

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday, March 25th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday March 25th, 2024 at the Beaverton Town Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Brett Bloxam
George Hewitt
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Mary Beddows
Taylor Malcolm

Guests: Leanne Everson, DRPS (Durham Regional Police Service)
Staff Sgt Todd Wilson, DRPS
Jocelyn Siciliano, Region of Durham

Staff

Present: Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
Erin Valant, Director of Housing Services
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker
Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mary Beddows, That the Agenda be adopted. Seconded by Brett Bloxam.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 16TH MINUTES

Moved by Mary Beddows, That the Minutes of October 16th be adopted. Seconded by Brett Bloxam.

CARRIED

3. DISCUSSION:

A. Introduction of Erin Valant, Director of Housing Services

- Erin is the successor to Alan Robins. Erin gave an overview of her experience with Housing Services, Homelessness Supports and the (IEHSD) Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports Division.

B. Introduction of Guests

- Leanne Everson is the Inspector in charge of the North Division for DRPS. Leanne is new to the position and wants to learn more about the project along with Staff Sergeant Todd Wilson.

- Jocelyn Siciliano is an Area Manager for the Income, Employment and Homelessness Supports Division. Jocelyn provided an overview of homelessness supports in Durham Region. Jocelyn also oversees the Human Trafficking, Direct Delivery and Outreach teams in the Homelessness Support portfolio. Outreach has 12 workers throughout Durham Region that provide engagement and intensive case management for residents experiencing homelessness. The outreach team comes to north Durham on Wednesdays to connect with clients and agencies.

C. Project Update

- It is anticipated that Blue Door will have access to the building in the Spring of 2024 with a planned phased in occupancy starting Summer 2024.
- As per the Minutes of Settlement with Brock, a portion of residents will be selected from outside Durham's By-Name List. The Region's Housing Services Division is partnering with the Family Services Division to support clients being served through Adult Protective Services (APS) who would qualify for supportive transitional housing. Priority will be maintained for residents of the North or with connections to North Durham and require the supports provided on site. APS is working on securing funding to support an on-site APS worker and will coordinate with Blue Door to support these residents.

Question: In addition to Blue Door staff will there be additional security on site?

- On site 24/7 security will be provided by through the Region of Durham. Level 3 security will be on-site that provides specific training in restraining individuals in extreme situations that require immediate restraint until law enforcement arrives.

Question: Who determines what supports are needed/available?

- Blue Door has 24/7 staff with a foundation of supports and if a certain skillset is required, they will make that determination. Blue Door has also been connecting with other service and support providers across Durham to build those relationships.

Question: What is the ratio of staff to occupants?

- Generally, a 10:1 ratio (Case Manager). There will also be additional staff onsite that is not included in this ratio (ex. Security, etc.)

Question: How will the community have access to the supports at the site?

- This will be addressed once the building is open and may require re-engagement with the community to determine what supports are needed.

Question: Is Blue Door connecting with local agencies and supports?

- Blue Door is already engaging with local agencies and will continue to do so as operations begin.

Question: Will pets be allowed?

- Blue Door will consider this as part of the intake process.

Question: What is the process for employment supports?

- Ontario Works has a referral pathway into Employment Ontario through Employment Services Transformation.
- In addition, Blue Door has many partnerships with corporations/donors and has several programs and ideas for training and employment.

D. Intake Process

- Erin spoke about the intake process and ensuring prioritization of residents from North Durham. Former residents of Brock Township that left due to lack of supports can now return. Potential residents will have a low to moderate acuity score. We will collaborate with agencies to triage, and Blue Door will meet with the client and case manager. Intake is a multi-step process designed to set people up for success.
- Erin explained how Coordinated Access and the By-Name List work and that there will be multiple phases included with the intake process to ensure that residents moving into this location are set up for success.

E. Other Information

- Alan provided a recap of the project for Leanne.
- The GAP Committee is a group of people with lived experience, committed to improving services and supports for residents experiencing homelessness. The GAP Committee has recently been screening the documentary film “Us & Them” with filmmaker Krista Loughton. “Filmed over a decade, US & THEM is a powerful documentary composed of striking portraits of four extraordinary individuals as they struggle with homelessness and addictions. The story follows filmmaker Krista Loughton’s ten-year journey exploring the worlds of Karen Montgrand, Eddie Golko, Dawnelda Gauthier, and Stan Hunter, who she attempts to help. In the end, they help her.” (See attached poster).
- The Committee discussed how to share this documentary throughout North Durham and how to support dispelling assumptions about homelessness.
- The Committee discussed moving May’s meeting to the Community Building if open and available.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday May 13th at 5:00 PM.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

Moved by Mary Beddows, That the Meeting be Adjourned. All in favour.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Erin Valant, Chair

The Gap Committee | Prevent and End Homelessness in Durham Region
Together We Can

THE GAP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A SCREENING OF THE FILM

US & THEM

SCREENING FOLLOWED BY A QUESTION AND ANSWER OPPORTUNITY WITH THE DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER KRISTA LOUGHTON.

Us & Them follows Krista Loughton's journey of befriending four chronically homeless individuals over ten years, where they end up helping her as much as she helps them.

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT:
[www.gapcommittee.ca/
events](http://www.gapcommittee.ca/events)



21ST MARCH

1:00-3:00PM

OSHAWA ARTS RESOURCE CENTRE
45 QUEEN ST., OSHAWA

the Gap Committee is supported by

