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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

A regular meeting of the DACH Committee was held on Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in meeting room 1A main level, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 2:00 PM.

#### Present:

Councillor Bob Chapman	
Adrianna Vanderneut	Durham Youth Housing & Support Services
Alanna Burke	Pinewood
Alyssa Skan	Cornerstone Community Association
Barb Fannin	United Way Durham
Christine Robinson	Community Living Durham North
Daniel Cullen	The HOPE Coalition
Dianna Eastwood	John Howard Society
Doreen Hume McKenna	Durham Mental Health Services
Gloria Duke-Aluko	Innovation & Research
Kelly O'Brien	Income and Employment Supports
Kerrie Wriker	Canadian Mental Health
Maureen Bandola	John Howard Society Durham
Mona Emond	North House
Nathan Gardner	CDCD
Rachel Gilliis	Income and Employment Supports
Rev. Dave Moore	Simcoe St. United Church/Back Door Mission
Rob Adams	Durham Mental Health Services
Rob Brglez	Cornerstone
Sam Kwan	VHA Home Healthcare

#### Regrets:

Sandra McCormack	The Denise House/Sedna Women's Shelter
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#### Staff:

Erin Valant	Region of Durham, Housing Services
Alan Robins	Region of Durham, Housing Services
Cindy McCreight	Region of Durham, Housing Services
Alyxandra Riddell	Region of Durham, Housing Services

#### 1. Chair

- Councillor Chapman chaired the meeting.

- Minutes of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were approved.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

- There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

- The agenda was approved.

## **4. RentSmart Overview**

The Goal of the RentSmart program is to contribute to community well-being in Durham by increasing housing stability and reducing the inflow into homelessness.

- In November the RentSmart program will provide training to roll out the program.
- The group took part in a “Needs Assessment”, the results will be compiled and shared back with DACH.
- The objective of the training is to train fifteen Educators by November 2019 and complete the Tenant Education by December 2020.

## **5. Durham Housing Advisory Network (DHAN) & GAP Update:**

- DHAN meetings will be held every two months going forward. During the last meeting two main issues were acknowledged:
  1. How to get different locations for programs and people to live. (challenge is the neighborhood) Nathan will develop a marketing and communication toolbox for these neighborhoods.
  2. Many groups are doing different things, there needs to be a way to corral these efforts into something visible for the community to raise awareness of what is being done.
- GAP has completed the framework for their first priority. Approximately 15 people from the group are out looking for spots and doing some background work that includes: signs, information board/communication so everyone knows where to get what they require. It is called “From Streets to Seats”. Nursing students from York University and Durham College will work with the group. On June 21<sup>st</sup> there was a day of action for what to do this winter. The top project areas that were prioritized include: information sharing, innovative safe & warm spaces, practical resources, pets (one more)
- The plan is to have tangible steps in place by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There should be a name for the Homelessness System and an app associated with it. This would make it easier to share information from individual agencies or

groups posted through this system, helps to get ahead of communications. Perhaps invite someone from Ontario Tech to discuss developing an app.

- The Region will have a media release going out prior to the winter stating what programs are available.

## **6. Reaching Home Community Plan Presentation**

- The Community Plan was presented, and the group unanimously voted to approve it.

## **7. Provincial funding update on enumeration activities**

The province is not requiring an enumeration this year. A PiT Count will be completed under the Reaching Home program however, there will be no Registry Week. A call for Expressions of Interest will be sent out for organizations interested in carrying out the PiT Count.

## **8. Reaching Home Surplus Funds**

- There is available funding through Reaching Home that needs to be spent within the 2019/2020 transition year.

We currently have a projected surplus in Reaching Home that must be spent by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This will be a one-time project and will have to start and end by March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are supporting using the funds for a winter project to assist homeless individuals. There was a suggestion for the funds to be used to secure a rental space for a warming centre.

Erin will prepare an Expression of Interest.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 5, 2019.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM.