

Health, Homelessness and Housing  
Minutes  
June 2, 2020

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Review Survey Results – Workplan Proposal**

- Slide deck attached for review
- Short term goals identified in the survey:
  - Improved communication between the health and homelessness sectors
  - Conduct a Gap Analysis
  - Clearly identify and articulate current gaps in service/system including specific information for North Durham
- Long term goals identified in the survey:
  - Increase integration of services with clearly identified pathways for homeless residents to access services
  - Increase supportive housing opportunities
  - Conduct ongoing evaluations of the new system to ensure success

### **Surveillance testing for homeless population**

- The IOTC Program at Camp Samac was included in surveillance testing on June 1, 2020. All clients tested had negative results. There was not enough participation for Public Health to declare the site COVID-19 free, so another surveillance event will be planned for June 24, 2020.
- Surveillance testing events at the two hubs may have a similar low participation rate as they are the same cohort of clients.
- We need a shared tracking tool to identify who has been tested and when to ensure people aren't being tested more than they should be. We also want to track how many tests have been completed among the homeless population in Durham.

### **Isolation and recovery for homeless population**

- The Salvation Army will be expanding their current housing model in Durham to take over the isolation and recovery for homeless residents using a hotel model. These clients will be assisted with housing case-management to help them exit the program into housing.
- The proposed transition will occur the week of June 15-19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community medicine hub model**

- How can we ensure this is a sustainable model of service delivery?
- Stephanie Skopyk, CMHA and co-lead at the Mission United Hub, led a discussion on the creation of a mobile community medicine hub.
- The Mission United Hub identified that there is a need to attach housing opportunities to this hub model. It is challenging to continue to provide health support to clients if they remain unsheltered.

- A conversation about adding a Housing First program to prioritize chronically homeless residents with ongoing health needs was held.
- The Mission United Hub has capacity to support clients' health needs in this model.
- A Housing First program could support up to ten high-acuity, chronically homeless clients.

### **Long-term workplan to integrate health, homelessness and housing supports**

- Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services, led a discussion on the development of supportive housing in Durham.
- Several models are being reviewed including modular builds, using available land, looking at possible hotel/motel purchases, etc.
- Committee members are encouraged to start thinking about how each organization can support a new supportive housing development. Supports could be provided on site, virtually or on an as-needed basis.

### **Terms of Reference Review**

- It was suggested that the Terms of Reference be updated to include terms of membership, the term of the chair(s) and decision-making process.
- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed during the next Committee meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

June 16, 2020