



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 10, 2022
Subject / Report No:	CCR-CW-02-22
Title:	Terms of Reference-Mental Health and Addictions Task Force
Prepared by:	Tara Warder
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended per Resolution CW32-22; Endorsed by County Council February 24, 2022 per Resolution CC19-22;

Recommendation

- 1. That Report CCR-CW-02-22 regarding the Terms of Reference for the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force be received; and**
- 2. That the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force Terms of Reference be endorsed as presented; and**
- 3. That the following Members be appointed to the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force:**
 - Phil Dodd - Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services**
 - Clark MacFarlane - Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce**
 - Naomi Vodden – GBHS Mental Health and Addiction Services**
 - Representative of the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit (to be confirmed)**
 - Representative of the Peer Advisory Network, Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

- **Councillors Brian O’Leary, Dwight Burley, Shirley Keaveney, Barb Clumpus, Scott Mackey, Tom Hutchinson (election required)**
 - **Warden Selwyn Hicks; and**
- 4. That the appointments be confirmed and the first meeting be scheduled prior to County Council’s adoption of the minutes subject to Section 25.6 (b) of Procedural By-law 5003-18, as amended.**

Executive Summary

At the January 27, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting resulting from a notice of motion from a prior meeting, a resolution was passed directing staff to bring forward terms of reference for a Mental Health and Addictions Task Force. The goal of the task force is to examine the current system of treatment and support for those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders. It will also consider recommendations for a local response strategy that identifies immediate and longer term priorities designed to support the development of mental health supports and harm reduction strategies for Grey County residents. The draft Terms of Reference are included in this report for consideration.

Background and Discussion

The following resolution was passed by Committee of the Whole on January 27, 2022:

Whereas there is evidence of a significant rise in the prevalence of mental health and substance use disorders across the country; and

Whereas access to available resources is critical to supporting those with mental health and substance use disorders; and

Whereas the access to treatment resources is not sufficient to meet the demand for them in Grey County;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that a Mental Health and Addictions Task Force be created; and

That the Task Force consider:

- **Who the treatment providers are operating in Grey County, how they are funded and the treatment services they provide.**
- **The provider’s assessments of gaps in treatment options, the waitlists for treatments that are available and how these could be addressed.**

- **Appropriate advocacy to different levels of government for increased access and reduction of barriers to mental health and addiction services, i.e., policy, funding or other resources necessary to support system enhancements.**
- **Through stakeholder engagement and partnership involvement create a “local response” strategy that identifies immediate and longer-term priorities specifically designed to support the development of mental health supports and harm reduction strategies for Grey County residents; and**

That staff be directed to develop a Terms of Reference for consideration by County Council.

Taskforce Formation

The task force will hear from treatment providers and others who support those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders. The taskforce will make recommendations in the form of a local response strategy that identifies immediate and longer term priorities specifically designed to support the development of mental health supports and harm reduction strategies for Grey County residents for consideration by Grey County Council.

It is recommended that membership on the task force include 5 members of County Council plus the Warden as political representation. Councillors O’Leary, Burley, Keaveney, Clumpus, Mackey and Hutchinson have indicated their interest in sitting on this Committee.

In addition to members being appointed from Grey County Council, the draft Terms of Reference propose other representatives to sit on this Committee as voting members. These include:

- Phil Dodd, Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services
- Clark MacFarlane, Canadian Mental Health Association
- Naomi Vodden, Grey Bruce Health Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Member of the Peer Advisory Network, Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy to be confirmed at a later date following discussion at the Task Force table
- Member of the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit, to be confirmed

Staff acknowledge that there was a great deal of interest in this task force from the general public and are grateful for the people wishing to volunteer their time. However, in the interest of time and due to the narrow scope, a full call for public participation as taskforce members wasn’t able to be undertaken.

Proposed Workplan Principles

This taskforce is being created due to a growing sense of urgency to address the mental health and substance use concerns that have been raised in communities across Grey County. There is evidence that factors that contribute to mental health and substance use (social isolation, loss of income, loss of housing, disruption of school attendance, etc.) have significantly increased due the pandemic. It is critical that the taskforce work begins quickly so that any immediate actions that can be taken are identified and considered for action.

Staff are proposing that the initial Task Force meeting be scheduled for late February and meet monthly from February to June, and then on an as needed basis. Staff are proposing meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month during this time frame, at 1pm through Zoom. The Task Force will report to Committee of the Whole.

Staff propose that at the first meeting of the taskforce a schedule of meeting topics be confirmed. In addition to hearing from representatives of the mental health, addiction support and harm reduction providers, presentations from the community social supports (United Way and Salvation Army), justice sector, first responders, primary care, supportive housing, First Nations, etc. may be important to forming recommendations. Subject matter experts will then be invited to speak to each of those areas.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

This Committee will be bound by the Municipal Act, 2001, Grey County Procedural By-law, Code of Conduct and any other relevant provincial or federal legislation or other County policies as applicable.

Financial and Resource Implications

This new committee will require funding for member mileage for in person meetings and per diems for council members. Staff will work with both the political and public members to determine appropriate meeting times and a structure (online or in-person) that will work for the majority of the membership.

Relevant Consultation

Internal-CAO, Social Services, Clerk's

External

Appendices and Attachments

Terms of Reference Mental Health and Addictions Task Force



Terms of Reference

Mental Health and Addictions Task Force

Mission/ Purpose:

This Task Force is responsible for working with various levels of government and community stakeholders to identify opportunities for enhanced community supports for mental health and substance use disorders in Grey County.

Objectives:

1. To focus on our community members living with mental health and addictions challenges, particularly our youth and insecurely housed or unhoused and transient neighbours
2. To bring together government, non government, health and community partners to understand and enable the delivery of interdisciplinary care focused on improving health equity through an innovative approaches to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members in a timely, meaningful and reliable way.
3. To determine appropriate advocacy to various levels of government for increased access to services and reduction of barriers to these services
4. To make recommendations for local and/or immediate action focused programs that meet people where they are at to provide person-centred health and wrap-around care to improve health outcomes and health equity of individuals who experience barriers in access to health and social services in Grey County.

Governance roles and responsibilities:

Grey County does not have a direct role in the provision of mental health or substance use treatment. However, the lack of appropriate treatment and support services has a direct impact on services that the County is responsible for, including paramedic services, social services and housing and homelessness. The Task Force will work with other levels of government to seek out greater access to mental health and substance use disorder services, funding options and solutions to assist in the development of a local strategy aimed at prioritizing short and long-term solutions for Grey County

residents. The Task Force will also work with public stakeholders to examine current and future opportunities and gaps to accessing these services.

Membership

Membership on the Task Force will remain the same for the duration of the council term, or until the end of its mandate, whichever comes first.

Members include:

- 5 County Councillors plus the Warden

Council Members of the Mental Health and addictions Task Force have been appointed by Council per Resolution CW_____. Any vacancies that may arise will be filled by Council appointment.

- 5 Public Stakeholders

Public stakeholders will include:

- Phil Dodd, Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services
- Clark MacFarlane, Canadian Mental Health Association
- Naomi Vodden, Grey Bruce Health Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Member of the Peer Advisory Network, Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy to be confirmed at a later date following discussion at the Taskforce table
- Member of the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit, to be confirmed

Each Member will:

1. Exercise the care, diligence, and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.
2. Become informed in the area of mental health and addiction support services.
3. Take necessary measures to ensure that the corporation complies with legislation.
4. Be committed to achieving and maintaining the vision, mission, and values of Grey County.

Chair and Vice Chair

The Task Force will elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the first meeting, and they will retain these positions for the council term, or until the task force has met its mandate, whichever comes first.

Advice to Council

The Task Force shall make recommendations to Council, for which Council retains the decision-making role.

Lead Staff

Director of Social Services with support from the Director of Community Services and Director of Paramedic Services as required.

Subject Matter Experts

- Alison Govier, Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Darren Clock, Paramedic Services

Meetings

The Task Force will meet at the call of the Chair.

Quorum

A quorum is more than 50% of the membership of the Task force.

Statutory Authority

The Task Force is guided by Grey County's Procedural By-law, Council's Code of Conduct, Provincial Acts and regulations, and other Grey County Policies as applicable.

Reporting Relationship

The Task Force reports to Grey County Committee of the Whole