



Committee Minutes

Community Services Committee February 27, 2023 – 1:00 PM

The Community Services Committee met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Nielsen; Councillors Matrosovs, Dobreen, Mackey, Dickert; and Warden Milne. Warden Milne participated virtually.

Regrets: Councillor Kentner.

Staff

Present: Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services; Tara Cockerill, Manager of Early Learning and Child Care; Josh Gibson, Manager of Housing Programs; Sharon Irwin, Manager of Community Housing; Tara Warder, Clerk; Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator.

Call to Order

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tara Warder called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

CS01-23 Moved by: Councillor Matrosovs Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That Councillor Nielsen be nominated as Chair of the Community Services Committee for 2023.

On motion by Councillor Dobreen, nominations closed.

Councillor Nielsen accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair of the Committee for 2023.

CS02-23 Moved by: Councillor Mackey Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

**That Councillor Dickert be nominated as Vice Chair of the
Community Services Committee for 2023.**

On motion by Councillor Matrosovs, nominations closed.

Councillor Dickert accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2023.

Councillor Nielsen then assumed the role of Chair.

The Committee unanimously agreed to consider the agenda for this meeting in the following order.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Reports – Community Services

Terms of Reference Review

Tara Warder reviewed the Community Services Committee's Terms of Reference and spoke about the history and purpose of the Committee.

Delegations

Sarah Pelton, Coordinator - Community Safety and Well-Being Planning for the Municipalities of Bruce & Grey - CSWBP 2023 Goals

Sarah Pelton presented to the Committee on behalf of Grey Bruce CSWBP regarding the initiative and its 2023 goals. The presenter introduced the legislation and methodology behind Community Safety and Well-Being Planning (CSWBP). Beyond incident response, the presenter spoke about the Ontario CSWBP framework, which focuses on risk intervention, prevention, and social development, and aims to create sustainable, safe communities by determining, preventing, and addressing causes or factors that lead to crime through upstream prevention. The presenter reviewed the Grey Bruce CSWBP's governance structure, noting initiatives such as the situation table for acute risk, the development of an organizational assessment tool, and five CSWBP action tables that will focus on priority areas identified in the community to create, implement, and evaluate related action plans.

In response to questions from the Committee, Sarah Pelton spoke about the involvement of area municipalities and the initiative's efforts to avoid duplication, coordinate support, and identify program gaps. Further, Anne Marie Shaw confirmed that the five priority areas were selected in response to the capacity of community partners and reflected ongoing community initiatives.

Sarah Pelton reviewed the model for risk intervention and the issue assessment process, which focused on short-term responses to incidents of acutely elevated risk rather than case management or long-term solutions. The presenter reported that the situation table mobilized acute responses for 27 incidents in 2022 and three in 2023. Further, the presenter described the data being collected to allow for future comparisons with similar municipalities, funding applications, program evaluations, and advocacy to the province.

Sarah Pelton responded to questions from the Committee to confirm the process by which the situation table might consider matters for minors, how cases are identified by members of the table or community partners, the prioritization of cases, and the benefits of the program to mitigate responses needed by police or hospitals. Further, Anne Marie Shaw highlighted how the situation table identifies program gaps or long-term solutions and how data collection and sharing can quantify the impact of programs or services and advocacy to the province, such as housing needs.

The presenter explained the complexities of accessing such services and communications or outreach efforts to decrease or address barriers. The presenter reviewed Grey Bruce CSWBP's 2023 objectives toward a collaborative strategy for long-term solutions, including establishing reporting and assessment frameworks, undertaking public information sharing and engagement, and exploring opportunities for sustainable, long-term funding.

In response to questions from the Committee, Anne Marie Shaw confirmed the initiative is currently funded by Grey and Bruce Counties and described how the data collected would be used to identify community needs and inform future funding applications.

Reports – Community Services

Housing 101 Presentation

Anne Marie Shaw introduced the Community Services staff attending the meeting and presented to the Committee regarding Grey County community housing. The director explained the service system manager's role and responsibilities, including managing 1006 affordable housing units, administering funding to the region's nine non-profit housing providers, coordinating access to affordable housing for the 1824 individuals on

the waitlist of which 1213 are Grey County residents, as of February 2023, and supporting the complex needs of Grey County communities. The director reported the jurisdiction over housing granted to municipalities by the province and that the priorities set out in Grey County's ten-year Housing and Homelessness Plan had been met or exceeded with future consultation planned to inform goals for the next five years.

In response to questions from the Committee, Anne Marie Shaw described ongoing advocacy to the province regarding the limitations created by using a scale for rent for those on ODSP and the resulting loss of rent funds that might have otherwise supported existing and future housing projects. Additionally, the director acknowledged the growing number of individuals experiencing homelessness or requiring access to services for the first time and discussed factors such as the province's removal of rent control from market rentals, the impact on individuals with fixed incomes, resources such as 211, and considerations for appropriate compatibility in housing, such as age or the growing need for addictions or mental health supports. Anne Marie Shaw explained the housing challenges related to the County's limited control over waitlist prioritization or tailoring placement to an individual.

Anne Marie Shaw highlighted significant pressures facing Ontario's housing system, such as increasing costs, growing waitlists, and lack of funding stability. The director also reviewed considerations for modernizing Ontario's housing system, including recognition of the partnership role of service managers, provincial incentives for the construction of new rentals, and predictable and sustainable provincial funding. The director shared community housing statistics, including that Grey County subsidized 1754 units in 2023. Further, the director reported on the development of affordable housing, funding options, and the current status of the County's Affordable Housing Fund.

In response to questions from the Committee, Anne Marie Shaw discussed the possible styles and types of housing, the lack of supporting funding, and the challenges of community need not being met by market capacity. Staff answered further questions about using surplus County and municipal lands for housing projects and discussed the limited municipal control over factors such as interest rates or construction costs and how the County has previously demonstrated support for affordable housing development by subsidizing development charges or land costs. Anne Marie Shaw also confirmed efforts to stretch available funds and the benefit of having plans for shovel-ready projects, should funding become available. Randy Scherzer answered questions about changing building trends, the community's need for diverse housing stock, and the policy or process tools that might support such development. Further, staff discussed other municipal considerations, such as exploring alternative solutions for the

renovation or construction of County-owned units, support for compatible density or height, and the impacts on infrastructure, such as water or fire services.

Anne Marie Shaw gave an overview of the County's short-term shelter program, noting its launch inhouse in September 2022, the 300% increase in demand from 2021, the lack of provincial funding, and the high acuity and intensity of need for those accessing the program. The director noted the gaps in resources or supportive housing options for individuals with high acuity or intensity needs. The director shared that in Grey County, approximately 130 people were experiencing homelessness, 50 rooms were being supported, 30 households were successfully moved into more appropriate housing solutions, and the program would create a \$300,000 deficit for the County without support from the province. The director described interest in future opportunities for a centralized location and warming centre.

Anne Marie Shaw responded to further inquiries from the Committee regarding considerations for youth aged 16 or older accessing short-term shelter solutions and wait times compared to other municipalities. Josh Gibson also discussed the process of accessing housing services and how the By Names List prioritizes cases.

Anne Marie Shaw spoke about the housing response table, the 14th Street supportive housing project, the Housing and Homelessness Plan, and the next steps identified as priorities for Community Services. In response, the Committee heard comments from its members noting the benefit of site visits and requests to map Grey County housing locations.

The meeting recessed and reconvened at 3:05 PM.

CSR-CS-05-23 - CWELCC Notional Space Targets for Expansion Plan

Tara Cockerill presented to the Committee regarding the allocations to expand notional space targets for the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (CWELCC) set by the Ministry of Education. The presenter described Grey County's considerations for current capacity, planned versus actual spaces, those living in rural areas, and the information collected in collaboration with Planning staff to identify locations for expansion in Dundalk, the Town of the Blue Mountains, and Markdale, using census, birth rates, planned developments, and projected growth data.

In response to questions from the Committee, Tara Cockerill discussed the different types of childcare providers, the impact of operator rate freezes, access to funding subsidies, access to childcare in rural areas, the limitations of available data, and the need for workforce attraction and retention. The Committee stated interest in a further

presentation on Grey County's childcare services. The Committee heard comments from its members regarding advocacy regarding the limitations of the current program and the need for the ministry's focus on building spaces to be supported by corresponding efforts to address staffing shortages.

CS03-23 Moved by: Councillor Dobreen Seconded by: Warden Milne

That report CSR-CS-05-23, regarding the CWELCC Notional Space Targets for Expansion Plan, be received; and

That Grey County Council support the County's Expansion Plan for targeted notional space allocation from the Ministry of Education.

Carried

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To Be Determined

The Committee discussed the frequency and timing of future meetings.

On motion by Councillors Mackey and Dobreen, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Nielsen, Chair