements that they have of the Society
  Please Note: The position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate has been identified, even if that occurs prior to the deadline.

- **Contact information**
  Interested parties are asked to contact and/or write to Ric Matthews at jricmatthews@gmail.com (or call Ric at 604-240-4879).