

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 1-888-721-0622 ext. 2805



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness (DACH)

Tuesday May 28, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness was held on Tuesday May 28, 2024, via Microsoft Teams at 1:00 PM

Attendance:

Present:

- Alex Cheng, Blue Door
- Amanda Freer, Blue Door
- Ashley McDonald, Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Atiya Siddiquei, Muslim Welfare Home
- Caitlin Rae, Back Door Mission
- Christina Barrow, John Howard Society Durham
- Clarence Keesman, The Refuge
- Elizabeth Smart, YMCA Durham
- Geralda Bray, John Howard Society of Durham Region
- Heather McMillan, Christian Faith Outreach Centre
- Hermia Corbette, Community Development Council Durham (CDCD)
- Jennifer Garton, Durham Mental Health Services, Lakeridge Health
- Jessica Barbuto, North House
- Jessica Hanson, United Way Durham Region
- Jessica Robinson, Community Living Durham North
- John Henry, Regional Chair
- Julie Chartier, BGC Durham
- Ian Griffiths, VHA Home HealthCare
- Laurie Hudson, Salvation Army
- Margaret Eskins, DARS
- Marla Walters, Christian Faith Outreach Centre
- Maurice Brenner, Councillor, City of Pickering
- Mona Emond, North House
- Nathan Gardner, Back Door Mission
- Patricia Liang, Community Development Council of Durham (CDCD)
- Patricia Nokes, Regional Chairs Office
- Sandra McCormack, The Denise House

- Shannon Jackson, Durham Youth Services
- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Region of Durham
- Tracey Hardinge, Canadian Mental Health Association Durham (CMHA)
- Tracey McGarry, The Participation House Project Durham Region

Staff Present:

- Amanda Bongard
- Ashley Smith
- Erin Waugh
- Erin Valant
- Jessica Morgan
- Jocelyn Siciliano
- John Kimmerly
- Kendall Stoiner
- Lisa McIntosh
- Meaghan Middleton

1. Homelessness Systems Update

- 2024/2025 Funding Request Update
 - Everyone was thanked for their submission. A reminder was provided that funding allocations and processes are being reviewed to ensure gaps and overlaps in the system are addressed with the available resources.
 - The Revised Agreement was circulated for review and will be used this year.
 - Agreements are now being circulated and executed.
- Winter Warming Update
 - 150 overnight safe spaces added, available 7 days a week including space for medical needs.
 - Cots/chairs for individuals and couples.
 - Pets are welcome.
 - Coordinated communication between winter warming centres and the outreach team.
 - Outreach team provided transportation between warming centres.
 - Outreach team connected with winter warming centre to provide additional support, establish connections, and build rapport.
 - Increased access points.
- By-Name List 2023
 - Slide deck attached
- Outreach
 - Engagement stats for the period of January 4th – May 26th, 2024
 - Group: 688 interactions (3,129 individuals present)
 - Individual: 3,389
 - Encampment: 137 (280 individuals)
 - Community Wellness: 302

- Hospital: 85
- Durham Regional Transit:32

2. Durham Youth Services

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKCQFYKBZm8>

- Nightstop Youth Homelessness Prevention Program will launch in July 2024. It will be integrated into current Shelter Diversion and Family Reconnect Programs. Durham Youth Services will be the second provider in North America.
- Referrals will have a risk assessment process for insurance purposes.
- Currently recruiting host homes and volunteer drivers.

3. 1635 Dundas Update

- June 1st BBQ lunch for patrons and partners and visit the new community garden
- Staff and patrons have been hosting walk/run groups as well as mindfulness and yoga sessions. Exploring options to have current partners from Ajax site share their time onsite at 1635.
- Adam Smith is working across all sites and in the community to help establish and strengthen connections through partnerships.
- Pinewood will be visiting every other Tuesday, rotating between 1635 and the Ajax Hub as well as providing programming starting in July and August.
- 1635 is in the initial stages to develop additional partnerships with John Howard Mental Health Services to provide crisis counselling.
- Currently, there are 133 individuals on the waitlist. Since April 18th, they were able to successfully admit 28 people into the shelter who have never engaged with services at CFOC.
- Total intakes between April 1 and April 30, there were 82, 369 adults, and 10 seniors. Among them, 20 were females and 62 were males. The average occupancy per night has been 98%.
- They are exploring the idea of “amnesty” lockers on site which will create an opportunity for patrons to safely store belongings.

4. Beaverton Supporting Housing Update

- Building completion will be the end of June with pending inspections to follow.
- Blue Door will set up and start training staff in July. They will be working with Alyxandra and Amanda to leverage the By-name list, prioritizing residences of North Durham or those who have meaningful connections to north Durham.
- Working with Family Services and APS team for ten units to be filled by their clients, further details to follow.
- Expected occupancy will be mid-August.

5. Service Provider Updates

- Pickering Farmhouse is undergoing rewiring to bring it up to building code. Patrons moving in will be taking on exciting roles such as repairing dry wall, installing cabinetry, and investing into their future home. The property is undergoing soil testing and creating gardens.

- Providing media tours to discuss the project as well as providing accurate information about who the people are and what is happening in Durham Region.
- The Housing Stability Program transition to the Region of Durham on April 1st.

6. Next Meeting – Tuesday October 29th, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm