



# Hamilton

**MINUTES  
FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, January 12, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.,  
Good Shepherd Centre  
143 Wentworth St. S., Hamilton**

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**Present:** Chair: Don Jaffray  
Vice-Chair: Alexander Ramirez  
Members: Carmen Salciccioli, Denise Arkell, Fernando Forero, Medora Uppal, Maria Christina Pelaez; Thayra Marting, Linda Ense and Robert Foster

**Absent with**

**Regrets:** Loretta Hill-Finamore, Anne Wilson, Larry Huibers,

**Also Present:** Molly Elliott, Senior Policy Analyst and Michele Attard (minute taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division; Rob Mastroianni, Supervisor Residential Care Facilities; Carolin Anderson, Program Manager/Employment and Income Support Division; and Miranda Borisenko, MCSS

**Guests:** Sister Nancy Sullivan, Out of the Cold Program

**1. WELCOME**

Don welcomed Sister Nancy to the meeting introductions were made around the table.

**2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Discussion: - item #7.4 – The Women’s Planning Collaborative

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Declarations of Conflict of Interest)**

None

**CARRIED**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING  
(Carmen Salciccioli/Denise Arkell/Carried)**

Food & Shelter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated November 10, 2011 were approved as presented.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Sister Nancy Sullivan – Out of the Cold Program**

Sister Nancy gave an overview of the Out of the Cold Program which serves hot meals to men, women and families in need through several Churches in Hamilton.

The program serves hot meals six days a week from 5:15 to 6:30 pm.

Sister Nancy expressed her concerns around the women in the community that are sleeping on the streets.

Don thanked Nancy for the presentation and asked that she give members an update at a future meeting.

**Action:**

**City staff will follow up with Sister Nancy to schedule a date one year from now for the presentation**

**5.2 Rob Mastroianni – Emergency Shelters**

Rob distributed a Hostel Listing, Residential Care Facilities List and a Shelter – Voluntary Direct Payment Request Form for member's information.

Rob explained the difference between an Emergency Shelter and a Residential Care Facility;

Residential care facilities are any residential complexes which are occupied by residents for the purpose of receiving 24 hour care services. Residential care facilities include geriatric care homes (retirement homes), psychiatric care homes and homes for residents with developmental disabilities.

Public Health Inspectors routinely inspect all residential care facilities throughout the City of Hamilton. Their role is to provide guidance and ensure compliance with Schedule 20 of the City of Hamilton Licensing By-Law. This By-Law pertains to environmental health and safety conditions at the facility which may impact the health of the residents. Public Health Inspectors also promote and provide guidance on safe food handling practices through enforcement of the Ontario Food Premises Regulation.

There are six emergency shelters plus four shelters for women and children fleeing violence.

Mission Services, Salvation Army and Good Shepherd each operate a shelter for men in need of temporary accommodation and provide a daily hot meal. Hot meals are served for non-residents as well. A bag lunch is available; also there is a food bank. Clothing and household items are available if needed.

The Good Shepherd Mary's Place is the woman's shelter for homeless women. The Native Women's Shelter provides safe emergency shelter for all women regardless of age, ancestry, culture, place of origin or sexual orientation, with or without children, who are experiencing a crisis in their lives due to family violence, homelessness, or conflict with the law. In addition to the Native Women's Centre, Good Shepherd Martha House, Mission Services

Inasmuch House and Interval House are Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters that provide a transition house for battered/abused women and their children. Meals are provided, emergency clothing and personal needs, 7 days a week.

Good Shepherd Family Centre is an emergency for families and Good Shepherd Notre Dame House is the emergency shelter for youth - males and females ages 16 – 21. Laundry facilities and meals are provided. Additional services are provided through their resource centre from 9-5 p.m. daily. These include schooling, employment counseling, addictions counseling, and public health nurse.

Carmen will give an overview of the Men's Emergency Shelter "Blueprint" planning work at the next meeting.

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

### **6.1 Proposed Strategy for the committee on Emergency Shelters**

Proposed strategy for the committee on Emergency Shelters in Hamilton - public and private (10 min, Maria Cristina).

Alex presented the strategy on behalf of some committee member's. The proposal was that members of the committee visit shelters to get some sense of the conditions because some individuals in the community had expressed their concerns of the poor conditions of shelters in Hamilton. City staff mentioned that all the government funded shelters are regularly inspected by City Inspectors and that inspecting shelters is not the mandate of the committee. The suggestion was that maybe members could have a "walkabout" in the community to visit some of these Emergency Shelters. Members expressed interest in going on the tours.

City staff were concerned about what some of the citizen members were saying about the possible conditions of some private rooming houses calling themselves "shelters" and asked the citizen members if they could provide them with addresses of these "private shelters" in order to find out more information about these places.

It was agreed by members that some sort of communication strategy in various languages around what is an Emergency Shelter in Hamilton and also how to provide feedback or take complaints. Thayra mentioned that sometimes people have a language barrier so they are not able to express their concerns. City staff reiterated that if you have to pay for your stay in a facility then it is not a regulated emergency.

Members asked if they could have a list of subsidized and non subsidized Residential Care Facilities (private) for the next meeting.

**Action:**

**Molly will contact Cole to see about the best approach for FSAC members to do a “Walkabout” of the emergency shelters.**

**Rob will provide a complete list of Residential Care Facilities for the next meeting that shows those that are subsidized through the Dom Hostel Program and those that are not.**

**Rob will take the lead on putting together a communication type document explaining the government regulated emergency shelter options in Hamilton and what is NOT a government regulated emergency shelter. Molly will provide Rob with support in this work.**

## **6.2 Bed Bug Sub Committee**

Alex mentioned that he had been doing some research online in regards to the issues of Bed Bugs in Hamilton and found a report by Elizabeth Richardson called “Information on Actions to Control and Prevent Bed Bugs in Hamilton”. Alex mentioned that he would like to contact Dr. Richardson to find out more information on the strategies for education. Alex proposed that a sub committee working group be set up to develop a study of bed bug conditions and would like to collaborate with Housing Help Centre. City staff mentioned that Ontario Works has a Bed Bug strategy and that they would be happy to share the information with Alex. It was also suggested that Larry Huibers from Housing Help Centre make a presentation on Bed Bugs to this committee.

### **Action:**

**Carolyn and Molly will work together to connect with Larry and organize a presentation on the Bed Bug Action Committee/Bed Bug Initiative in February.**

## **6.3 Structural Organization of Committee**

Alex proposed that sub-committees be formed in order to work on the issues identified by the committee. It was suggested that tasks be assigned to members in order to be more action oriented and to have regular updates at meetings. Members thought that some great ideas were discussed and they should be discussed further and then included in the work plan with approval of the committee.

There was a question as to whether sub-committees were allowed; Molly is able to confirm that they are allowed.

# **7 INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS**

## **7.1 2011 – 2012 Work plan**

Don asked members to review the work plan and provide feedback. Also that if any members have more to include in the work plan to ask the lead person to discuss this at a future meeting so that it could be included in the draft work plan.

## 7.2 Report on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> ECS presentation

Don thanked those members who attended the presentation to council on December 7<sup>th</sup> and expressed his appreciation for the support. Members thought that Don and Alex did a great presentation and that this could be done on a semi-annual basis. Several recommendations were approved by council which is great news; allocations of \$350,000 for Emergency Food (to Dec 31, 2013), \$350,000 for Emergency Shelters (to Dec 31, 2013) and \$350,00 for the Affordable Transit Pass (to Dec 31, 2012). The remaining allocation of \$750,000 was awarded has one time funding to the Domiciliary Hostel Program.

Don informed the committee of the following direction provided to them by City Council:

On December 14, 2011, City Council approved the following:

## 10. Food and Shelter Advisory Committee Presentation respecting achievements to-date (Item 7.2)

- (a) That the presentation from Chair Don Jaffray respecting the achievements to date of the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee be received;
- (b) That the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee be directed to send correspondence, jointly with the Mayor to the Provincial and Federal Governments respecting the challenges of addressing hunger and housing issues in the City of Hamilton.

Don asked if a sub-committee could be struck in order to draft the letter. Once drafted Alex and Medora agreed to sit on the sub-committee, Molly will work with clerks to have the letter presented to the Mayor for his signature.

### Action:

**Don and the letter writing sub-committee of Medora and Alex will draft the letter to be reviewed by committee members at February's FSAC meeting. Once letter complete Molly will work with clerks to have the letter presented to the Mayor for his signature.**

## 7.3 All FSAC service member – linkages within the community

Deferred to future meeting

## 7.4 The Women's Planning Collaborative

Members from the Women's Planning Collaborative had expressed interest in becoming part of the Food & Shelter Committee. Molly asked members if they were in agreement with this.

**(Robert Foster/Alex Ramirez/Carried)**

That a member from the Women's Collaborative be appointed to the Food & Shelter Advisory Committee.

Action:

Molly will have Clerks send a letter of invitation to the Women's Homelessness Collaborative.

**8 ATTACHMENTS:**

- 8.1** Minutes from November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- 8.2** Work Plan- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> updated
- 8.3** Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 ECS Committee Presentation by FSAC
- 8.4** Report from Chair on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> FSAC presentation to ECS Committee
- 8.5** April 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Health Information Report on Bed Bugs
- 8.6** FSAC Member Contact List

**9 DISTRIBUTION DOCUMENTS:**

- 9.1** Emergency Hostel Listing
- 9.2** Shelter – Voluntary Direct Payment Request Form
- 9.3** Residential Care Facilities List (Subsidized)
- 9.4** Analytical Summary Report (by Dr. Elizabeth Richardson)
- 9.5** Utilities Arrears Program (from Carolin)

**10 NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> at Neighbour to Neighbour, 28 Athens Street.

Molly mentioned that Scott Jones from Micah House will be attending future meetings as a member.

**Action**

**City staff will invite Scott to the next meeting and ensure that he is included on the distribution list.**

**11 ADJOURNMENT**

**(Denise Arkell/Alex Ramirez/Carried)**

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:15 pm.