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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness (DACH)

Wednesday January 30, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness was held on Wednesday January 30, 2024, via Microsoft Teams at 1:00 PM

Attendance:

Present:

- Ashley McDonald, Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Caitlin Rae, Back Door Mission
- Candice Correa, Durham Youth Services
- Christine Robinson, Community Living Durham North
- Clarence Keesman, The Refuge
- Dianna Eastwood, John Howard Society of Durham Region
- Elizabeth Smart, YWCA Durham
- Geralda Bray, John Howard Society of Durham Region
- Hermia Corbette, Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Ian Griffiths, VHA Home HealthCare
- Jane Wang, Infrastructure Canada
- Jennifer Garton, Durham Mental Health Services, Lakeridge Health
- Jessica Barbuto, North House
- Jessica Hanson, United Way Durham Region
- Jessica Robinson, Community Living Durham North
- Johanne St. Louis, The Nourish and Develop Foundation
- John Henry, Regional Chair
- Julie Chartier, BGC Durham
- Kazzrie Cormick, Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Kim Lepine, Durham Community Health Centre
- Margaret Eskins, DARS
- Marla Walters, Christian Faith Outreach Centre
- Maurice Brenner, Councillor, City of Pickering
- Mona Emond, North House
- Nathan Gardner, Back Door Mission
- Sandra McCormack, The Denise House
- Shannon Jackson, Durham Youth Services
- Sheila Gallagher, Director, Lakeridge Health
- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner, Social Services

- Tracey Hardinge, Canadian Mental Health Association Durham (CMHA)
- Tracey McGarry, The Participation House Project Durham Region

Staff Present:

- Alyxandra Riddell
- Amanda Bongard
- Emma McGarry Ware
- Erin Valant
- Jocelyn Siciliano
- John Kimmerly
- Kalene Moriera
- Katie Hill
- Lisa McIntosh
- Mark Grant
- Meaghan Middleton
- Megan Hueser Shields
- Mtaness Shaloufe
- O'Neal McIntosh
- Sahar Foroutani
- Stephanie Ross

1. Welcome and Attendance & Land Acknowledgement

- Record name and organization in the chat

2. Homelessness Systems Update

- Outreach
 - Region of Durham Outreach Team is a team of 12 workers who have been working in the community since January 7th, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - January 7th – 28th the Outreach Team has had 656 interactions with individuals throughout the community and visits 36 encampments.
- Winter Warming
 - Five winter warming locations have opened across the region including Pickering, Whitby, and three sites in Oshawa.
 - Coordinated communication platform was created between spaces to help individuals and ensure no one is left behind.
 - Transportation has been a challenge - currently providing bus tickets, taxis and uber to move people around with the hope of having a shuttle system in place next year.
- By-Name List Changes
 - Carrying out site visits to discuss Operation Leave the Streets Behind, share information about getting Veterans confirmed status to access further benefits as well as discuss Coordinated Access and the By-Name list.

- Removing the current 14-day policy from the By-Name list to allow earlier access to BNL resources and with the goal of removing any barriers to having people added to the BNL while still be supported within the homelessness support system.
- Shelter Standards Revision
 - Working with ORG Code to modernize the existing system. A full day of constructive discussions with the service system management team, VAW, and GAP was held on December 14th.
 - First draft has been reviewed by the service providers and returned to ORG Code. Revised version expected early spring 2024.
- 2024-2025 Funding Request Update
 - Requests have been received and contact will be made over the next few weeks.

3. Housing Stability Program Update

- Opportunity to leverage available resources to maximize funding and support service integration for clients.
- No changes to eligibility requirements or program parameters at this time. Future program enhancements will be communicated through DACH for feedback.
- Program is expected to transition to the Application Centre on April 1, 2024.

4. Homeless Sector Table

- Shelter Table
 - Drafting an MOU between shelters and DRPS and designing a data collection sheet to track DRPS interactions for establishing baseline data.
- Homelessness Prevention
 - Compiling lists of case managers across the Region for training in ‘A Way Home’ principals, emphasizing integration into intake processes for goal setting and case management.
- Housing Outflow
 - Prioritizing the BNL within the youth sector to improve client and ICM matches, with co-chairs scheduling a meeting with Kazzrie and Alyx to address HIFIS needs.
- Health initiatives
 - Collaborating with hospital social workers to tap into community resources for homelessness, enhancing referrals' appropriateness and service efficiency while fostering rapport between health and homelessness sectors.
- Hubs and Daytime Services
 - Striving to broaden membership to better support diverse groups and will soon initiate a Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle.
- Street Outreach

- DRPS and Durham's Street Outreach team have finalized procedures for handling non-emergency 911 calls, directing them to a central line for mental health support instead of police intervention.

5. Refugees/Asylum Seekers Update

- Settlement program was created in July 2023 in partnership with CDCD and CFOC.
- Three hotels are currently operating with 100 clients in each hotel, and a waiting list of 60-70 people waiting to start the program. The program has helped 680 clients.
- Each site has an Ontario Works case coordinator on site to help with financial literacy along with a settlement worker from CDCD and a housing worker. Working to provide workshops for people at all sites.

6. DARS Pickering Transitional Housing

- Leased a 7-bedroom farmhouse on an agricultural lot in North Pickering which will be used for transitional housing and an entrepreneurship program. Hoping to have tiny homes on site as well.
- Seeking additional funding to document the entire process for others to learn from.

7. Homelessness Systems Mapping Day Update

- Would like to thank you to all the Service Providers who participated in "Homelessness Support Systems: A Session to Drive Change" event on October 16th.
- Collaborated during the event to develop innovative solutions benefiting individuals facing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday March 26th, 2024, 1 pm – 3 pm