



Committee Minutes

Mental Health and Addictions Task Force July 7, 2022 – 9:30 AM

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

Present: Warden Hicks & Councillors Carleton, O’Leary, Burley, Mackey, Keaveney, Hutchinson, and Clumpus; Dr. Arra and Sandra McLay-Winters

Regrets: Naomi Vodden, Phil Dodd and Clark MacFarlane

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services; Rob Hatten, Communications Manager; Tara Warder, Clerk; Josh Gibson, Housing Programs Manager; Caitlin Currie, Homelessness Response Coordinator; and Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk.

Alison Govier, Coordinator of the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy for the Canadian Mental Health Association; Dr. Zayed, Grey Bruce Public Unit & Board of Health; and David Willis, Executive Director for Keystone Bruce Grey, were also in attendance.

Call to Order

Chair O’Leary called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Delegations

Joanne Young – Community Living Owen Sound and District

Joanne Young, Director of Specialized Services for Community Living Owen Sound and District, presented to the Committee on the Tri Alliance Support Services Organization (TASSO) efforts. A partnership of three Community Living agencies in the Grey and

Bruce Regions, funded through the Ministry of Children, Community Social Services (MCCSS), provides support for infants, children, and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families. Joanne Young reviewed agencies, the services provided, and the governance of TASSO.

Further, the presenter spoke about the mission, core values, and funding for Community Living Owen Sound and District (CLOSD). Joanne Young highlighted core services for supported living, day programming, passport funding, and transitional aged youth. She reviewed the legislation governing CLOSD and a rise in numbers of those requiring independent living supports, including complex youth, who previously would not have been eligible for adult support, and those affected by mental health needs, substance use, or precarious housing and homelessness. It was further described that the increasingly complex needs and youth eligible for these supports created challenges for staff recruitment with the proper skills and training.

In response to questions from the Committee, Joanne Young explained that transitional-aged youth were previously unsupported and described the services provided by CLOSD and TASSO to bridge youth into adult programming.

Additionally, the presenter spoke to trends of increasing numbers of those with dual diagnosis, substance use, aging families who have their adult child with a disability living at home, and those impacted by a lack of affordable or appropriate housing. Joanne Young reviewed service gaps in systems that foster siloed services and challenges in staffing recruitment and described the partnerships between Community Living organizations and the local police.

In response to questions from the Committee, the presenter spoke about community partnerships, funding sources, support programs, service animals, staffing challenges, the need to attract staff with the needed skills and education to the Region, housing programs, and a lack of appropriate or affordable housing stock.

Josh Gibson and Caitlin Currie – Coordinated Access and By Names List

Josh Gibson introduced the matter and presenter, Caitlin Currie.

Caitlin Currie addressed the Committee about the Coordinated Access and By Names List, reviewing the shortfalls of the traditional housing system. She explained the benefits of the Coordinated Access and By Names List, including access through multiple points of entry, triage and assessment, prioritization, and matching or referral to programs based on need. She described the housing-first approach, highlighting housing as a fundamental right and can determine health, success in recovery, and stability in other areas of life.

Further, Caitlin Currie reported that organizations actively or tangentially working with those experiencing homelessness or precarious housing would have access to the regularly updated By Names List. It was explained how providers would use the list to identify and house those experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible, match individuals with services or resources based on need, and easily remove those who receive and retain housing. Additionally, Caitlin Currie reported how the County could use the list to create a system-level data-driven approach to coordinate resources and progress toward ending chronic homelessness.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff spoke about the eligibility and prioritization criteria, similar programs across the country, and case supervision and case management from supporting agencies. Anne Marie Shaw confirmed one in ten households housed on the wait list would be from the By Names List. The Committee heard comments from its members supporting the housing first approach and efforts to enact systems that reduce harm.

Dr. Zayed, Public Health Physician Consultant – COMOH Workgroup Update

Dr. Zayed, Public Health Physician Consultant, presented a Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) workgroup update. Dr. Zayed described the COMOH's efforts to develop a Terms of Reference and focus on exchanging knowledge to identify gaps and streamlining action toward an evidence-based intervention tool to mitigate adverse childhood experiences.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Zayed spoke about the gaps faced by rural and urban communities and basing actions on feasibility studies specific to communities. The Committee further discussed possible advocacy and policy solutions.

Other Business

None.

Next Meeting Dates

August 9, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

On motion by Councillors Mackey and Burley, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Brian O'Leary, Chair