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## SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021

**Meeting Start Time and End Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Meeting Location:** Microsoft Teams

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### **In Attendance (25)**

Alan Robins	Region of Durham
Amona Bissoon	Sarah McDonald's Place
Brynn Harlock	Region of Durham
Christine McGee	Cornerstone
Christian Kalicharab	Birch Housing
Corina Stavre	Unity Village
Dalia Halabi	William Peak
Eleanor MacDonald	Region of Durham
Funmi Adigun	Prisma Non-Profit
Kathy Andreopoulos	Unity Village
Laura Lavoy	Region of Durham
Lisa Roy	Durham County Senior Citizens Lodge
Lori Barber	Region of Durham
Lovelyn Valdez	William Peak
Megan Hueser-Shields	Region of Durham
Nancy Oortwyn	Durham Christian Homes
Narrah Thuraisingam	Ajax Municipal Housing
Rebecca Phillips	Region of Durham
Roberta Jagoe	Region of Durham
Rosemary Martin	Birch Housing
Sandra Smith	Sarah McDonald's Place
Stacey Leadbetter	Otter Creek
Theresa Ring	New Hope
Tony Astilla	Prisma Non-Profit
Vera Bala	YWCA Durham

### **Regrets (1)**

Sherril Belille	Region of Durham
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### **Guests (2)**

Ian McVey	Region of Durham, Manager of Sustainability
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd	Region of Durham, Family Services Durham

## Discussion Items

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Business arising from previous minutes

- None

### 3. Energy Retrofit Programs

- Presentation by Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- Durham Community Energy Plan – Low Carbon Pathway
  - The Region is currently working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.
  - Reductions are largely found in the transportation sector, followed by the residential sector.
  - Some barriers that single family homeowners face to change to energy efficiency is the high upfront costs, high technical concepts, trust in retrofit delivery partners, etc.
- Durham Home Energy Savings Program
  - This program is designed to support homeowners throughout the process to conduct energy retrofits on their homes.
  - Expected to be launched in March 2022.
- Please contact Ian McVey at [Ian.McVey@durham.ca](mailto:Ian.McVey@durham.ca) if you have any questions regarding the retrofit programs.

### 4. Adult Community Support Services (ACSS) Program and Prompt Access to Single Session (PASS) Case Management Sessions

- Presentation by Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Supervisor, Family Services Durham – Region of Durham.
- Adult Community Support Services (ACSS) program is for individuals 18 years of age and older who have a diagnosed developmental disability who are living independently or are moving towards independence that require supports in Durham Region. Support may include financial management aid, housing assistance, access to individual or family counselling, etc.

- ACSS also provides Prompt Access to Single Service (PASS) events for individuals and families to connect to resources who live in Durham Region. New event dates will be sent to housing providers on an ongoing basis.
- If you have any questions regarding any programs listed above, please contact Rachel Hirstwood-Judd at [Rachel.Hirstwood-Judd@Durham.ca](mailto:Rachel.Hirstwood-Judd@Durham.ca).

## **5. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) – Update**

- Communication was sent to all community housing providers in October 2021 advising if they had been awarded funding for COCHI.
- The Region anticipates that the application process for next year's funding allocation will begin in April 2022.

## **6. RGI Training**

- The Region of Durham provides semi-annual rent-geared-to-income (RGI) training for housing providers, staff from Housing Services and other Social Services divisions, designated Finance staff, and Regional Review Panel members. RGI training is mandatory for all community housing providers in Durham, and participants are required to pass a test.
- The next training session is scheduled for October 27, 2021.
- The Region is currently in the early stages of developing an online learning module for RGI training. The online learning module will be rolled out to Regional staff first and to external housing providers second later in 2022.
- Please contact Roberta Jagoe at [Roberta.Jagoe@durham.ca](mailto:Roberta.Jagoe@durham.ca) if you wish to provide feedback or suggestions regarding the proposed online learning module.

## **7. Standing Items**

- Landlord and Tenant Board Cases
  - Housing providers are still experiencing delays with receiving orders from the LTB and long wait times for hearing dates.
- Community Housing Renewal Strategy
  - No update to provide.
  - The Region will reach out to the Province for an update.

## **8. New Business**

- No new business.

## **9. Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. | Microsoft Teams Meeting