



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 22, 2022
Subject / Report No:	SSR-MHATF-03-22
Title:	Workplan Report for Mental Health and Addictions Task Force
Prepared by:	Barb Fedy
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	County-wide initiative
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Task Force as presented; Endorsed by Committee of the Whole March 10, 2022 per CW40-22; Endorsed by County Council March 24, 2022 per Resolution CC27-22

Recommendation

1. That Report SSR-MHATF-03-22 regarding the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force Workplan be received; and
2. That subject to the Task Force's input and direction, the workplan be updated and brought back to the next meeting for adoption.

Executive Summary

At the February 10, 2022, Committee of the Whole, Report CCR-CW-02-22 regarding the Terms of Reference for the Mental Health and Addictions Task Force was approved. Membership of the Task Force was confirmed, with the goal of the task force to examine the current system of treatment and support for those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders. A draft workplan has been developed that proposes topics to be covered and presenters. This should be further developed with a discussion of key questions to be addressed. After considering the information presented, the task force will develop recommendations 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 workplan is included in this report for consideration.

Background and Discussion

The rising prevalence of mental health challenges and substance use disorders, combined with reported lack of access to local treatment and support options is significantly impacting Grey County communities and services. As previously determined, the task force will engage with treatment providers and others who support those suffering from mental health and substance use disorders to understand their challenges and opportunities for improvement. 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.

Building From the Hanover Owen Sound Task Force

Gaps and opportunities related to mental health and addictions were identified through the work of the Hanover Owen Sound Task Force (HOSTF) in 2021. The mental health and addictions section of the workplan coming out of the HOSTF Report identified opportunities/actions which could be considered and built upon by this group:

Mental Health and Addiction Opportunities

- a) Continue to refine the newly adopted protocol by Grey County Paramedic Services to track opioid incidents to establish a baseline and monitor trend analysis
- b) Map out existing mental health and addictions services offered throughout Grey Bruce Communities & identify service delivery gaps and collaboration opportunities
- c) Further explore urban design concepts that prioritizes creating healthy and happy communities
- d) Implement the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
- e) Explore funding & resource avenues to implement additional pediatric beds at Grey Bruce Health Services
- f) Identify resource sharing opportunities to support non-for-profits in program implementation and service delivery
- g) Move forward with the Calls to Action identified in [Report SSR-CW-02-22](#) by positioning Grey County programs and services within the larger provincial and federal policy context.

Proposed Workplan

The following provides an outline of the proposed workplan for the Task Force. It identifies topics and potential community partners for each meeting to assist with the development of some identifiable outcomes for the Task Force.

These recommendations provide the Addictions and Mental Health Task Force a solid starting point to launch key discussions for actions for Council to consider. Given the growing sense of urgency to address the mental health and substance use concerns that have been raised, the following meeting topics and participant schedule is being proposed:

- **February** - Roundtable discussion of the workplan, Alison Govier from Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy re peer support member
- **March** - Mental Health, Addiction Support and Harm Reduction providers including CMHA, GBHS, Keystone

- **April** – Community Social Supports, including Poverty Task Force, United Way, Salvation Army, Y Housing and Employment and Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning
- **May** – First Responders health lens including Paramedic Services, Primary Care and other Health Care Professionals. Justice Sector, including Youth and Adult Probation and Parole
- **June** – Supportive Housing including members of the Homelessness Response Table such as CMHA, Safe'n Sound, Community Living, Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, Grey Bruce Health Services, M'Wikwedong Friendship Centre and Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None

Financial and Resource Implications

There will be normal mileage costs associated for members of this Task Force. In accordance with the current policy, Council members will receive per diems. All costs will be included in the annual Council operating budget. In addition, it is the intent of the Task Force to identify sources of funding for the initiatives determined to improve access to services for residents in need. These could include applications for provincial and federal funding programs, grant programs as well as contributions from the County of Grey.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal
- External

Appendices and Attachments