

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday, September 13, 2021

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 via Microsoft Teams at 5:00 PM

Present: Brian Harding
Courtney-Anne Craft
George Hewitt
Jill Proctor
Rick Benoit
Mary Beddows
David Ellins
Brett Bloxam
Karen Hakonson
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: Arielle Fegan

Staff

Present: Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
Alison Burgess, Manager Corporate Initiatives
Erin Valant, Program Manager, Housing Development & Homelessness
Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by David Ellins, Seconded by Karen Hakonson, That the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF JUNE 17TH AND AUGUST 9TH, 2021 MINUTES

Moved by Courtney-Anne Craft, Seconded by George Hewitt, That the Minutes of June 17th be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by Courtney-Anne Craft, Seconded by David Ellins, That the Minutes of August 9th be adopted.

CARRIED

3. APPOINTMENT OF A CO-CHAIR

Moved by David Ellins, Seconded by Karen Hakonson, That Brett Bloxam be appointed Co-Chair of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION - SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE NORTH (Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker)

Case examples of clients receiving supports in north Durham were provided. Support included transportation to and from medical appointments through Community Care Durham.

- A 25-year-old transient male with mild intellectual deficiencies has been homeless for almost a year and is currently residing in a tent in north Durham. This client lacks basic life skills, has poor credit and no references and does not like the shelter system so refuses to go to Oshawa or Ajax.
- Another male is living in a trailer just outside of Cannington. He has been living there for quite a long period of time and although he is connected to services through the Region's Homelessness Support Programs and Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS), he requires support to learn life skills.

Rachel connects individuals with Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funded programs. Community Homelessness Prevention Workers perform intake and add clients to the Region's By-Name List (BNL). From January to present 204 clients from north Durham have been supported with housing outreach/eviction prevention. There are 13 people currently in North Houses' Housing First scattered site supported housing program.

A question was asked about the closure of the Cannington Hub. Erin Valant, Program Manager, Housing Development & Homelessness responded that the Support Hub at Alan's Place in Cannington was closed last week because services, geared to tenants requiring support which was reduced due to COVID-19, are now able to return. She also noted that the Region and community partners are in the process of opening a rotating HUB model through North Durham Social Development Council (NDSDC), this would be a touch point for all locations in north Durham.

A question arose on the congregate section for the new supportive housing facility. Alan clarified that the congregate setting includes 10 self-contained bedrooms rather than a congregate sleeping area. Washrooms are shared and the area includes a large recreation space and meeting rooms. This section of the supportive housing development is not a shelter.

A question was raised with respect to the next homelessness Point-in-Time Count (PIT). The next PIT Count is in October of this year.

5. BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OPERATING BUDGET

The operating budget is estimated to be about \$1.2 million per year. The budget will likely include Regional, Federal, and Provincial funds. The Region already owns and operates 4 supportive housing facilities (LTC) and like those facilities will ensure sufficient resources are expended to meet operational needs of the Beaverton Supportive Housing project.

Once there is a clear understanding of when this project can proceed an RFP will be issued for an Operator. Input from the Liaison Group will assist in informing the RFP which will be vetted through purchasing.

The group requested that Dr. Katz, who made a delegation to the Health and Social Services Committee be asked to attend a Liaison Committee meeting. Alan suggested that it would be more beneficial to have a representative from Lakeridge Health come and talk with the committee as they are a partner agency who will be providing services in Beaverton. Further discussion ensued and it was agreed that we would try and get both Dr. Katz and a representative from Lakeridge Health to come and speak to the committee. Alan also suggested that a representative from the Salvation Army who operates a supportive housing building in Ottawa be asked to speak. He will reach out to the operator.

6. PRESENTATION - SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INTAKE (Erin Valant, Program Manager, Housing Development & Homelessness)

Erin Valant provided an overview of Durham's Coordinated Access System and By-Name List (BNL) and how it will tie into the intake process. Every housing program in Durham's Coordinated Access System has eligibility criteria specific to that program. This program will prioritize those that are experiencing chronic homelessness and those that would benefit the most from supportive housing. The BNL will be filtered for those that match eligibility criteria (demand is always higher than space available) and a case conference will be held to review those who match the eligibility criteria on the BNL that would most benefit from this site. The case conference will include support staff who are already working with clients and Beaverton site staff to ensure the client's needs can be supported at the site. Clients selected will be provided information about the site including the physical location/layout, supports provided and resident expectations. All clients will have the opportunity to visit the site prior to making their decision to move. Each client on Durham's BNL has the choice to accept an offer or not. Not accepting an offer does not penalize the client and they maintain their place on the BNL to be offered something with another site or program.

One of the biggest benefits of Durham having a By-Name List is that we know everyone in our community who is experiencing homelessness by name, what their level of support need is and which support agency they are working with. Knowing all of this helps us to match people appropriately to housing programs. Durham's Coordinated Access System has a very high housing retention rate which demonstrates our community's ability to right-match people to housing programs.

This intake process is currently being used for the Oshawa Micro Home Pilot Project that is expected to open in November/December 2021. The Oshawa Micro Home Pilot Project does not provide 24/7 supports or meals but clients are supported through existing housing first case workers and referrals to community supports. There were more than 40 people on the BNL who matched the eligibility criteria for this 10-unit program. The case conference team then met several times to identify which clients should be prioritized for the 10 units. The project will be phased in over 2 cohorts of 5.

7. NEXT STEPS

- Provide examples of projects of a similar size to Beaverton
- Invite the Operator for Ottawa's Supportive Housing development to speak with the group

- Invite North House and Brock Community Health Centre to a future meeting
- Reach out to Dr. Katz to speak at a future meeting.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 18th, 2021 at 5:00 PM

9. MEETING ADJOURNED

Moved by David Ellins, Seconded by Brett Bloxam,

That the Meeting be Adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Alan Robins, Chair