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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness (DACH)

Tuesday March 29, 2022

A regular meeting of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness was held on Tuesday March 29, 2022 via Microsoft Teams at 1:00 PM.

1. Attendance

Present: Councillor Bob Chapman
Adrian R Betts, AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Alison Heron, Ontario Health East
Ashley McDonald, CDCD
Candice Correa, Durham Youth Services
Christina Barrow, John Howard Society Durham
Christine Robinson, CLDN
Doreen Hume-McKenna, Regional Housing Coordinator
Elizabeth Smart, YWCA
Felicia, AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Heather Hofmann, Brian Injury Association Durham
Hermia Corbette, CDCD
Jessica Hanson, United Way Durham Region
Jessica Robinson, Community Living Durham North
Johanne St. Louis, The Nourish and Develop Foundation
John Henry, Regional Chair
Kayla Boyer, AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Kimberly Lepine, CAREA
Lucas Martignetti, AIDS Committee of Durham Region
Lucie Hager, VHA Home HealthCare
Margaret Eskins, DARS
Marla Walters, Christian Faith Outreach Centre
Maureen Bandola, John Howard Society
Mona Emond, North House
Nathan Gardner, Community Development Council Durham
Rev. Roy Graves, Foundation of Hope
Sandra McCormick, The Denise House
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner, Social Services
Theresa Treadwell, Salvation Army
Tracey Hardinge, CMHA Durham
Tracy McGarry, Participation House
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present:

Alyxandra Riddell

Celine Nelson
Cindy McCreight
Devon Nation-Williams
Erin Valant
Jane Noonan
Jocelyn Siciliano
Lisa McIntosh
Mtaness Shaloufe
O'Neal McIntosh
Stephanie Ross

2. Presentation: 2021 By-Name List Data, Alyx Riddell

- See attachment #1
- The question arose on how we can track deaths on the By-Name List (BNL).
- Alyx outlined that we do track clients on the BNL that have moved to inactive because they are deceased. We do not track the cause of the death as we do not have access to that information.

3. Discussion: Mental Health & Harm Reduction, Theresa Treadwell

- During the pandemic it was noticed that the contributing factor of mental health was over 50%. There is a need to bridge gaps with our partners in the medical field and addictions to be able to wrap around services for these clients.

4. Discussion: Mobile Harm Reduction Programming, Adrian R. Betts

- Adrian R. Betts provided an update on the mobile harm reduction program. This program has expanded during COVID. Four new harm reductions workers are being hired next week (2 full time, 2 part-time). They are concerned with staff retention; staff are performing CPR on the streets. It was proposed that harm reduction staff should be assisting housing workers with checks, and Adrian wanted clarification on what was required from his team.

5. Presentation: Proposed System Structure, Strategic Planning, Erin Valant

- See attachment #2
- The Homelessness portfolio is transitioning from Housing Services to the Income and Employment Services Division.
- The goal of the proposed transition to a system sector approach is to streamline our system, imbed improvement science within each sector and be more data-driven in planning.

6. Presentation: 2022 Annual Review Process, Mtaness Shaloufe

- See attachment #3
- A breakdown of the new process was provided. All homelessness programs funded in Durham will be reviewed annually. The review process will include agency interviews, key performance indicator numbers, financial review, program/policy manual review etc. Client interviews will also be conducted to provide feedback.

7. Discussion: 2022 Funding and Future Planning, Erin Valant

- See attachment #4
- 2022/2023 fiscal year homelessness funding was reviewed.
- The Homelessness Prevention Program is the new provincial funding program that replaces the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).
- The support system still allocates the lowest percentage of funding to homelessness prevention and the highest percentage of funding to shelters and street outreach (though this is now more balanced for 2022/2023). Discussions must be held at DACH throughout this year to start shifting funding allocations to be more focused on homelessness prevention and housing programs or we will never be able to reduce homelessness in our community. It is important to move away from emergency responses and to focus on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.

8. Bright Spots & Partner Updates

- Five residents have moved into the microhomes and another five are moving in next week. One resident moved in and then out to an RGI unit already.
- A “Homelessness 101 Toolkit” has been created by Celine Nelson (Co-op student). See attachment #5
- Nathan Gardner mentioned that the Missions Partnered Treatment Continuum have had 10 individuals since January.
- Tracy McGarry shared that with the Reaching Home funding they received they were able to successfully house eight people.
- Marla from CFOC Doors of Compassion provided an update that the new Ajax Hub location is delayed due to construction, the opening date will be April the 19th.
- Jocelyn Siciliano spoke of a collaboration between First Light Foundation of Hope to assist a victim of human trafficking get to a safety.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday May 31, 2022.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.