

The Regional Municipality of Durham

**MINUTES**

**BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Beaverton Town Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Brett Bloxam  
George Hewitt  
John Grant  
Karen Hakonson  
Michelle Willson  
Taylor Malcolm

Regrets: Lianne Megarry

Guests: Leanne Everson, DRPS  
Alex Cheng, Blue Door  
Amanda Freer, Blue Door

Staff

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

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Brett Bloxam, That the Agenda be adopted. Seconded by Karen Hakonson.

CARRIED

**2. ADOPTION OF MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

Moved by John Grant, That the Minutes of March 25<sup>th</sup> be adopted. Seconded by George Hewitt.

CARRIED

**3. DISCUSSION:**

Erin Valant welcomed Michelle Willson, CAO of the Township of Brock to the Committee and introduced guests to the meeting. Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

**A. Project Update**

- Erin provided an update on the projected opening date noting that after the building is complete, time is required to complete inspections prior to building hand-off. Once that has occurred, Blue Door will have full access to the building.

- Anticipating initial occupancy mid/end of summer. Blue Door will have an opportunity to spend time at the building to finish staff training and building setup prior to initial occupancy.
- Rachel advised that Adult Protective Services (APS) supported 31 clients through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) last year.

Question?

- What is happening on the South side of building with concrete work?

Answer:

- Erin will follow up.

Question?

- What happens when someone moves out of the building?

Answer:

- As with other transitional housing programs, housing benefits can be made available to support ongoing affordability as people move into independent accommodations. Rachel provided an example that Adult Protective Services (APS) supported 31 clients through the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) last year in partnership with Housing Services.

## **B. Review of the Intake Process – Blue Door**

- Alex and Amanda shared the draft Referral and Intake Process. Each member received a copy.
- In addition to discussion at the meeting, members can share feedback via e-mail to Erin.
- Blue Door explained the eligibility criteria and program parameters including the Occupancy Agreement and the Service Agreement. The Service Agreement includes a Good Neighbour component.
- Blue Door will work with occupants to identify and support their goals. Every occupancy will also need to commit to participating in the program and working towards independent housing.
- Occupants will complete an assessment every three months to identify changing support needs and goals to achieve. This includes discussion on volunteer goals, community integration and recreational goals, etc.
- The Minutes of Settlement helped to inform the intake policy.

Question?

- If at the end of 4 years the occupant has no place to go, what happens?

Answer:

- The goal is to find permanent housing within the 4 years. There are portable housing benefits to assist with affordability. Many existing transitional housing

programs are one-year in length and a four-year program provides significant opportunity to ensure successful move outs.

Question?

- Do applicants have to live in Durham Region?

Answer:

- To be eligible for Durham's By-Name List, a person must be residing in Durham Region for at least 90 days. Those that may have left Durham but have a meaningful connection (such as family) may also be eligible.

Question?

- Can we predict a turnover rate of clientele?

Answer:

- Each person has unique experiences and support needs – some people may only need six months of support, while others may need more than two years. A four-year program provides enhanced opportunity to ensure successful move outs. In addition, when someone moves out, they will have a comprehensive plan in place with community partners creating a wraparound approach for long term success. Clients will also be connected to a Blue Door staff for ongoing support.

Question?

- Is Blue Door looking at implementing employment programs like Construct?

Answer:

- Blue Door is exploring and planning for long term training programs for occupants.

### **C. Community Tour Ideas**

- Tours of the facility were discussed. There will be a tour for local councillors, elected officials, service providers and this committee prior to occupancy.
- A community tour or open house was discussed, and Committee members provided feedback that a video tour along with interviews of Blue Door and members of this committee as well as a graduate of transitional housing would be more beneficial.
- Erin will touch base with our Communications team and send out an email to see if anyone is interested in participating in a video.

### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be moved to August 12 to better align with potential occupancy. Erin committed to communicating via e-mail:
  - Any delays and when the building hand-over happens
  - Details about the site tour for this group
  - Details about the site tour video

**5. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Moved by Karen Hakonson, That the Meeting be Adjourned. Seconded by Brett Bloxam.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Erin Valant, Chair

Blue Door's Forward House

The Forward Video is for a transitional housing program for older adults that is community based.



This next video details the development of Blue Door's Health programs based out of our Passage House Transitional Housing program in York, which is similar to the Beaverton program.

