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## SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday April 17, 2024

**Meeting Start Time and End Time:** 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Microsoft Teams

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

Alyssa Skan	Region of Durham
Arthur Smith	Manning Mews
Cameal Johnson	Inter Faith Homes
Catherine Howard	Manning Mews
Chelsea Barradas	Region of Durham
Danielle Coombs	Region of Durham
Danielle Pineda	Region of Durham
Erin O'Reilly	DAFRS
Erin Valant	Region of Durham
Headley Williams	Unity Village
Jessica Batres	Region of Durham
Katrina Mannette	Borelia Co-operative Homes
Kathy Andreopolous	Unity Village
Kristen Fernandes	Region of Durham
Manomi De Silva	Region of Durham
Megan Vanstone	Sunrise Seniors Place
Narrah Thuraisingam	Ashley Manor Housing Corporation
Natalie Robertson	Sunrise Seniors Place
Nicole Fogal	Region of Durham
Rebecca Phillips	Region of Durham
Richard Persaud	Prisma Non-Profit Residences
Sanjay Sarkar	Manning Mews
Roberta Jagoe	Region of Durham
Stacey Leadbetter	Otter Creek Co-operative Homes
Tammy Richer	Durham Christian Homes

### **Regrets (0)**

### **Guests (4)**

Allison Hector-Alexander                      Region of Durham

Amanda Bongard  
Renee Ho Sang  
Trevor Langille

Region of Durham  
Region of Durham  
Region of Durham

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Review of previous minutes – September 20, 2023**

### **3. Housing Services staff update**

- Erin Valant has rejoined Housing Services as the new Director of Housing after Alan Robins retirement in March 2024.
- Andrew Wismer has been hired as Angie Juarez's replacement as Manager, Community Housing Administration. Andrew will be starting early May 2024.
- Manomi De Silva began in November 2023 as the temporary Eligibility Review Officer.
- Gagan Nijjar is no longer the Policy Analyst with Housing Services; Housing Services will be hiring a new Policy Analyst in the near future.
- Housing Program Co-ordinator, Jake Macdouell is currently on parental leave and will return early May 2024.

### **4. Introduction to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

- Allison Hector-Alexander from the office of the Region's Chief Administration Officer presented on the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how housing providers can implement these values into their daily operations in regard to employees, tenants/members and boards of directors.
- Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

## 5. RentSmart Program

- Renee Ho Sang from Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division (IESHD) presented on the RentSmart program workshops offered through IESHD to low-income Durham residents.
- IESHD is happy to work with housing providers to tailor workshops to the needs of the provider's members/tenants, as well as provide workshops on site.
- Workshop calendar and referral information can be found at [Events Calendar - Region of Durham](#)
- Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

## 6. Housing Stability Program

- Amanda Bongard from Income, Employment and Homelessness Support Division (IEHSD) presented on the recent changes to the delivery of the Housing Stability Program. As of April 1, 2024, The Housing Stability Program (HSP) will be administered through IEHSD and no longer through Community Development Council of Durham (CDCD). Additional information regarding eligibility criteria and the application process can be found at [Housing Supports - Region of Durham](#)
- Presentation slide deck attached to minutes.

## 7. Anti-bullying policies (Group discussion)

- Providers discussed anti-bullying/harassment policies.
- Housing providers interested in creating anti-bullying/harassment policies are encouraged to connect with Ontario Non-Profit Housing Corporation (ONPHA) for sample policies.

## 8. Standing Items

### Landlord and Tenant Board

- Housing Providers noted continued delays at the LTB but starting to see some results and are hopeful that the backlog is clearing up.

## New Directives

- Provided brief overview of recently updated directives including income limits directive ([RGI 2024-01 Income Limits](#)) which applies to waitlist applicants as well as RGI tenants/members as well as the quarterly update to the the Guaranteed Income Levels for senior citizens in Ontario which provides the automatic biennial rent-gear-to-income (RGI) increase amount for eligible senior tenants and co-op members ([INF 2024-01 Government Pension Income January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024](#))

## 9. New Business

### Family Support Worker Program

- The Region of Durham's Family Support Worker (FSW) Program is back after hiatus. The Family Support Worker Program is a free service to help residents with low income obtain child and/or spousal support. More information can be found at [Family Support Worker - Region of Durham](#).

## 10. Next Meeting

- Wednesday October 16, 2024 | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm