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SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday October 16, 2024

Meeting Start Time and End Time: 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

In Attendance (28)

Alana Banton	Region of Durham
Amona Bissoon	Sarah McDonald Place
Arthur Smith	Manning Mews
Beverly Kueper	Region of Durham
Chelsea Barradas	Region of Durham
Dawn Richardson	Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
Danielle Coombs	Region of Durham
Elizabeth Smart	YWCA
Headley Williams	Unity Village
Jake MacDouell	Region of Durham
Jennifer Garton	DMHS
Kathy Andreopolous	Unity Village
Kristen Fernandes	Region of Durham
Laura Lavoy	Region of Durham
Lindsay Percival	Region of Durham
Lisa Pitcher	Region of Durham
Lori Barber	Region of Durham
Manomi De Silva	Region of Durham
Mary Taylor	Region of Durham
Meaghan MacDonald	Region of Durham
Nicole Fogal	Region of Durham
Rebecca Phillips	Region of Durham
Roberta Jagoe	Region of Durham
Richard Persaud	Prisma Non-Profit Residences
Sandra Smith	Sarah McDonald Place
Sanjay Sarkar	Manning Mews
Tammy Richer	Durham Christian Homes
Vanessa Vitale	Region of Durham

Guests (4)

Ian McVey	Region of Durham
Irfaan Hasham	Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
Jaclyn Fraser	Region of Durham
Morgan Denby	Region of Durham

Discussion Items

1. Welcome

2. Review of previous minutes – April 17, 2024

3. Housing Services staff update

- Andrew Wismer is no longer with Housing Services and is now back with the Finance Department. Beverly Kueper has returned as Manager of the Community Housing Administration team.
- Alana Banton has joined the Region of Durham as Manager of Housing Programs supporting the Durham Access to Social Housing, Rent Supplement and Housing Benefits programs.
- Lindsay Percival has returned from maternity leave in her new role as Policy Analyst. Vanessa Vitale has joined Housing Services from IESHD also in the role of Policy Analyst.
- Danielle Coombs was the successful candidate for the permanent Housing Program Coordinator position with the Community Housing Administration team.
- Laura Lavoy has moved into the position of Program Specialist with the Community Housing Administration team supporting COCHI funding. Robin Coombs has also moved into the position of Program Specialist and remains with Housing Programs supporting Rent Supplement and Housing Benefits.
- Mary Taylor has joined Housing Services from IESHD in the role of Housing Program Coordinator with Durham Region Local Housing Corporation.
- Effective October 15, 2024, Durham 311 will now be taking over answering the phones for all Social Services divisions including Housing Services. Durham 311 staff will be dealing with most DASH enquiries including processing applications,

updating files, and answering general questions about the waitlist and DASH vacancy site.

- As for DASH staff within Housing Services, Matthew Persaud has moved to the Housing Programs team. Sabrina Marshall will remain on the DASH team and will now be posting and filling vacancies, Brenda Caughey will also remain on DASH and continues to be the contact for tenant/member arrears.
- Additional updates included delays in COCHI funding approvals from the Province as well as a reminder of upcoming RGI training to be provided by Housing Services on November 20, 2024.

4. Regional Energy Coaches Pilot Program

- Irfaan Hasham, Regional Energy Coach with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF) presented on CHF's Regional Energy Coaches Pilot Program. The program consists of coaching affordable housing providers to plan efficient retrofits, assisting to identify and evaluate project options and assist with implementation as well as providing support for funding applications.
- Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

5. Update to SMAIR Reporting

- Vanessa Vitale provided an update on changes to SMAIR reporting. Vanessa is currently working on streamlining the reporting of the SMAIR, the provincial reporting document that is required to be completed yearly by Housing Services with the help of community housing providers. As it is a provincial requirement, the information that is needed can't be altered, however, Housing Services is working on making it more user friendly and something that is not a long and agonizing process. Housing Services will be reaching out to housing providers for feedback in November as the hope is to implement this new reporting procedure for the upcoming SMAIR that will be completed in January/February 2025.

6. Senior Safety and Community Supports

- Safety Advisor Jaclyn Fraser and Community Support Specialist Morgan Denby from the Region's Older Adult Safety Advisor Team (formerly known as Senior Safety Advisor Team) presented on the wide variety of programs and supports

provided by the team as well as partnerships with various community agencies that provide assistance to older adults across the Region.

- Brochures and referral information attached to minutes.

7. Standing Items

Landlord and Tenant Board

- No updates

New Directives

An overview of the updates the following directives was provided:

- [RGI 2024-02 Minimum Rent](#) effective July 1, 2024, minimum rent is increasing to \$141 and provisional minimum rent is increasing to \$125. Housing providers using the Housing Services RGI tool were reminded to update the administrative tab to reflect the changes.
- [INF 2024-02 Rent Increase Guidelines for 2025](#), the Rent Increase Guideline for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 is 2.5%
- [FIN 2024-01 Market Rent Indices for 2025](#) was updated to provide 2025 Market Rent Indices for housing providers under the Housing Services Act to use to estimate their RGI subsidy for 2025.
- [FIN 2024-02 Operating Cost Indices for 2025](#) was updated to provide the Operating Cost and Non-Rental Revenue Indices for 2025 for housing providers under the Housing Services Act.

8. New Business

- No new business

9. Next Meeting

- Wednesday January 22, 2025 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm