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SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Meeting Start Time and End Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams/Meeting Room 1-G

In Attendance (22)

Alyssa Skan	Region of Durham
Arthur Smith	Manning Mews Non-Profit Housing Corp
Catherine Howard	Manning Mews Non-Profit Housing Corp
Corina Stavre	Unity Village
Danielle Coombs	Region of Durham
Elizabeth Smart	YWCA Durham
Erin O'Reilly	DAFRS
Funmi Adigun	Prisma Non-Profit Housing Corporation
Jessica Ross	Region of Durham
Jessica Stasiuk	Region of Durham
Jodi Porter	Bethesda House
Julia Li	Region of Durham
Lillian Igel	Sunrise Seniors Place
Lindsay Percival	Region of Durham
Lori Barber	Region of Durham
Kathy Andreopoulos	Unity Village
Natalie Robertson	Sunrise Seniors Place
Nicole Fogal	Region of Durham
Richard Persaud	Prisma Non-Profit Housing Corporation
Roberta Jagoe	Region of Durham
Stacey Leadbetter	Otter Creek Co-operative Homes Inc
Tony Astilla	Prisma Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Regrets (1)

Sherril Belille	Region of Durham
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Guests

Ian McVey	Region of Durham, CAO's Office
Heather Thompson	Region of Durham, Social Services

Discussion Items

1. Welcome

2. Supporting Community Housing Providers with Deep Energy Retrofits

Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability with the Region of Durham CAO's office presented an overview of Deep Energy Retrofit funding and support available for community housing providers. Housing providers are urged to contact Ian McVey to find out how the Region can help with next steps on energy retrofits.

Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

3. Income Tax Resources

Heather Thompson, Policy Advisor for the Region of Durham's Social Services Division presented on the many income benefit programs that can be accessed via tax filing as well as the various community resources available to assist low-income individuals and families in the tax filing process.

Housing providers are encouraged to contact Heather's colleague Danielle Thibaudeau at Danielle.Thibaudeau@durham.ca for additional information.

Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

4. Business arising from previous minutes

- None

5. Letter to Ombudsman re: LTB issues

- Letter was reviewed and approved with minor changes
- Currently being circulated to housing providers via email for electronic signature

6. Operational Reviews

- Operational Reviews were on hold for approximately 2 years due to COVID-19 protocols. They have since resumed with some changes. Housing Services are looking to make further changes to the process. Housing Services staff are seeking suggestions from housing providers and would like to know if housing providers would be interested in having Housing Program Coordinators present the Operational Review Report to the providers' Boards of Directors after reviews are completed.

7. Think Forward! RGI Training in Durham

- RGI training is presented twice a year in April and October by Region of Durham Housing Services staff. Bi-annual training has typically taken place over one full day. Housing Services staff are open to and have explored potential changes to training including on-line training modules and are currently requesting feedback and suggestions from housing providers regarding potential changes to the RGI training format.

8. DRPS 211- Grandparent Scam supports

- Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) continues to be inundated with reports of Grandparent Scams and have launched a campaign with 211 to distribute promotional material that include information such as examples of "typical scams", "tips for protecting yourself from scammers" and how to report potential fraud. Housing providers are encouraged to make flyers available in all common areas to assist tenants/members.

Flyers attached to minutes.

9. New Business

- Community Housing Administration team to send out poll regarding format and frequency of SHAG meetings

10. Next Meeting

- Wednesday April 19, 2023 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

- Region of Durham – Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Room 1B
- Hybrid meeting – Teams link will be sent with agenda for those unable to attend in person