

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday, October 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday, October 18, 2021 via Microsoft Teams at 5:00 PM

Present: Courtney-Anne Craft

George Hewitt

Jill Proctor

Rick Benoit

David Ellins

Brett Bloxam

Karen Hakonson

***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: Arielle Fegan

Brian Harding

Mary Beddows

Staff

Present:

Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services

Alison Burgess, Manager Corporate Initiatives

Erin Valant, Program Manager, Housing Development & Homelessness

Elaine Baxter-Trahair, CAO

Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant

Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by David Ellins, Seconded by Brett Bloxam, That the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 13TH MINUTES

Moved by David Ellins, Seconded by Karen Hakonson, That the Minutes of September 13th be adopted with addition of the comment on community education to alleviate public concerns.

CARRIED

3. GUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE, Elaine Baxter-Trahair, CAO and Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

Elaine thanked everyone taking the time to participate in this process and noted that Regional Council established this committee for the purpose of sharing information, identifying operational issues, concerns, and mitigation strategies to promote the

successful integration of this project and its residents within the community. The Region was legislated to develop a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWP), this plan describes a place where everyone feels safe and has a sense of belonging. Housing with various levels of supports is one tool to help those who want to be supported have a safe place to call home.

Stella remarked that many of the issues impacting our communities have been around long before COVID-19 but the pandemic has highlighted the plight of marginalized populations and resulted in increased investment to help those that want to receive supports. This additional investment is being used to increase services and create new housing with supports to help individuals stay housed. The Region is working with key stakeholders to create a system to address current and future needs, as the Region grows so does the number of people that require supports. Our Co-ordinated Access System aligns with the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan to ensure the right services get to the right people at the right time. Although we cannot help everyone, we can provide hope for those that chose to work with us.

Discussion:

- Courtney-Anne questioned how the partnership between the municipality and police will address the shortcomings of each system and fill in the gaps for community and public safety well-being.
- The committee advising on the development of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan consists of the Region, Durham Regional Police, the Board of Education, Political representatives, Lakeridge Health, Children's Aid, Ontario Shores, CAREA and the newly launched Division for Equity and Inclusion. Priority areas identified are substance use, homelessness, basic needs, criminal involvement, victimization, social isolation, and anti-racism. There is zero tolerance for discrimination This is a top priority for the Region and will be going to Council in November. The goal of developing plans is to not only address current needs but also future needs and to be pro-active. Brett inquired whether service levels and response times from DRPS to Brock is part of this discussion as the community has raised this concern.
 - Elaine advised that police service levels are a Police Board decision. She assured that police presence in Brock is higher than realized, not all cars are marked or all officers in uniform. There have been several initiatives in Beaverton to get guns and drugs off the street. The new police Superintendent is very proactive. He met with the Regional Chair and Elaine along with the Brock Mayor and CAO and provided a comprehensive overview of how police were addressing issues. It was suggested it may be an idea to have him attend a future meeting.
- The members of Beaverton Vision and the Committee want us to know that if we can work something out that is acceptable to both the Region and the community there will be tremendous community support for the project.
- Rick requested clarification on the budget with regards to the Community Safety Initiative noting that the safety of people living in the supportive housing unit, residents of Gillespie Gardens along with local businesses is highest priority.

- Elaine clarified that these are two separate issues. The CSWP will have implications in Brock, the nature of which cannot be confirmed until the plan is finalized. Separate is the budget for this facility, the required resources will be embedded in the social services operating budget. The scope of services will include addiction and mental health plus other services based on feedback from the group and the resident's needs. An individual will not be housed in this development if we do not have the services available to support their safety and well-being.
- Alan informed that not all services will be paid or staffed through the Region, we are working with several community partners such as Lakeridge Health. We will secure MOU's with service providers once we have a clear timeline of the completion of the project.
- Rick would like clarification on services whether virtual or on-site.
 - There will be 24/7 security and staff to support the residents. There will also be access to online services, it will be a combination of both. The number of residents and their needs will inform the services required. An objective of this is to get more services into the north.
 - Currently we use Housing First Programs, which is a scattered site supportive housing model. We house people every day with supports that are not onsite. Some people just require more support to remain housed. Some may need a PSW others may need an addictions worker or a case manager. We identify what supports are required and their costs and then figure out ways within our budget to meet those needs.
 - Acuity is not directly related to the difficulty or number of problems someone may cause. High acuity is mislabeled as people being problems or behaving poorly.
- Jill would like to see some scenarios based on OrgCode's model for staffing based on the budget of \$1.2M.
- Jill commented on the broadness of homelessness in north Durham which is approximately 6%, the BNL shows 177 homeless (93 chronically) which calculates to between 6-10 people in north Durham that would need this facility. She requested that data be shared as it becomes available.
 - HIFIS includes anyone that has accessed services whereas the BNL is people that we know of that are asking for help with homelessness. Currently there are 10% in north Durham however, inflow is very high (16 new people every month) that come onto our BNL. The data in north Durham is skewed by the fact that it is very hard to find people. There are people living in boats or trailers year-round.
- Jill provided stats that indicate 57% of the Beaverton population is at the poverty level and adding 47 more units will increase that to 60% which would put a burden on Brock Township.
 - There are two approved residential development applications for Beaverton that will see an increase of about 1800 residential units that will benefit Beaverton economically. The community is growing.
- Brett questioned the analysis and research that was done to determine the location and its availability to the public?
 - All public documents are on our website.

- We are working with OrgCode and they stated that it doesn't matter how big the location is what matters is having the right services and the capacity to support the residents.
- Stella advised that as a region we would never operate a facility, home, or supportive housing building without the funding, that is a commitment we make to ourselves. We operate four long term care homes, the funding is not all provincial, we have Ministry funding, but a significant financial contribution comes from the Region.
- David would like clarification that the only conclusion for criteria for Beaverton being the site is that we own the land, and it was zoned correctly.
 - Alan verified the research and effectiveness of supportive housing and the model. This is a model that works, it will be sufficiently funded and staffed for those that are there. Elaine reminded the group of the scope of the Terms of Reference for the group.
- Courtney-Anne would like us to provide something to the community that educates including details that would assist to bring the community onboard and fill the gap. Regardless of what's on our website it is not getting across.
 - Elaine will share this feedback with our Communications Team.
- Jill commented that the community understanding is that Service Hubs were in the process of being set up and then the Hub in Cannington closed and there are no new services in Beaverton. Are there plans on the table that something is coming?
 - The Region is in the process of bringing a Hub to Beaverton and offering services in libraries. A rotating hub model will be implemented and was held in Uxbridge last week with Port Perry scheduled. Services available at the Hubs are Social Services (OW/ODSP), Family Services (counselling), John Howard Society (harm reduction), Durham College (employment services), Community Care Durham and Lakeridge Health (mental health/addictions).

4. PRESENTATION - HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT AND COORDINATED ACCESS REPORT (2021-SS-10), Erin Valant, Program Manager, Housing Development & Homelessness

Erin provided a presentation (Attachment #1) that highlighted the 2021 Point in Time Count, Durham's Coordinated Access System, By-Name List data, new strategies & Durham's Housing-Focused Commitment and homelessness funding.

The new [Durham Region Monthly Report Card](#) can be found on our website.

- Jill questioned the numbers for north Durham and whether a smaller facility would be an option.
 - A facility this size will allow us to get ahead of the game as Beaverton grows.
 - Right now, there are 16 new people being added to our By-Name List each month who are chronically homeless. If this trend continues, there will be more than 240 new people added to our BNL before this project opens on top of our current BNL number.
 - In addition, there are currently some people being housed through existing Housing First programs in North Durham that would be a better match for this

project. We will also look at all of our clients housed from our BNL to ensure that people are appropriately matched to the right programs.

- Brett wanted to know how we will ensure spaces are available for people in north Durham.
 - All housing programs attached to the BNL have their own eligibility/prioritization criteria. The first eligibility criteria for this project is to prioritize residents of North Durham. This means that each time there is a vacancy, the By-Name List will first be filtered by residents of North Durham first to identify any new clients.
- How do we initiate a perspective shift when it comes to folks in the community?
 - Community education is an important piece, there is a need for an education campaign to dispel the myths and stereotypes on homelessness.
 - Homelessness is a housing status – it is not an identity. There are people who were experiencing homelessness with high support needs housed every single month in programs across Durham and who remain successfully housed.

5. ADOPTION OF EXTENSION OF MEETING TIME

Moved by Brett Bloxam, Seconded by Jill Proctor, That the Meetings be extended to an hour and a half.

CARRIED

6. UPDATE ON STATUS OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. M. Katz and Paul McGary will speak at the Nov 8th meeting.

7. NEXT STEPS

- Invite the Operator for Ottawa’s Supportive Housing development.
- Invite the Durham Regional Police Services Superintendent.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 8th, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

9. MEETING ADJOURNED

Moved by Karen Hakonson, Seconded by Jill Proctor, That the Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Alan Robins, Chair