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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Minutes

Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness (DACH)

Tuesday January 25, 2022

A regular meeting of the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness was held on Tuesday January 25, 2022 via Microsoft Teams at 1:00 PM.

1. Attendance

Present: Councillor Bob Chapman, Chair
Councillor David Pickles
Candice Correa, Durham College
Chris Bouchard, Durham Youth Services
Clarence Keesman,
Denise Knee, Fred Victor, Women's Hostel
Doreen Hume-McKenna, Regional Housing Coordinator
Elizabeth Smart, YWCA
Heather Hofmann, Brian Injury Association Durham
Hermia Corbette, CDCD
Jessica Hanson, United Way Durham Region
Jessica Robinson, Community Living Durham North
Johanne St. Louis
John Henry, Regional Chair
Kimberly Lepine, CAREA
Leah Wall, CAREA
Lucie Hager, VHA
Margaret Eskins, DARS
Mark Sheriff, Region of Durham
Marla Walters, Christian Faith Outreach Centre
Maureen Bandola, John Howard Society
Mona Emond, North House
Natasha Waldron, CAREA
Nathan Gardner, Community Development Council Durham
Rob Brglez, Cornerstone
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
Theresa Treadwell, Salvation Army
Tracy McGarry, Participation House
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Staff

Present: Alan Robins
Celine Nelson
Cindy McCreight
Erin Valant
Jane Noonan

Jocelyn Siciliano
Lisa McIntosh
Megan Hueser-Shields
Mtaness Shaloufe
Stephanie Ross
Tracey Tyner Cavanagh

2. Homelessness Initiatives Team Update

- At the end of December, there were 209 people in Durham who are experiencing homelessness. Of those, 122 people have been homeless for 6 months or longer (chronically homeless).
- There were 11 move-ins.
- Total year-to-date move-ins: 219 (114 of those chronic).
- We will be exploring those who are aging into chronic homelessness as this number is beginning to grow.

3. Presentation and Discussion - Revisiting Prioritization Criteria

- In February of 2021 DACH endorsed a pilot of changing our prioritization criteria to move chronic homelessness to the main prioritizing factor for referring people to housing, resources and supports. This was revisited in June and continued for another six months. The pilot did increase our month over month move-ins for people experiencing chronic homelessness which is aligned with our mission. The recommendation was made to adopt this change permanently, this recommendation was adopted.

4. Presentation: Nourish and Develop Foundation – Johanne St. Louis

- Johanne is the Service Director for the Nourish and Development Foundation in Brock Township, specifically Cannington.
- They operate a food related community centre which includes a market style food bank and a mobile unit. They provide low-cost produce and prepared meals.
- Three years ago, it was determined that a new VAW shelter for north Durham was needed. The Nourish and Develop Foundation purchased a large Victorian house in Cannington and the adjacent property. The 3 room shelter with six beds will have a soft opening in June. They are close to submitting their site plan for the larger shelter to the Township of Brock which will be a 2500 sq. ft. addition to the existing building. This will house 12 beds and provide full services for women, children, and their pets. Services will be 24/7 for 365 days of the year and include a crisis line and on-site counselling. They have partnered with Community Living CHPI Program. The shelter will include a kennel and pet lounge and they have partnered with some local farmers to arrange a livestock trailer/fostering program.
- There will be youth and children's programming. They are hoping to partner with Durham Family Resources.
- Funding has been secured through a Family Trust for the next 20 years and they are applying to CMHC for new shelter builds.

5. Discussion: 2022/2023 Funding Planning

- SSRF programs (hubs, CFOC shelter and the Isolation and Recovery program) have been provided additional funding to continue to the end of March. These projects were previously slated to expire as of December 31st.
- Feedback was requested on funding and whether we continue to fund all the same programs. We have an opportunity to look at the support system as a whole and identify strategic areas for investment.
- Additionally, we need to improve pre-planning efforts so that we can identify a multi-year plan for future funding investments.
 - A working group was established for a facilitated session in February to establish strategic priorities for funding with a focus on housing outcomes.

6. Shelter Capacity and Housing Outflow in Durham

- Shelter capacity cannot be addressed in isolation. For every permanent shelter bed added to the support system, we need to be adding additional housing opportunities to ensure there is flow within the shelter system.
- Housing programs are much more cost effective than other types of intervention. The focus needs to be on homelessness prevention to stop people from becoming homeless.

7. Street Outreach Strategy in Durham

- An overview of the new Street Outreach Strategy that launched the beginning of January was provided. From July to December rates of unsheltered homelessness has risen. However, as of December each person experiencing unsheltered chronic homelessness has been matched with an intensive case manager.

8. Bright Spots & Partner Updates

- Early March is the anticipated move-in date for the new Micro-Homes. A virtual tour of the homes will be posted on our website.
- DARS has worked with Legion 606 to provide hot meals for low-income residents and residents experiencing homelessness.
- Nathan, Backdoor Mission, would like to thank everyone that assisted with the snowstorm last Monday.
- Carea's Street Outreach team has expanded. In December, staff housed 5 people, in January one staff member housed 2 people. This is the first time they've taken on intensive case management and outcomes are continuing to grow.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday March 29, 2022.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.