



Committee Minutes

Mental Health and Addictions Task Force August 9, 2022 – 9:30 AM

The Mental Health and Addictions Task Force met electronically on the above date with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair O'Leary; Members Sandra McLay-Winters, David Willis, Dr. Arra, and Clark MacFarlane; Councillors Carleton, Burley, Mackey, Keaveney, and Clumpus; and Warden Hicks.

Regrets: Councillor Hutchinson and Member Naomi Vodden.

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Josh Gibson, Housing Programs Manager; Kevin McNab, Director of Paramedic Services; Tara Warder, Clerk; and Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk.

Alison Govier, Coordinator of the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy for the Canadian Mental Health Association, and Dr. Zayed, Grey Bruce Health Unit, were also in attendance.

Call to Order

Chair O'Leary called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Reports – Chief Administrative Officer

Correspondence - Association of Municipalities Ontario - An Integrated Approach to Mental Health and Addictions - AMO's Submission to the Ministry of Health - August 2, 2022

Kim Wingrove introduced the submission made by the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) to the Ministry of Health, reviewing AMOs recommendations and how they align with Grey County's priorities, services, and the County's upcoming delegations during the 2022 AMO conference.

The Committee heard discussion among its member regarding growing community need for mental health, addictions, and housing supports not matched by increased resources and funding. Further discussed were rural Ontario's access to programs and services, the need for education to reduce mental health stigmas, and funding for targeted promotion and outreach to increase awareness of available supports. Additionally, the Committee discussed the partnerships of the Public Health Units and Public Health Ontario, their focus on adverse childhood experiences and prevention, the impact of mental health on Canada's economy and healthcare system, and the need for data to inform programs, service delivery, and advocacy.

Kim Wingrove noted the opportunity to further discuss the recommendations and topics raised with stakeholders during the upcoming 2022 AMO Conference.

MHA 10-22 Moved by: Councillor Keaveney Seconded by: Councillor Burley

That the correspondence from the Association of Municipalities Ontario, dated August 2, 2022, regarding AMO's submission to the Ministry of Health calling for an integrated approach to mental health and addictions, be supported by the Council of the County of Grey.

Carried

CAOR-MHAT-08-22 Draft Report Summary and Recommendations

Kim Wingrove presented to the Committee, reviewing the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force (MHATF) purpose and proceedings. The presenter highlighted the feedback from community service providers regarding foundational requirements for prevention and successful treatment, the challenges to providing adequate services, and what is needed to address growing community needs for mental health, addictions, and housing supports. Kim Wingrove spoke about the refinement of the report and recommendations, noting the proposed immediate and long-term actions to be undertaken by the County, the move towards data-driven initiatives, and proposed improvements to mental health, youth, addictions, and housing services.

The Committee heard discussion among its member regarding the ongoing need for a committee of this nature, selecting a leading agency, coordination with the work being led by the Ontario Health Team, and the role of municipal government and elected officials in supporting their communities. Further, the Committee heard comments regarding the need for an emergency shelter strategy, considerations for indigenous and farming communities, the importance of strategy and evaluation, and the inclusion of individuals with lived experience. Alison Govier noted the opportunity to seek feedback from the Peer Advisory Committee.

MHA11-22 Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

That report CAOR-MHAT-08-22 Draft Report Summary and Recommendations be received; and

That the Task Force provide feedback on the draft recommendations for inclusion in the final report; and

That a meeting to consider the final report be scheduled in October 2022.

Carried

Correspondence

There was no additional correspondence.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To Be Determined.

On motion by Councillor Burley, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Brian O'Leary, Chair