

Mental Health and Addictions Task Force February 22, 2022 – 2:30 PM

The Mental Health and Addictions Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Councillors Carleton, Hutchinson, O’Leary, Burley, Mackey, Keaveney, Clumpus and Warden Hicks; Phil Dodd, Clark MacFarlane, Naomi Vodden, Dr. Arra and Sandra McLay-Winters

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services; Kevin McNab, Director of Paramedic Services; Darren Clock, Paramedic; Rob Hatten, Communications Manager and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Alison Govier, Coordinator - Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy was also in attendance.

Call to Order

Heather Morrison called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Introductions

The Task Force members and staff introduced themselves.

Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

MHA01-22 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That Councillor O’Leary be nominated as Chair of the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force for 2022.

MHA02-22 Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor Keaveney

That Councillor Mackey be nominated as Chair of the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force for 2022.

On motion by Councillor Hutchinson, nominations closed.

Councillor O'Leary accepted the nomination.

Councillor Mackey declined the nomination.

Councillor O'Leary was acclaimed chair of the task force for 2022.

Heather Morrison then called for nominations for Vice Chair.

MHA03-22 Moved by: Councillor Carleton Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That Councillor Mackey be nominated as Vice Chair of the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force for 2022.

On motion by Councillor Burley, nominations closed.

Councillor Mackey accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the task force for 2022.

Councillor O'Leary then assumed the Chair.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Reports

Terms of Reference

Kim Wingrove noted that the Terms of Reference were in the agenda package and have been presented to Council, however they are open for discussion by this task force as well. She outlined the key points of the document.

It was suggested that there is a need to be open to looking at larger structural issues and recognize that although services are available, it is a complex issue with many layers.

Chair O'Leary suggested that a further objective be added to the Terms of Reference, being to lobby the Province to create and implement a mandatory course in mental health and addictions education beginning in grade 7 and continuing through grades 8 and 9. The Task Force noted that this could be captured under the workplan document.

Minor administrative changes will be made to the Terms of Reference.

MHA04-22 Moved by: Councillor Burley Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

**That the Terms of Reference for the Mental Health and Addictions
Task Force be endorsed as presented.**

Carried

SSR-MHATF-03-22 Mental Health and Addictions Proposed Work Plan

Barb Fedy outlined the above report. She noted the workplan is aggressive and high level and there is a lot to be achieved.

Staff noted that they can reach out to see if there is a representative from the Bluewater or Catholic School Boards to discuss the kind of supports that are available in the school system.

Staff asked Mr. MacFarlane, Ms. Vodden and Mr. Dodd if they would be able to speak to their insights at the next meeting in March. Presentations will be included in the next meeting.

The underfunding of mental health was discussed and the role the County has in fulfilling requests for mental health.

The housing issue requires capital dollars in order to build the infrastructure and to make it healthy housing. Housing needs to be uplifting for people and forms the basis of stabilization.

Ms. Vodden spoke to the use of capital in terms of mental health provision at Grey Bruce Health Services. She noted that historically this unit is not a high user of capital funds, however the women and children unit of the hospital continues to operate and ideally there would be a pediatric mental health unit. A 24-hour unit would be beneficial, as people in crisis need help immediately.

It is hoped that the Task Force will be able to make a business case for mental health and make the case for funders as well as the community in general about why investment in mental health makes sense.

Dr. Arra spoke to building healthy public policy.

Discussion occurred on what is in place to house people who access the emergency department. There is a need for supports as well as housing. People need to learn skills such as how to maintain a tenancy, etc. A low barrier approach is always used when discussing housing options. Some jurisdictions have succeeded with tiny homes, as some people do better with their own space.

Councillor Mackey left the meeting at this time.

Discussion occurred on ways to reach out to people and to reduce the stigma of mental health and ways to look at society and family structures in order to reduce the risk of substance use. It was noted that the change in perspective from an individual choice lens to that of an environmental and structural lens is important.

Discussion occurred on the parameters and expectations from the peer advisory group. Sandra McLay-Winters noted she will be bringing feedback and issues that are presented by the peer advisory committee to this committee and will be bringing a grassroots approach to the table.

The various programs and partners that assist with child development were discussed.

Phil Dodd and Clark MacFarlane left the meeting at this point.

MHA05-22 Moved by: Councillor Clumpus Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

That Report SSR-MHATF-03-22 regarding the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force Workplan be received; and

That subject to the Task Force's input and direction, the workplan be updated and brought back to the next meeting for adoption.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

March 15, 2022 at 1 pm.

On motion by Councillors Burley and Carleton, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Brian O'Leary, Chair