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SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Meeting Start Time and End Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

In Attendance (33)

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Alan Robins | Region of Durham |
| Arthur Smith | Manning Mews |
| Brynn Harlock | Region of Durham |
| Catherine Howard | Manning Mews |
| Corina Stavre | Unity Village |
| Dan Zackria | Birch Housing |
| Debbie Craig | Durham Non-Profit |
| Eleanor MacDonald | Region of Durham |
| Erin O'Reilly | Durham Family Resources |
| Jackie Quinn | Region of Durham |
| Jenna Decher | Region of Durham |
| Julie Robertson | Region of Durham |
| Julie Roza | Region of Durham |
| Justin Linton | Region of Durham |
| Kathy Andreopoulos | Unity Village |
| Kaye Banfield | Region of Durham |
| Kevin Bradley | Ajax Municipal Housing |
| Laura Lavoy | Region of Durham |
| Lillian Igel | Sunrise Seniors Place |
| Lisa Roy | Durham County Seniors |
| Lori Barber | Region Durham |
| Megan Hueser-Shields | Region of Durham |
| Monica French | Legion Manor |
| Nancy Oortwyn | Durham Christian Homes |
| Niyati Patel | Birch Housing |
| Rebecca Phillips | Region of Durham |
| Renee Stayner | Region of Durham |
| Roberta Jagoe | Region of Durham |
| Sandra Marriott | Willow Park |
| Sandra Thompson | Sara McDonald's Place |
| Stacey Leadbetter | Otter Creek |
| Theresa Ring | New Hope |

Vera Bala

YWCA

Regrets (2)

Beverly Kueper
Heather Quantrill

Region of Durham
Region of Durham

Discussion Items

1. Welcome

2. Business arising from previous minutes

- None

3. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Update

- The allocation for the COCHI 2021/22 funding is \$441,531. A call for proposals will be sent to housing providers at the end of April 2021.

4. COVID

- Liability protection for housing providers
 - The *Supporting Ontario's Recovery Act, 2020* provides liability protection for non-profit housing providers relating to COVID-19 exposure. Housing providers are protected if they have operated in good faith and made honest efforts to follow public health guidelines.
 - The liability protection covers inadvertent transmission of COVID-19 and is retroactive to March 17, 2020.
- Housing provider costs
 - There is no funding currently available to cover excess costs related to COVID-19.
 - Open discussion regarding the financial impacts and struggles relating to COVID-19.
 - Some housing providers have included extra cleaning and sanitization expenses into their budgets.
 - Housing providers are still experiencing issues with their tenants/members who refuse to wear masks. A question was asked if housing providers can refuse tenants/members access to laundry facilities.

- Housing providers shared an article from Iler Campbell LLP - [What to do with an anti-masker?](#)
- Phase 2 vaccinations in Durham
 - The Province prioritizes vaccines for those at greatest risk which is then implemented by local public health units.
 - Hot spot communities that have high rates of COVID-19 transmission has been identified as a priority.
 - Adults 50+ living in the following postal codes in Durham are eligible for the vaccine L1S, L1T, L1V, L1X, L1Z.
 - Individuals who live and work in high-risk congregate settings are eligible for the vaccine. This includes emergency shelters and supportive housing.
 - [Free transportation](#) is available to residents who are travelling to COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
 - You can visit the Region's website to keep up to date on [COVID-19 vaccines in Durham](#).

5. RGI Simplification – challenges and successes in the first year

- Durham implemented RGI Simplification rules in July 2020.
 - Housing providers have found it easier to use the one tax-based calculation of RGI annually.
 - Housing providers have also encountered difficulties with their tenants/members who have not filed their income taxes for several years.
- Annual reviews – when to use the Notice of Assessment (NOA) or Proof of Income Statement to calculate RGI:
 - January to June 2021 – 2019 NOA or Proof of Income Statement
 - July to December – 2020 NOA or Proof of Income Statement
 - If tenants/members return their 2020 NOA, housing providers can use the most current tax return when completing RGI calculations.
- [Free tax clinics](#) are available in Durham for low income households.

- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)
 - Free tax clinics are available year-round to low income households throughout the Durham Region under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Through this program, certified Chartered Accountant volunteers can prepare and e-file simple taxes situations for households who meet the eligibility criteria.

6. New policy development

- Reinstatement of RGI eligibility
 - A new directive is in development to support reinstatement of RGI within 90 days of RGI ineligibility effective the usual date of RGI change. After the 90 days, housing providers would be required to seek approval from the Housing Services Division
 - The intent of the policy change is to allow housing providers to standardize annual review changes. Currently, retroactive RGI changes are not permitted at annual review.
- Income not included in AFNI:
 - A new directive is currently under development to provide guidance when income is not disclosed for tax assessment or is not consistently reflected on Line 23600.
 - Housing providers who notice reported income that is not reflected on Line 23600 are encouraged to report these to Roberta Jagoe at Roberta.Jagoe@durham.ca so they can be addressed in the directive.

7. Standing Items

- Landlord and Tenant Board Cases
 - Housing providers are beginning to receive hearing dates from applications that were submitted in 2020.
- Community Housing Renewal Strategy
 - The Ministry has started consultations regarding income and asset limits. Once their consultations conclude, information will be shared at that time.

8. New Business

- None.

9. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. | Microsoft Teams Meeting