



Committee Report

To:	Chair O'Leary and Members of the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force
Committee Date:	August 9, 2022
Subject / Report No:	CAOR-MHAT-08-22
Title:	Draft Report Summary and Recommendations
Prepared by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	

Recommendation

1. **That report CAOR-MHAT-08-22 Draft Report Summary and Recommendations be received; and**
2. **That the Task Force provide feedback on the draft recommendations for inclusion in the final report; and**
3. **That a meeting to consider the final report be scheduled in October 2022.**

Executive Summary

The goal of the Mental Health and Addictions Taskforce is to examine the current system of treatment and support for those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders and consider recommendations for a local response strategy. This strategy aims to identify immediate and longer-term priorities designed to support the development of mental health supports and harm reduction strategies for Grey County residents.

Background and Discussion

This report provides a summary of the proceedings of the Mental Health and Addictions Taskforce and draft recommendations that would form the basis of a strategy for system improvements. Taskforce members are asked to review the information below and propose additions or amendments.

Draft Executive Summary

Grey County's Mental Health and Addictions Task Force (MHATF) was struck to examine the current system of treatment and support for those suffering from mental health and substance

use disorders, the challenges faced by those needing services, and opportunities for the County to work with service providers to support improvements. Building on the earlier work done as part of developing the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and the Hanover Owen Sound Taskforce, MHATF was to consider recommendations for a local response strategy. This strategy was to identify immediate and longer-term actions aiding in the development of greater supports and harm reduction strategies for Grey County residents, for consideration by Grey County Council.

The MHATF heard from a broad cross section of stakeholders in seven meetings over five months from March to July 2022. Each of the 22 presenters described their organization's role in service delivery and the challenges they face. In addition, the task force reviewed media releases related to provincial investment in Addiction Services in Peterborough and Sudbury and Funding for Grey Bruce Health Services through the Addictions Recovery Fund. The TVO The Agenda episode [What Does Poverty Look Like in Ontario](#) was also shared.

The task force heard that the prevalence and complexity of mental health issues and substance use is growing. This is impacting the County's delivery of housing, social services, and paramedic services. Member municipalities hear concerns from their residents and are challenged to respond to the crises of homelessness, food insecurity and property crime.

Presenters consistently stated that people who are suffering deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, building in them both hope and accountability. Everyone has strengths to be built on. Improved outcomes for individuals and communities will come from taking a holistic approach (individual, family, community) and include the perspectives of those with lived experience. People need a basic income, stable housing, food, and access to health care for counselling or other treatments to succeed. Early intervention is another key to successful treatment, and supporting youth and families is critical to reducing the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

The MHATF heard about many barriers in the current service delivery environment. For the client group, these include the high incidence of extreme poverty, lack of connectivity preventing access to online resources, very limited access to safe, affordable housing or overnight shelter on a temporary basis, and lack of transportation. The lack of treatment and housing options leaves people publicly struggling which breeds fear and stigma in the community. The current system is felt to focus too much on emergency needs rather than prevention. An opportunity for referrals to non-OHIP covered services to get faster treatment was identified.

The support providers are challenged by siloed and restricted funding, needs that exceed the funds available, dependence upon fundraising to meet the needs, a shortage of health human resources (especially those with specific mental health training), and a lack of centralized case management system accessible to all providers.

Findings from the presentations can be summarized under six themes, all of which are interrelated.

- Data and analysis to support planning and reporting
- Community development
- Mental health services
- Support for youth and families
- Addiction services

- Housing

Recommendations for Immediate County Action

- Create a Community Services Committee of Council to continue the task force work
- Request additional funding for supportive housing staffing at 14th St.
- Request additional mental health resources in the school system from the province
- Bring forward a capital funding request from Keystone for Council consideration funded through healthcare initiatives reserve
- Gather data to support advocacy at all levels of government and highlight the community’s specific and unique needs
- Advocate that the Ministry of Health appoint a dedicated coordinator focused solely on the provincial response to the opioid emergency.
- Request the province undertakes an ‘all of government’ effort to develop a comprehensive provincial drug strategy that addresses the opioid overdose emergency
- Obtain base funding to maintain street-level active outreach (SOS) on permanently

Recommendations for Longer Term County Action

- Create a social infrastructure master plan that builds from the Community Safety and Well Being plan, identifies assets and services and any gaps, establishes service benchmarks, forecasts future requirements and goals for investment/improvement
- Continue to implement County’s 10-year housing and homelessness plan to address the lack of appropriate or affordable housing stock.
- Create long-term emergency shelter spaces.
- Confirm the County’s role in the provision of supportive housing.
- Consider the role of Grey County in the Ontario Health Team.

Some of the recommendations made by the presenters are beyond the scope of Grey County’s mandate and will require collaboration amongst service providers to achieve. If the taskforce is supportive of the intent of the recommendations, staff could work with service providers to establish a lead organization and determine any support or barriers they perceive in meeting the objective. An updated version of the table below will be prepared for the final report.

Recommendation	LEAD	TIMING	Comments
<p><u>Data and Analysis/ Planning and Resources</u></p> <p>Continue to refine the newly adopted protocol by Grey County Paramedic Services to track opioid incidents to establish a baseline and monitor trend analysis</p>	<p>Grey County</p>	<p>Initiated and ongoing</p>	

<p>Map out existing in-community mental health and addictions services, how they inter-relate (hand-offs), and their program evaluation and outcome metrics. Identify collective impact and service gaps.</p> <p>Identify resource sharing/collaboration opportunities to support non-for-profits in program implementation and service delivery.</p> <p>Engage Ontario Health Team to provide a holistic view of service planning and the potential for centralized case management.</p> <p>Gather data to support advocacy at all levels of government and highlight the community's specific and unique needs</p> <p>Advocate that the Ministry of Health appoint a dedicated coordinator focused solely on the provincial response to the opioid emergency. Request province undertakes an 'all of government' effort to develop a comprehensive provincial drug strategy that addresses the opioid overdose emergency.</p> <p>Facilitate collaboration between organizations to identify common skills in short supply, build a plan to develop these HHR, and secure funding to recruit.</p>	TBD	TBD	Part of Community Services Master Plan. Could be used by OHT planning table.
	TBD	TBD	Part of Community Services Master Plan
	OHT Planning Table	TBD	
	Grey County	Ongoing	
	Grey County	Immediate	
	OHT	Immediate	
<u>Improvements to Mental Health Services</u>			
Seek support for additional HHR in substance psychosis, eating disorders, and autism, geriatric	GBHS	TBD	

<p>and happy communities in order to promote positive mental health and well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and support the work of the Poverty Taskforce and the Drug and Alcohol Taskforce • Create Community Services Master Plan to work towards building long term infrastructure within the community to address current and future needs. 			
<p><u>Supports for Youth</u></p> <p>Obtain support to implement additional pediatric mental health beds at Grey Bruce Health Services</p> <p>Support the expansion of live-in intensive treatment for youth by assisting with moving Keystone facility to the main office location.</p> <p>Pursue additional resources and staffing within the school system (School Mental Health Ontario) and beyond.</p> <p>Improve access to family counselling resources</p>	<p>GBHS and OHT</p> <p>Grey County</p> <p>School boards</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>TBD</p>	
<p><u>Improvements to Addiction Services</u></p> <p>Work with community partners to expand harm reduction outreach services, i.e., create safe spaces for people who may be using drugs and for staff</p> <p>Make harm reduction training</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>PHU</p>		

<p>available to staff of agencies, governments, boards, etc.</p> <p>Advocate to the province to support safer supply initiatives</p> <p>Connect SOS to the Canadian Mental Health Association New Directions program</p>	<p>PHU</p> <p>CMHA</p>		
<p>Housing</p> <p>Develop long term plan to provide housing with supports</p> <p>Continue to implement the County's 10-year housing and homelessness plan to address lack of appropriate or affordable housing stock</p> <p>Create emergency shelter spaces</p>	<p>CMHA</p> <p>Grey</p> <p>Grey</p>		

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None with this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

None with this report.

Grey County has created Healthcare Initiatives Funding Reserve that sets aside of .75 of 1% of the annual levy to support capital investments (\$467,600 in 2022) in healthcare projects.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal:
 - Kevin McNab – Grey County Paramedic Services
 - Anne Marie Shaw, Josh Gibson, and Caitlyn Currie – Coordinated Access and By Names List

☒ External:

- Phil Dodd - Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services
- Naomi Vodden - Grey Bruce Health Services
- Clark MacFarlane, Stephanie Burley, Felisha Hunter, Scott McKay - Canadian Mental Health Association
- Dr. Arra and Dr. Zayed - Grey Bruce Public Health Unit
- Francesca Dobbyn – Executive Director, United Way Bruce Grey
- Jill Umbach – Poverty Task Force
- Tanya Roberts – Community Safety and Well Being Plan Coordinator
- Brenda Lawson (Agent, Public Prosecution Service of Canada)
- Matt Shute (YMCA Community and Employment Services)
- Summer Kueneman, Mental Health Lead – Bluewater District School Board
- Dave Roy, Manager of Mental Health Services – Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
- Supportive Outreach Services -SOS-Grey County Paramedic Services, Robyn Nocilla and Dr. Cox
- Sandra McLay – Winters – Peer Advisory Group
- Joanne Young – Community Living Owen Sound and District

Appendices and Attachments

None