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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness (DACH)

Tuesday January 10, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness was held on Tuesday January 10, 2023 via Microsoft Teams at 1:00 PM

1. Attendance

Present: Councillor, Maurice Brenner
Christine Robinson - Community Living Durham North
Clarence Keesman, The Refuge
Billie Dobereiner, Reaching Home
Elizabeth Smart - YWCA Durham
Garry Pond, Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
Heather Hofmann - Brain Injury Association of Durham Region
Hermia Corbette, Community Development Council of Durham (CDCD)
Doreen Hume McKenna, DMHS Lakeridge Health
Ian Griffiths, VHA Home Healthcare
Jessica Robinson, Community Living Durham North
John Henry, Regional Chair
Juanita Kemp, Royal Canada Legion Ontario Command
Kazzrie Cormick, Community Development Council of Durham (CDCD)
Laurie Hudson, Salvation Army
Lisa Bell, CAEH, Built for Zero Canada
Marla Walters, CFOC
Maureen Bandola, John Howard Society
Mona Emond, North House
Nathan Gardner, Backdoor Mission
Pam Sweeny, Royal Canadian Legion
Robert Brglez, Cornerstone
Sandra McCormack, The Denise House
Shannon Jackson, Durham Youth Services
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner, Social Services
Sue Pereira, Developmental Services Ontario
Tracey Hardinge, CMHA
Tracy McGarry, Participation House
Winnie Sun, Ontario Tech University
***All members of the committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present: Alyxandra Riddell
Baily Genge
Erin Valant
Jocelyn Siciliano

John Kimmerly
Lisa McIntosh
Mtanness Shaloufe
Sean Dooley
Stephanie Ross
Tina Soles
Tracey Tyner Cavanagh

2. Operation Leave the Streets Behind Presentation, Juanita Kemp, Pam Sweeny and Gary Pond – Royal Canadian Legion

- Juanita Kemp presented on Operation Leave the Streets Behind. This initiative began over 10 years ago and is now Nation-wide. Attachment #1.
- Advocation for better pensions and support for veterans. Funds provide assistance to veterans who are experiencing homelessness and to veterans still in active service.
- Various provided services supported through the Royal Canadian Legion such as apartment kits, cell phones, furniture, medical support, prescriptions.
- Comfort backpacks are provided both for summer and winter months for those who may not be ready to be housed.
- Application process – www.on.legion.ca “find out more” will take you to the application process.
- Tax receipts can be issued for any charitable donations through the Joe Sweeney Fund.
- The Andy Carswell House is a 40 unit building for homeless veterans in Ottawa.
- Pan Am Building (GTA) and Residenza Ortona (London) has 10 furnished apartments.
- On November 9, 2020, announcement of partnership between Ontario Provincial Police and Toronto Police Services with Ontario Command. Goal to have police cards to identify person is a veteran.
- Younger veterans do not identify as a veteran, now asking if they ever wore a military uniform. Certain identifiers can start a conversation and build trust.
- Still serving members can get support through the Commissionaire.

3. Discussion on Built for Zero Veteran Cohort & Veteran Process for the By-Name List

- Durham Region is one of 24 communities that has committed to ending veteran homelessness. The By-Name list used to coordinate services and make decisions around system design or improvement projects. What we are hoping to do is increase confidence in veterans experiencing homelessness.

- For veterans experiencing homelessness the best outcomes are by partnering with agencies that support veterans.
Alyx shared presentation – Attachment #2.

4. Developmental Services Ontario Central East Region Presentation, Sue Pereira

- DSO – Housing navigation presented by Sue Pereira – Attachment #3.
- Transformation took place in July 2011, 9 DSO offices opened across Ontario.
- Core ministry funded programs, Development Services Supportive Living, Community Participation Supports, Caregiver Respite, Passport Funding, Specialized Resources.
- Resources may look different in each Region.
- In Durham 740 people expressed interest in group and only 12 resources were declared. The resources are not equipped to support the requested housing.
- Webinars that support housing planning is held monthly – Creating your Individualized Housing Plan.

5. Participation House – Tracey McGarry

- There are currently two locations in Oshawa with a room to rent in a supportive roommate living setting through Participation House. One room is also available in Bowmanville. Contact Tracey for more information about the program.

6. Evaluation of the Community Hub Model During Covid-19 Presentation – Ontario Tech

- Unable to join – table to next meeting.

7. Annual BNL & System Data Update – Region of Durham

- BFZ Monthly Scorecard for December will be ready in the next week. Shared November chronic homeless, from October – November 2021 there was an increase and saw the same increase again in 2022. Full overview will come out next month.
- Aim statement was to get back to baseline. February number was 152 created aim statement in August. We are not on track to reach the aim statement by February 28, 2023. Will send out full overview once data is complete.

8. Discussion on Agency Funding 2023 – Region of Durham

- Supplemental SSRF funding has ended. This means that the additional 2.7 million dollars has not continued into 2023. DACH is going to need to have some tough discussions for where we allocate limited funding for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.
- Data throughout 2022 has stayed fairly stable, which means our current model can only sustain where we are at now. It is very unlikely that we

will reach that aim statement, how do we target decreases and work towards our baseline.

- Need to look at supports and programs that help prevent people from coming onto the By-Name List and housing programs that help people exit the By-Name List.

9. Service Sector Updates – Agency Co-Chairs

- Homelessness Prevention Sector Maureen – John Howard Society. There are 15 people in the group from 10 different organizations currently working on 3 PDSA's. Early prevention, interagency collaboration, and education (educating landlords, tenants etc.)
- Shelter Sector – sub committee met to discuss concerns for people who are discharged from hospitals but not supported in shelters. Will be meeting with the palliative team to discuss this collaboratively.
- Hubs and Daytime services sector – will be partnering with the Street Outreach Sector in early 2023 to run a joint improvement project to improve available daytime programs for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Housing Outflow Sector – Clarence Keesman. Group has met a few times in person and working on a mini project PDSA adding a rent subsidy for people who need to find housing. Proposal to be drafted in the new year.
- Health Sector Table – Doreen. There is a lack of resources in shelters. Home and community care need to work closer together to provide support to shelters. Proposal put forth for pilot funding into mental health and addictions into shelters and currently seeking funding. In the health care sector one consideration is for consent to share information. High risk transitions such as a transition from one service to another increases the risk of overdosing. PCOP team is part of a working group and have started going to Central East Correctional Center to try and get a point person to assist with a release plan. The working group is looking at expanding the circle as who would get the advanced notice of release so proactive planning can happen when an individual is released. Communication and system navigation was identified as a need, the team is addressing communication. A pilot for organization in the subgroup will define the services they are delivering and map out a service process. The group is working alongside the homelessness team in Durham. Waitlist group, Alyx is working to look at statistics and better understand the waiting list.
- Street Outreach Sector - will be partnering with the Hubs and Daytime Services Sector in early 2023 to run a joint improvement project to improve available daytime programs for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

10. Discussion – Implementing security at funded locations & collaboration with DRPS

- Two stakeholder groups would like to add members from the Indigenous community or from the local business community. If you have any connections, please share with team. Would like to have additional members in place for our next fiscal year.

11. Discussion – improving service coordination; identifying lead agencies for case conferencing; changing housing match process

- Regular case conferencing for people on the By-Name List is occurring. Reoccurring feedback involves matching list from By-Name List to housing opportunities. When individual is contacted, they're not interested, or information has changed and not up to date. Instead of looking at the By-Name List and sorting, a case conferencing model will be piloted. This pilot will provide better understanding and get more effective matching. This model is currently one that Cornerstone uses internally with their housing continuum.

12. Discussion increasing security concerns.

- It was agreed as a group that security is great to have and warranted but it is important that the security guards understand the principal of the organization they are supporting and how they approach situations. In addition the service standards for this year will reflect the importance of collaborating with DRPS.

13. Bright Spots – All

- Partner Updates
- Housing Refuge Project – 2023 projected completion
- Durham Youth Services - Housing focused shift in beginning of November intaking people into the shelter. Eight clients transitioned to housing in December and 9 in the last week of November.
- Indoor dining now at Backdoor Mission, patrons have come indoors and will continue to expedite that approach.
- The Ajax Hub supported 30 additional people and are seeing great outcomes.
- A bright spot for all, despite a difficult year we maintained a stable baseline. Now we need to focus on system changes to start seeing reductions.

14. Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 25, 2023

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm