

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday January 20th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday, January 20th, 2025 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Brett Bloxam
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Taylor Malcolm
Michelle Willson, Township of Brock

Regrets: David Ellins
George Hewitt
Mary Beddows
Leanne Everson, DRPS
Alex Cheng, Blue Door

Staff

Present: Erin Valant, Director of Housing Services
Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd

1. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 28TH MINUTES

Moved by Brett Bloxam, That the Minutes of October 28th be adopted.

Seconded by John Grant.

CARRIED

2. DISCUSSION:

Operation Updates

Erin provided an update, mentioning that all residents have moved in, and the move-in process was staggered over several weeks. They also noted that there was only one community complaint regarding a motion-sensor light, which has been resolved.

Brett asked about opportunities for improvement in the intake process. It was suggested that having multiple opportunities for people to spend time at the building and participate in services and activities before moving in could help improve the process.

Feedback from current residents indicates a desire for more daytime programming and activities. This feedback is being actively addressed to enhance the residents' experience and engagement.

There has only been one community complaint regarding a motion-sensor light that was shining into a neighboring property. The issue was quickly resolved, and no further complaints have been received. There have been some minor maintenance issues with the building, which were expected as we took over maintenance control. These issues are being addressed promptly to ensure the building remains in good condition.

Security Measures

Erin highlighted that security has been on-site 24/7, working with Blue Door to ensure the safety and security of the residents and the building. Michelle raised concerns about a few incidents at the arena, including people looking for the shelter and one person with open alcohol. Erin agreed to provide a contact number for the arena staff to reach out to in case of any issues.

John mentioned some chatter on social media about incidents at Beaverton Heights. Erin explained that they are in contact with Blue Door and that any incidents are addressed through meetings with the Property Manager and support staff. The committee was encouraged to reach out directly if they come across any concerning information on social media. This proactive approach aims to address any misinformation and ensure accurate communication within the community.

Positive Feedback from Residents

Rachel shared that eight clients from their APSW program have successfully transitioned into Beaverton Heights and are very pleased with the environment and self-contained units which provide them with a sense of independence and comfort. This has improved their mental health stability significantly.

Homelessness Crisis in North Durham: The lack of homeless shelters in North Durham and the need for better support for homeless individuals was highlighted. Information was shared on the regional mobile team and the warming program for North Durham.

Community Engagement Sessions: Erin announced the upcoming community engagement sessions for the Beaverton Heights Community Hub, with good registration numbers. The sessions will include an overview of the Good Doctors program and a facilitated discussion on desired services and supports. Feedback via email from residents about the types of services they would like to see at the hub has been received. This feedback includes a desire for AA and NA meetings.

Future of the Liaison Committee: There was a discussion on the future of the liaison committee, with participants expressing the need to redefine the group's role and focus on sharing positive information and success stories. The group agreed to continue meeting quarterly and to review the terms of reference.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Brett Bloxam, That the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by John Grant.

CARRIED

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- To be in person at Beaverton Heights, date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Erin Valant, Chair



SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH TEAMS



Durham Region Street Outreach Program

The **Regional Street Outreach Program** is an engagement team who assist people with *meeting basic needs and ensuring people are connected with Durham's by-name list (BNL) and Coordinated Access System.*

Hours of operation: Monday-Sunday - 24 hours

Phone: 905-666-6239 ext. 5510

Email: HomelessHelp@durham.ca

CLINICAL TEAMS

Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP)

MHOP consists of two Social Workers who provide outreach *mental health and addiction assessment and counselling*, and service navigation.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Friday – 8am-4pm

Phone: 289-927-1979

Email: RMD.MHOP@durham.ca

Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP)

PCOP consists of an Advanced Care Paramedic and a Social Worker who provide *medical primary care, mental health and addiction assessment and counselling*, and service navigation.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Sunday - 8am-6pm

Phone: 289-979-9428

Email: RMD.PCOP@durham.ca