



City of Hamilton
SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Meeting #: 22-01
Date: January 7, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall
All electronic meetings can be viewed at:
City's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Lisa Maychak, Senior Manager, Age-Friendly City (905) 546-2424 ext. 1721

Pages

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

1.1. Land Acknowledgement

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

2.1. January 7, 2022

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1. December 3, 2021

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5. COMMUNICATIONS

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

7. CONSENT ITEMS

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS

9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 9.1. Aine Leadbetter, Manager of Elections, City of Hamilton 13
- 9.2. Aref Alshaikhahmed, SAC Member, Elder Abuse 23

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1. Working Groups

- 10.1.a. Getting Around Hamilton Working Group
- 10.1.b. Elder Abuse Working Group
- 10.1.c. Housing Working Group
- 10.1.d. Communications Working Group

10.2. Working Committees

- 10.2.a. Age-Friendly Plan Governance Committee
- 10.2.b. Older Adult Network
- 10.2.c. International Day of Older Persons Committee
- 10.2.d. McMaster Institute for Research on Aging
- 10.2.e. Ontario Health Coalition
- 10.2.f. Our Future Hamilton Update
- 10.2.g. Senior of the Year Award

11. MOTIONS

- 11.1. Amendment of Motion - "Let's Get Walking" workshops

12. NOTICES OF MOTION**13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1. Updates

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

15. ADJOURNMENT



Hamilton

**Seniors Advisory
Committee**

Minutes

December 3, 2021

10:00am – 12:00pm

Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

In Attendance:

Penelope Petrie (Chair), Aref Alshaikhahmed, Sheryl Boblin, Jeanne Mayo, Maureen McKeating, Barry Spinner, Douglas Stone, Marian Toth, Marjorie Wahlman, Ann Elliott, Kamal Jain, Dahlia Petgrave, Carolann Fernandes, David Broom, Sarah Shallwani, Noor Nizam

Also, in Attendance:

Lisa Maychak, Project Manager, Healthy & Safe Communities Department
Kim VanderMeulen, Program Secretary, Healthy & Safe Communities
Sonya Baldwin, Program Secretary, Healthy & Safe Communities
Tom Jackson, City Councilor, City of Hamilton
Megan Lynch, Manager, Greater Hamilton Health Network

Absent with Regrets:

Maureen McKeating, Sonya Baldwin

Absent:

Vince Mercuri, Dahlia Petgrave

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

Land Acknowledgement presented by A. Elliott

P. Petrie has volunteered to read the Land Acknowledgement at the next meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

(D.Broom/M/Wahlman)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the December 3, 2021 agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

M. Wahlman stated that on page 3 of the November 5, 2021 minutes under Working Groups (Elder Abuse) it should read: "They will be inviting Catholic Family services to attend a working group meeting to speak."

D. Broom stated that under the Working Groups (Communications) his surname is stated as "Bloom" and should read: "Broom."

(D. Broom/M. Wahlman)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the November 5, 2021 minutes.

CARRIED

5. CONSENT ITEMS

- 7.1** Received the All Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2021

6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)

- (i)** Megan Lynch, Manager of Priority Populations, Greater Hamilton Health Network

M. Lynch presented on the Ontario Health Teams strategy for Hamilton and their strategic priorities. The Seniors Advisory committee was given an opportunity for a question and answer period following the presentation. M. Lynch will provide an application to be distributed to the committee for interest to be a patient advisor on the stakeholder group.

(ii) International Federation on Ageing Conference

S. Boblin and J. Mayo presented on the International Federation Conference they attended that took place virtually November 9-12, 2021.

(C. Fernandes/ A. Alshaikhahmed)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee receive the presentations by Megan Lynch, Greater Hamilton Health Network and members S. Boblin and J. Mayo, Seniors Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**(i) Working Groups (Item 10.1)****(a) Getting Around Hamilton Working Group**

J. Mayo reported that the committee is planning a "Let's Get Walking" workshop planned for February and March 2022. There is a plan for five presentations in total and an opportunity for feedback from participants on problem walking areas in their neighbourhood. The hope is that between 10-15 people will attend each workshop. There is also a plan to provide a \$5 gift card from Tim Hortons for each participant. The City of Hamilton, Recreation Division has offered five various sites around Hamilton for free and will provide Covid-19 screening and a water station. The publicity and registration will be done by the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) for each workshop. HCoA had applied to the Ministry of Seniors for a grant to cover the workshops but unfortunately was not chosen. At this point it is unclear what the cost for publicity and registration will be.

Member B. Spinner offered to personally donate \$1000.00 towards the "Let's Get Walking" workshops in 2022.

(b) Elder Abuse Working Group

A. Alshaikhahmed reported that he shared a presentation with the committee on elder abuse and after discussing, it was recommended by the committee that it be presented at the next Senior Advisory Committee meeting. The group had a discussion on the importance of communication with organizations and centres and that their programs include elder abuse and creating a network. The purpose of this network is to explore strengths and weaknesses of addressing elder abuse and the changes faced as well as strategies. For example, there is an approach called mediation that could be implemented when police are not involved, and the abuser is a family member.

Discussion of finding a website that is specific to seniors where all information is available in one place. Andrea McLaughlin, Seniors Support Officer with Hamilton Police Services indicated that she is currently working on this issue and will update progress at the next meeting.

The Hamilton Public Library's Redbook has added seniorshamilton.ca, which is an online guide titled "Community Resources in Hamilton for Older Adults". Other elder abuse website information can also be found at Ontario Human Rights Commission and Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

During the discussion, the abuse that has been carried out in long-term care homes was mentioned. A. McLaughlin clarified that if there are avenues in the long-term care home it should be reported and if criminal charges are not laid it does not mean nothing has been done about it. There are many factors in place such as victims not wanting a charge to be laid.

(c) Housing Working Group

November's meeting was cancelled due to a conflict with the Extreme Heat Working Group Meeting hosted by Andrea McDowell, Project Manager of Hamilton's Air Quality and Climate Change. J. Mayo and M. Toth attended this meeting. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the survey to be given to residents of four downtown City Housing buildings to determine needs and see how those needs could be addressed. The survey was developed by McMaster students

and will be tweaked by the committee. The second discussion was around how to roll out the survey and what incentives could be provided to enhance compliance to filling out and returning the survey.

Lauren McAusland of Mohawk College and from The Bay Area Climate Change Council Retrofit Education for Seniors was invited to attend our Housing Working Group meeting this month. This group has started a market education campaign to inform residents about home energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits that can help reduce energy consumption and costs. Her group would appreciate any suggestions or guidance on who they should approach to discuss displaying these materials at community and senior centres in Hamilton. We have much to learn from her as we continue with our discussions on heat mitigation issues as they apply to seniors.

(d) Communication Working Group

D. Broom reported that the group continued to discuss the benefits of the Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) which is operated by the Hamilton Public Library. Staff with the BBL will email all organizations in the guide "Community Resources in Hamilton for Older Adults in January, encouraging them to become members of the BBL network.

February 11, 2022 is 211 day and it was discussed that a recommendation be made to the City to fly a banner.

L. Maychak stated that banners can be costly and suggested utilizing the City's two digital signs (City Hall and Gage Park) to promote 211 Day on February 11, 2022. All agreed to this idea. L. Maychak to consult with the City's Communications staff to see if this is possible.

City program Senior Centre Without Walls is available that offers free fitness, art programs and workshops over the phone to residents 55 years and older to help deal with isolation. The Communications Working Group will begin working on a flyer for SAC which will be discussed at a future meeting.

(ii) Working Committees (Item 10. 2)

(a) Age Friendly Plan - Governance Committee

A. Elliott reported that the committee is moving along and that there are now two goal champions in place for each of the seven goals. Working on getting more organizations to link up with the Age-Friendly Plan. The goal champions gave their reports.

(b) Older Adult Network

There are no updates at this time.

(c) International Day of Older Persons Committee

There are no updates at this time.

(d) McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

There are no updates from this committee.

(e) Ontario Health Coalition

C. Fernandes will continue to send the committee email updates through L. Maychak.

(f) Our Future Hamilton Update

There are no updates from this committee.

(g) Senior of the Year Award

There are no updates from this committee.

8. MOTIONS

(i) Let's Get Walking Workshop

(J. Mayo/S. Boblin)

J. Mayo proposes a motion that the Senior Advisory

Committee (SAC) is to fund up to \$500.00 to cover the publicity and registration costs for the 2022 "Let's Get Walking" in-person workshops from the Senior Advisory Committee's 2022 budget.

CARRIED

9. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

(i) 211 Day

L. Maychak to look into placing a banner at City Hall for 211 Day on Feb 11, 2022, but also to look at an alternate possibility of utilizing the digital signs at City Hall or Gage Park to create messages as well as using social media.

(ii) Councilor Jackson Updates

Councilor Jackson provided the following updates to the committee:

- The Truck Route study is currently ongoing and available on the Engage Hamilton website. Staff and consultants have been asked to report back after more consultation. There is still plenty of time for community feedback.
- Have not heard back anything yet from the province on the City's ask for a 27-million-dollar renovation and expansion of the D wing. The plan is that the current 44 beds in D wing are to be demolished and a new wing would be built with 64 new beds.
- Water rate budget was approved at about a 4.9% increase. This will go towards upgrading the Woodward Avenue treatment plant, rehabilitation of Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise and the Kenilworth reservoir of contaminated soil.

- Capital budget approved of 6.5% increase for upgrades to roadwork, sidewalks, public transit investment, recreation centers and arenas. Currently waiting on Council's ratification.
- Senior's tax rebate and a full tax deferral program is available to seniors pending income and home market value assessment.

10. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(M. Wahlman/D. Broom)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee be adjourned at 12:14p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting: January 7, 2021



2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Poll Locations, Planning for Accessibility, and
Communications

January 7, 2022

Our Last Conversation:

- Share information about potential 2022 Alternative Voting Methods (Vote by Mail)
- Group feedback and advice for 2022
- Discussion on poll locations
- Enhance customer service training and resources to assist election workers

Our Conversation Today:

- Review draft Poll Location selection criteria / Provide Feedback
- Discuss enhanced communications
- Engage Hamilton Survey update

Previous Criteria and Approach to Poll Locations (2018):

- AODA compliant facilities; prioritize Municipal or School locations
- Aligned with Elections Canada, Elections Ontario
- Endeavour to use familiar locations, as much as possible
- HSR access wherever possible
- DARTS access and Front-of-the-Line service
- Curbside Voting
- Training resources for Election Workers on available processes for accommodation

Updated Poll Location Criteria and Approach (2022):

- Meet 2018 Standards with enhancements
- Enhanced wayfinding where needed (e.g. signage, customer service staff)
- Enhanced description of Poll Location in Assessment Criteria
- Consultative Election planning / Community Outreach
- Enhanced Communication and Sharing of Poll information in advance
- Plan for Public Health guidance

Poll Assessments

Preliminary Poll locations have been identified

Staff will be going out to conduct assessments on the potential poll locations

Draft assessment criteria has been established

Assessment information on locations will be made available

Election Communication & Outreach:

Communication and notices of key dates in the Municipal Election are commonly shared through:

- Local Newspapers
- Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook)
- Local news networks (Media Releases)

What else could we do to enhance communication?

Where else could communications be shared to ensure information barriers are removed?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



**Voter
experience**



 
engage.hamilton.ca

Thank you to all who participated!



Hamilton

THANK YOU

Elder Abuse



Fall 2021

Aref Alshaikhahmed

Why did I develop this presentation?

- 1.** I personally saw some of them suffer.
- 2.** Elder abuse is a serious and growing problem, although the magnitude and extent of the elder abuse cases occurring in Canada is not well known, due to limited data collected and unreported cases*.

3. The number of seniors in Canada is increasing.

- ❑ According to Statistics Canada 2017, eight million or 25% of the population will be over the age of 65 by 2031.
- ❑ According to Hamilton 2016 Census Data the total population is 745,545 with 31% age 55+.

Another Example

Laura Tamblyn Watts, chief executive officer of CanAge, a national seniors' advocacy organization says:

"It is a catastrophe of elder abuse right now,"

"It is a crisis state."

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO), an organization dedicated to raising awareness about the issue, has not seen significant funding increases in more than a decade.

Findings from the survey

“Although public and professional information campaigns to raise awareness about elder abuse are reported in many countries, elder abuse is one of the least investigated types of violence in national surveys, and one of the least addressed in national action plans.”

What is Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse is defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

Elder Abuse also means

- ❑ “The deliberate mistreatment of an adult that causes physical, mental or emotional harm,” or
- ❑ “Financial damage or loss to the adult, and includes intimidation, humiliation, physical assault, sexual assault, overmedication, withholding needed medication, censoring mail, invasion or denial of privacy, denial of access to visitors, or denial of use or possession of personal property.”

Elder Abuse Includes

1. Physical,
2. Sexual,
3. Psychological, Spiritual, Emotional,
4. Financial and material abuse,
5. Neglect
6. Abandonment or Confinement.
7. Chemical, and
8. Serious loss of dignity and respect

However

The Long-Term Care Homes Act (S. 2(1)) identifies five types of abuse in relation to a person admitted to and living in a long-term care home:

1. physical,
2. sexual,
3. emotional,
4. verbal or
5. financial abuse.

Neglect

“Neglect includes situations where a person or organization fails to provide services or necessary care for an older adult.”

Signs of Elder Abuse

- ❑ Serious physical injuries,
- ❑ Poor hygiene, bedsores,
- ❑ Anxiety, depression, fear, isolation and confinement
- ❑ Malnutrition or dehydration
- ❑ Weight loss or misuse of medication
- ❑ Lack of food or other necessities.
- ❑ Confusion about new legal documents, such as a new will.
- ❑ Sudden drop in cash flow or financial holdings.
- ❑ Reluctance to speak about the situation.

Even Though

Elder abuse is considered as a human rights violation under Ontario's Human Rights Code of 1962, potential insecurity is still there.

“When older people are the most vulnerable, they become a lot more dependent very quickly on family members, friends, neighbors etc. and you can start imagining how that really opens them up to becoming easy targets or easy prey,”

“Said Samir Sinha, director of geriatrics at Mount Sinai and the University Health Network hospitals in Toronto.”

Why so few older adults report Elder Abuse?

Many older adults

- "May not understand the protection of Human Rights."
- "May not recognize the signs, that Elder Abuse is occurring."
- "May fear a worse situation by disclosing the abuse."
- May be unaware of the options available to them."

Other reasons for the underreported Elder Abuse or Neglect

Many older adults may

- ❑ Have some cognitive or physical limitations.
- ❑ Have literacy or language problems.
- ❑ Feel dependent on the abuser as a caregiver, friend or family member and fear retaliation.
- ❑ Don't know where to turn to for help especially when dependence is coupled with isolation.

Who Commits Abuse

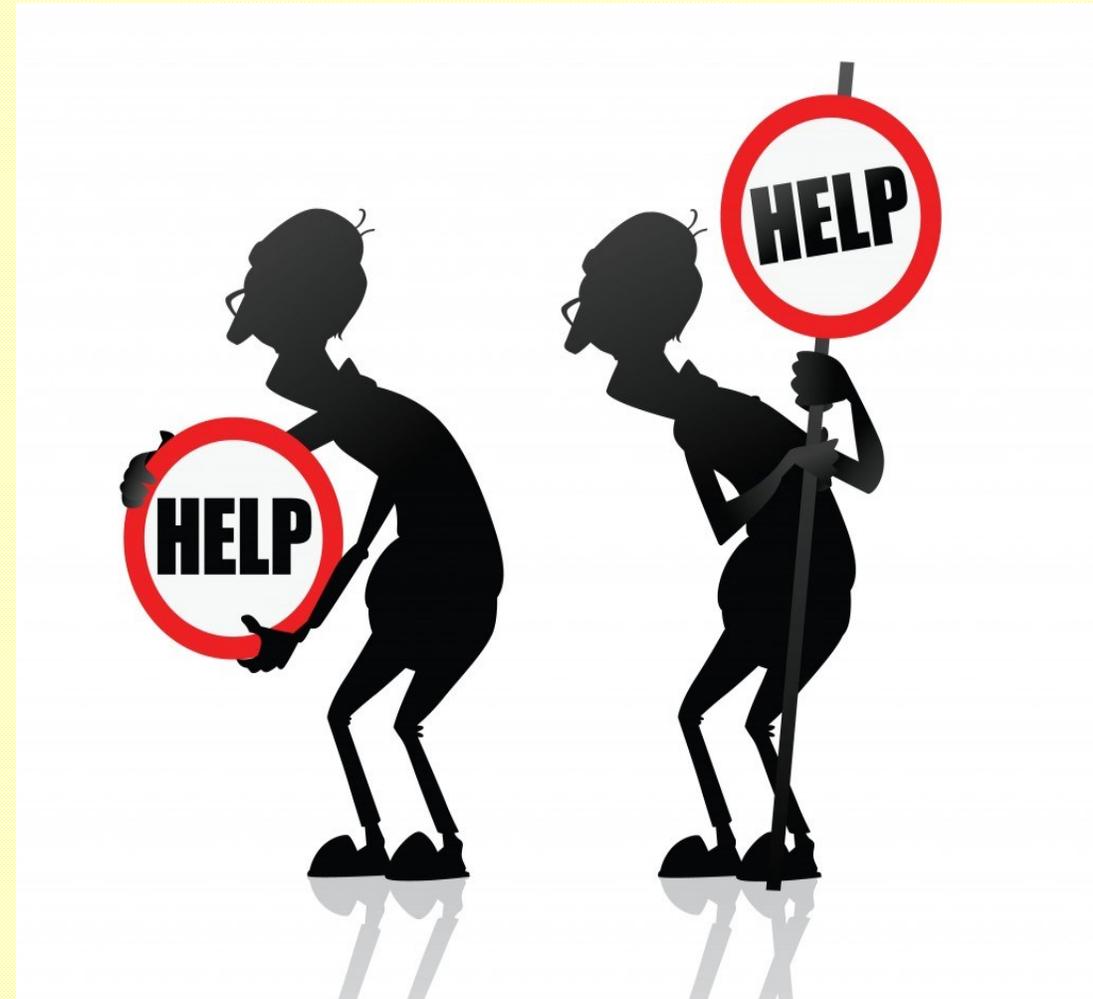
- Most often the abuser is a loved one or a person the older adult trusts.
- It occurs at home and in care facilities.
- It could happen anywhere.
- It could be one incident or an ongoing action.

Be Aware that

The most important step towards preventing elder abuse is to recognize that no one should be subjected to abusive, neglectful, humiliating and violent behaviour – no matter the age.

Expectations

When you put your loved person in a nursing home, you expect that they're going to get the right care. And when they don't, it's time to get justice.



Long-Term Care Homes Act (s. 1)

The fundamental principle of this act is that:

“A long-term care home is primarily the home of its residents and is to be operated so that it is a place where they may live with dignity and in security, safety and comfort and have their physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cultural needs adequately met.”

Laws and Legislations Protecting Older Adults

- **Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007**
- There are provisions in the Act to protect residents from elder abuse, including the duty to protect, promoting zero tolerance of abuse and reporting. Details of the legislation are available in [Section 19 Prevention of Abuse and Neglect.](#)

Long Term Care ACTION Line

If you suspect or have evidence that elder abuse is taking place in the Long-Term Care Home, it is mandatory to report it with the exception of residents themselves (who have a choice in the matter). The Long-Term Care Homes Act (s.24) states if a person who has reasonable grounds to suspect abuse has occurred or may occur shall immediately report the suspicion and the information to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Director.

Is elder abuse and neglect a crime?

Sometimes, elder abuse and neglect can result in criminal acts.

“The Criminal Code¹ applies to all adults, regardless of the age of the victim. However, “There is no specific crime of elder abuse”.”

People who commit crimes that involved elder abuse are charged with crimes such as:

- ❑ Physical assault (s. 265)
- ❑ Sexual assault (s. 271) •
- ❑ Uttering threats (s. 264.1.)
- ❑ Unlawful confinement (s. 279)
- ❑ Failing to provide the necessaries of life (s. 215)
- ❑ Theft (s. 334) • fraud (s. 380)

What can the police do?

Concerns about suspected or actual abuse should be reported to the police for investigation. A person reporting abuse may remain anonymous, however, it is often useful for the police to have a contact number in case they require some clarifying information.

What can the police do?

Police can lay Criminal Code charges if they have reasonable grounds to believe a crime has been committed. Additional support can be provided by the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services (VCARS) and/ or the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP).

Many police departments have officers who specialize in seniors' issues, sometimes referred to as Seniors Support Officers (SSO) who are well informed about abuse.

Preventive approaches

Strategies to prevent elder abuse include efforts to raise professional awareness and train practitioners; inform the public about how to identify the signs and symptoms of elder abuse and where help can be obtained and improving policies and practices in residential care facilities for elderly people. This is really a critical gap to fill.

Strategic Action

Ontario is the first province in Canada to introduce a strategy to combat elder abuse. The strategy's three key priorities are:

1. Coordinating community resources.
2. Training for service providers.
3. Raising awareness through public education

The Ministry of Seniors Affairs is leading the implementation of Ontario's Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse in partnership with [Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario](#), a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to the prevention of elder abuse and neglect.

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. What the relevant Agencies are going to do?

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario has [resources](#) to help in planning events to raise awareness in our communities.



Elder Abuse Prevention (ON)

Stop Abuse - Restore Respect

Prévention de la maltraitance envers les aînés (ON)

Arrêtez les mauvais traitements - Restaurez le respect

Whom you can call

Hamilton Police Services: Senior Support

Central SSO: [905-540-5351](tel:905-540-5351)

East-End SSO: [905-546-2945](tel:905-546-2945)

Mountain SSO: [905-546-891](tel:905-546-891)

[Hamilton Police SSO website](#)

[Senior Safety Line Website](#)

Catholic Family Services of
Hamilton

Call: [905-527-3823](tel:905-527-3823)

Senior Safety Line

Call: [1-866-299-1011](tel:1-866-299-1011)

[Senior Safety Line Website](#)

[Seniors Crime Stoppers Website](#)

Call: [1-800-222-8477](tel:1-800-222-8477)

Emergency Services

Call: [911](tel:911)