

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday May 12th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Transitional Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday, May 12th, 2025 in person at Beaverton Heights.

Present: Brett Bloxam
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Taylor Malcolm
George Hewitt
Alex Cheng, Blue Door
Amanda Freer, Blue Door
Mary Beddows
David Ellins

Regrets: Michell Willson, Township of Brock
Leanne Everson, DRPS

Staff

Present: Erin Valant, Director of Housing Services
Lynn Alexander, Property Manager
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Supervisor Family Services, APSW
Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mary Beddows, THAT the Agenda be adopted. Seconded by Brett Bloxam.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF JANUARY 20TH MINUTES

Moved by Lianne McGarry, THAT the Minutes of January 20th be adopted. Seconded by John Grant.

CARRIED

3. DISCUSSION:

Operation Updates

43 residents have moved in, 3 more are in the process and one unit has some maintenance required prior to occupancy.

Residents are engaging in weekly case management meetings with their case managers and housing navigators to develop and work toward individualized goals and plans. These goals may include legal support, mental health connections,

access to community resources, life skills development, and financial literacy such as rent payment planning. Formal, full check-ins are scheduled at the 3, 6, 9, and 12-month marks to assess progress and adjust the support plan as needed. Since opening in late November, 3-month check-ins have begun. On-site programming is continuously being developed in collaboration with community partners, including monthly visits from PCOP, and a peer support worker has been hired to provide individual and group support. Additional programming, such as women's support groups, is also being explored and implemented.

In addition, Family Services counselling will be operating out of the Hub space, with furniture currently being ordered to support the setup. A family counsellor will be available on-site to provide support to residents, including residents living at Beaverton Heights as well as the broader community. Additionally, the Mental Health Outreach Program (MHOP) is in the process of expanding and will participate in programming. Efforts are underway to determine the best strategies for communicating these available services to the broader community.

The Good Doctors program saw 243 patients as of December 2024.

The Canadian Addiction Treatment Centres (CATC) has expressed interest in further collaboration with Blue Door and the Beaverton Heights Transitional Housing program. They are planning a site visit and are open to urgent referrals and collaborative planning to address immediate needs related to the opioid crisis.

The Region of Durham's Paramedic Services Program Vehicles was discussed. The program includes a retrofitted Durham Region Transit bus and has two clinic spaces. The goal of this program is to bring community health initiatives into communities. The CLC membership was interested in learning more about this initiative. The link to a recent presentation at Health and Social Services Committee can be found here at the 18:50 minute mark: [Durham Region Meeting Recording](#)

John provided an update on Brock CHC, the building is complete, and staff are moving it. The official opening will take place in June.

Summer BBQ Planning

A summer BBQ for the community is being planned. The goal is to create a welcoming neighborhood event where people can get to know each other and address any questions. Attendees can meet the staff and tour the common areas. Amanda will add this to the North Durham Social Development Council agenda. The idea of having a fall Health Fair was also discussed which would include having various service providers onsite to provide information on what they offer for the community. This could be coordinated with the paramedic services bus, PCOP, and MHOP.

Information Sharing

Community Newsletters: Aim to publish community newsletters, possibly on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Encourage members to reach out if they hear of

anything noteworthy to include. There was discussion on having standing sections in the newsletter:

- Positive Outcomes: Share positive outcomes when someone successfully completes a program or achieves a milestone. Add a "Success Section" to highlight these achievements. There was also discussion on highlighting the talents of residents, including artwork, etc.
- 'Did You Know' Section: Include a "Did You Know" section in the newsletter, featuring information such as Family Counselling services and other relevant topics based on Community Liaison Committee input. Start regular email asks to see if there is anything specific to be included.
- Factual Information: Community Liaison Committee members should be ambassadors of factual information. They will relay accurate information to the community. There was discussion that there are many residents in the broader community who may not understand what transitional housing is. This information has now been clarified and updated on Durham.ca.

Action Items

Request for CLC members to share information when they hear complaints, concerns or positive information so that we can action if needed. There was discussion on ensuring that factual information be provided to mitigate potential rumours.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) will be circulated again for review and revision and will include a new section on community newsletter and information sharing.

Other Items

Community Flyer feedback was mixed, with mostly positive reception, some residents who reached out who hadn't heard about the Beaverton Heights Transitional Housing program, and some complaints from neighbouring residents regarding seeing emergency services at the site.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Karen Hakonson that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Brett Bloxam.

CARRIED

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Beaverton Heights, July 14th 6-7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Erin Valant, Chair