

The Regional Municipality of Durham

**MINUTES**

**BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Monday, November 8, 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: Brian Harding  
Courtney-Anne Craft  
George Hewitt  
Jill Proctor  
Mary Beddows  
Rick Benoit  
Brett Bloxam  
Karen Hakonson

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

Absent: David Ellins

Guests: Paul McGary, Director, Mental Health & Addictions Lakeridge Health  
Dr. Mark Katz, Psychiatrist

Staff

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

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Mary Beddows, Seconded by Jill Proctor, That the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

**2. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER18<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

Moved by Jill Proctor, Seconded by Mary Beddows, That the Minutes of October 18<sup>th</sup> be tabled to December 8, 2021 to allow for further time to review.

CARRIED

**3. GUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE, Dr. Mark Katz, Psychiatrist and Paul McGary, Director, Mental Health & Addictions Lakeridge Health**

Attachment #1 – Presentation by Dr. Mark Katz

Dr. Katz is a Psychiatrist with Southlake Regional Health Centre, he has 29 years of clinical experience.

Paul McGary is the Senior Director of Mental Health & Addictions at Lakeridge Health. Paul has over 29 years' experience in mental health. Lakeridge Health has more than 700 staff and approximately 25 psychiatrists. Recently they have integrated with

Durham Mental Health Services. Along with Pinewood Center they have service agreements with 25 organizations across Durham Region to provide a broad range of services.

After the guests addressed the committee the following questions were raised.

- How will residents stay connected to outside services?
  - There will be on-site 24/7 support with adequate support workers to meet the resident's needs.
- What are the criteria for selection of residents?
  - Residents will be chosen from the By-Name List and residency will be phased in. This will allow for evaluation and stabilization of the first group prior to bringing in the next group. The intake process will inform the best fit.
- What do mental health and substance abuse supports look like?
  - Lakeridge Health will play a role to support those in the facility and the broader community. A Service Hub will also be established.
- How will delivery of clinical mental health services happen?
  - Lakeridge Health will recruit, and place staff where required.
- What is the definition of this building? Is it transitional, supportive or a mix of both?
  - This is a permanent building where residents can live for up to 4 years under an occupancy agreement. This falls under section 5.1 of the RTA (Residential Tenancies Act) If residents don't follow the occupancy agreement they can be removed from the program and lose their housing. Permanent housing is the goal of this program. Residents who require the permanent supports provided at the site may transition into a lease agreement at the end of their occupancy agreement.
  - The occupancy agreement is tied to participation in support services.
- How do we combat the opioid crisis? Do we have a process to ensure resident's safety while in their units?
  - Although residents have their own rooms, they will be monitored to ensure their safety. Living in a 24/7 supported building provides staff and residents the opportunity to develop positive relationships and promote people looking out for each other and proactively identifying when someone is in need of assistance.
  - We will invite Rob Brglez from Cornerstone to speak about how they do checks, and balances and the precautions needed to keep residents safe.
  - There are many clients being supported through community housing and scattered private rental units that struggle with addictions. In addition, there are many individuals not attached to social services that struggle with addictions. The opioid crises is a much bigger issue than homelessness and supportive housing.
- Will portable housing benefits be offered to residents once they transition and can live independently?
  - There are various programs that offer portable housing benefits that residents can apply for to live in the area of their choice once they have stabilized.

- All residents from the temporary Camp Samac project were housed when the program ended.

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

**5. MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Alan Robins, Chair