



Hamilton

**MINUTES
FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 8, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.,
Neighbour to Neighbour
28 Athens St., Hamilton**

Present: Chair: Don Jaffray
Vice-Chair: Alexander Ramirez
Members: Carmen Salciccioli, Medora Uppal, Scott Jones, Fernando Forero, Robert Foster, Maria Cristina Pelaez, Anne Wilson, Denise Arkell, Karen Brown and Linda Ense

Absent with

Regrets: Thayra Marting, Larry Huibers and Katherine Kalinowski

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

Guests:

1. WELCOME

Don welcomed Karen from Good Shepherd who is representing the Street Youth Planning Collaborative; introductions were made around the table.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Item 8.2 – Membership and item 8.3 – Betty Lou’s Retirement

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

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Scott Jones/Carmen Salciccioli/Carried)

Food & Shelter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated February 9, 2012 were approved as presented.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Blueprint for Emergency Shelters - Carmen Salciccioli

Carmen gave an overview of the events from 2005 to 2010 which resulted in changes within the Emergency Shelters.

In 2005 an analysis was conducted and the findings were that 145 individuals were staying in the shelters long term which resulted in 20,000 nights of stay. The blueprint was developed by a community collaborative called the Hamilton Emergency Shelter Integration and Coordination Committee (HESICC). The Blueprint was established and standards were adopted which involved case management of 24hr service in the emergency shelters. The new model improves service to clients which includes the Transitions to Homes integrated case management team to help clients maintain housing. In the first six months of operation, Transitions to Homes housed 33 people. As a result Wesley Urban Ministries closed its shelter services of 55 mats in the community in August of 2010.

There are currently 194 beds in the emergency shelters, now the wraparound service for clients involves the Hamilton Police, an Addictions Worker, a Nurse, a Recreational Therapist and Social Workers. A primary issue is there are not enough addictions services in Hamilton so that becomes a problem. Another great initiative in Hamilton is the implementation of HIFIS in the shelters which has become live on a Citirix system since February 13, 2012 where the data can be shared between the all shelter systems live in “real time”.

This Blueprint initiative has been recognized by the Canadian Urban Institute and in 2010 Hamilton Emergency Shelter Integration and Coordination Committee (HESICC) received the “Local Hero Award” for the work done with the collaborative.

Carmen told members that if they have further question to let him know and if they would like a tour of the shelter he would be happy to arrange a visit.

5.2 Challenges within the system – Anne Wilson

Anne shared her story with the committee, identifying various linkages she has to from professional, academic and personal experiences. Anne spoke of being diagnosed with illness at an early age that has in adult years put her in a position of requiring the support of many parts of Hamilton’s social & health systems and policies. Anne was a PhD candidate in the field of politics and religion, and an addiction studies teacher ten years ago when she became disabled by a severe neuro-musculoskeletal disorder. This has led to many challenges that she continues to have to negotiate and overcome in order to live a decent quality of life. Anne is in the process of recovery and plans to return to school next year. Anne has been a foster parent, active in the social justice work of her church, and knows what it is like to have a family member with mental illness. Anne has experienced first hand how easy it is for a family with two professional incomes to become financially threatened when one income earner becomes disabled. Anne is currently co-leading a

community lunch outreach at the First Unitarian Church where a donation of \$1 is suggested.

Anne mentioned that there are gaps in the system for people with addictions and mental illness; more programs are needed and barriers to accessing programs need to be decreased.

After Anne's presentation there was further discussion about addiction and mental health services:

Carolin mentioned that Ontario Works has an addictions team which provides extensive case management to clients.

Medora mentioned that there is a Complex Care Committee and that she can ask if any members would like to do a presentation at Food and Shelter.

Robert mentioned that there is also the Hamilton Addiction and Mental Health Network that may provide information.

Action:

Medora will follow up with members of the Complex Care Committee

Robert will follow up with the Hamilton Addiction and Mental Health Network for a presentation also.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 Letter to Provincial & Federal Governments

Don read a copy of the draft letter to the Prime Minister/Premier for members' feedback. Members thought that the letter was well written and had some great information and statistics. There were a couple of suggestions to include more data regarding Refugees and the Aboriginal Community and youth. Also one member suggested including specific recommendations for solutions in the letter.

Don will make changes to the letter and set up a meeting with Mayor R. Bratina before the next meeting to get approval on the draft letter before proceeding any further.

Action:

City staff will send the draft letter to members for their feedback to Don before the next meeting. Molly will look into organizing a meeting with the Mayor. An update on this process and a final draft of the letter will be provided in April's meeting.

6.2 OMPF Update – Molly

Molly explained how previously the Ministry provided funding for services that was cost shared 80% by the Ministry and 20% by the City. Now there is an Ontario Works Policy Directive to eliminate this cost shared expense (Emergency hostel services per diem expenditures and the Ontario Works program) over the next several years to 2018 with the Provincial share to eventually be 100%.

Miranda distributed a copy of the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) directive regarding Cost Sharing for members to review.

Molly mentioned that Gillian Hendry, Directory of Housing Services would like to attend a future meeting if members have any questions regarding this change they can be addressed at that time.

Members thought this is an important issue and that they should look at how these cost savings within the City can be reallocated to social services, specifically those that meet the food and shelter needs of vulnerable people.

Action:

Members will draft a motion for the next meetings approval.

6.3 Members Speaker Sign in Sheet – Molly

Molly distributed a sign in sheet for presentations for 2012, members completed the list. Alex and Scott are presenting at the April meeting.

7 DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Work plan - Molly

Molly asked members to update the work plan for the next meeting. Molly will include Gaps in Service as a work item where Robert and Ann are the lead persons.

8 INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Housing & Action Plan Open House

An open house was held yesterday, March 7th at the Freeway Café on King St. Molly gave an update that 110 people from the community signed up for the event but even more attended, it was very well received, they received a great deal of feedback from the community. This information will be presented to Council in June as the first phase of the Action Plan.

8.2 New members for the committee - All

Anne questioned members if they saw the need for having more representation around the table regarding seniors and homeless people. Molly mentioned that if the committee feels more members need to be recruited than they need to determine if those members would be “citizen representatives” or “service system” representatives as the recruitment process is different for the different types of members. Molly also suggested the committee consider filling identified gaps with guest speakers etc. as if membership on the committee grows much more it will be difficult finding a large enough meeting space.

Alex suggested it would be good to have this conversation in the context of developing the workplan.

Action:

Members will discuss this at the meeting in April.

8.3 Retirement for Betty Lou - Rob

Rob informed members that Betty Lou Purden, Manager for Emergency Shelters Unit at the City of Hamilton is retiring and a celebration is being held at the Hamilton Yacht Club on April 2nd, from 5:00 – 9:00. Rob and Carolin have tickets for the event if anyone would like to attend.

Action:

City staff will send out the invite for Betty Lou’s retirement to members.

9 ATTACHMENTS

9.1 Minutes from Feb 9, 2012

10 DISTRIBUTION DOCUMENTS

10.1 Work Plan – updated March 8th

10.2 MCSS – Ontario Works Policy Directive

11 NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for April 12th, location to be determined

12 ADJOURNMENT

(Denise Arkell/Alex Ramirez/Carried)

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:05 pm.