

The Regional Municipality of Durham
Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness

COVID-19 Homelessness Response Network

November 24th, 2020

In Attendance:

Alan Robins	Region of Durham
Alyxandra Riddell	Region of Durham
Erin Valant	Region of Durham
Jocelyn Sicilliano	Region of Durham
John Henry	Region of Durham
Nora Landry	Region of Durham
Rileigh Bint	Region of Durham
Shari Steffler	Region of Durham
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou	Region of Durham
Stephanie Ross	Region of Durham
Adrianna Vanderneut	Durham Youth Services
Alyssa Skan	Cornerstone
Angie Papas	Kids/Seniors On Wheels
Ashley McDonald	CDCD
Barb Fanin	United Way Durham
Billie Dobereiner	ESDC Reaching Home
Doreen Hume-McKenna	Regional Housing Coordinator
Rev David Moore	Simcoe St. United Church
Heather McMillan	VHA
Jessica Hanson	United Way Durham
Laurie Hudson	Salvation Army
Lianne McDonald	Backdoor Mission
Lorraine Closs	Durham College
Lucie Hager	
Jessica Robinson	Community Living Durham North
Marla Walters	CFOC
Mary Compton	VHA Home Healthcare
Maureen Bandola	John Howard Society
Mona Emond	North House
Monika Warsinska	
Nathan Gardner	CDCD
Rev Roy Graves	First Light Foundation of Hope
Rob Brglez	Cornerstone Community Association
Shirleen Weekes	CFOC
Sueanne Balgobin	
Theresa McLeod-Treadwell	Salvation Army
Tracy McGarry	
<u>Regrets:</u>	
Councillor Bob Chapman	Chair

By-Name List Prioritization Criteria Updates

- Alyx Riddell and Monika Warsinska requested changes to the prioritization criteria to ensure there is no exclusion of those aged 16 plus when a housing opportunity becomes available.
- Moving forward, the Youth prioritization criteria will be used when the housing opportunity comes from a youth-specific housing provider/ program. Otherwise, the Adult prioritization criteria will be used.
- It was agreed to test this for the next couple of weeks.
- Access points are advised that the intake forms will be updated to include additional fields for enhanced program matching and data collection.

DHAN Update

- Doreen advised that the street outreach teams meet monthly and they are working on a Coordinated Outreach Strategy. OrgCode Consulting, Inc. has been hired to develop a comprehensive Housing Focused Street Outreach Strategy and it should be complete by early January.
- The current challenges highlighted by the working group are;
 - 1) people are not engaged in entering a conversation about housing
 - 2) wellness checks & location mapping are lacking as there is a reluctance to share location information
 - 3) transportation, CityWide Taxi is frequently used but a comprehensive transportation strategy is needed for consistency and transparency
 - 4) washrooms after hours
 - 5) increased need for public trustees for clients that identify that they are unable to manage their own funds
- New warming location, Do Unto Others, opening 7pm – 7 am includes a hot meal
- DHAN is helping to implement the Chalmers App.

Trusted Youth Project Presentation

- Lorraine Closs (Durham College) and Nora Landry (The Region of Durham) are working on a youth-led housing hub model. This system would support trusted youth collecting social assistance through a trustee. 105 trusted youth in Durham responded to an anonymous online survey.
 - Ontario Works has 2 dedicated caseworkers for trusted youth.
 - Lack of access to safe, affordable housing for youth.
 - Youth felt they benefitted in many ways by being involved in research.
 - The need for free transportation was identified.
 - Landlords don't want to rent to youth.
 - A co-design infographic was designed. (forward with minutes)
 - A consultant was hired to prepare a detailed feasibility study around this particular housing hub model.
 - Hope for the Future – Trusteed Youth Research Results – Durham College (video)
- Lorraine will share the feasibility study.
- Erin Valant to set a meeting with a possible connection to a project being developed to submit to the Rapid Housing Initiative.

COVID-19 Funding

- Erin Valant facilitated a discussion on the remaining \$500,000 funding to be allocated by March 31st, 2021.
 - A \$350,000 contingency fund was set aside for the second wave of COVID-19, if it is not needed a plan on spending these funds before March 31, 2021 should be implemented.

Three specific asks were brought forward:

1. \$15,000 for the locker installation in Ajax. This project will be managed by the Salvation Army and is located on municipal property.
2. \$7,500 for Victim Services to add an additional part-time staff person to assist the housing worker with the hotel program.
3. \$10,000 for the Chalmers App/Ample Labs for a staff person from January to the end of March to assist with 211.

All three asks were unanimously approved.

DACH members are to e-mail Erin Valant by end of day November 27, 2020 with costed-out ideas.

Kids & Seniors on Wheels

Angie Papas with Kids & Seniors On Wheels proposed the idea for a mobile street outreach/compassion bus. This would be a mobile street outreach plus warming/cooling project. They have contacted the DRT whom may donate a retrofitted bus. The bus will go to communities where there are no shelters or hubs and they hope to roll it out for next year.

On their radar also, is the lack of transportation for northern Durham. The North Durham Social Development Council has been working on transportation also and will meet with Angie.

DACH invited Angie to join the DHAN and Street Outreach Working Group to help move these projects forward and ensure they are coordinated with the homelessness support system.

After-Hours Housing Support Line

The idea for an After-hours Housing Support Line to assist people in avoiding loss of tenancy and navigation of resources was presented.

- A small working group to review the program model within a short timeline is to be established. To participate contact Erin Valant by the end of the day tomorrow.

The DHAN will also develop project ideas to fill identified gaps at its meeting on November 25, 2020.

Feedback and Key Performance Indicators for Homelessness Funding

- The results of survey to solicit feedback on the KPI's for the homelessness support system are attached.
- Based on the feedback provided, all of the KPI's will be included. DACH will have an opportunity to review the KPI's again halfway through 2021 to ensure they are functioning as intended.
- The KPI's will be used in conjunction with Built for Zero data (tracking of chronic homelessness) to continuously assess the effectiveness of the homelessness support system in Durham.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday December 29th, 2020
- Meetings will be scheduled monthly on Tuesday from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Send any agenda items and/ or Good News Stories to Alyxandra.Riddell@durham.ca by end of day Thursday to be added to the following Tuesday's agenda.