



Notes

FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.,
City of Hamilton – City Hall, Room 192
71 Main St. W., Hamilton

Present: Chair: Medora Uppal
Members: Jacquie Doyle (on behalf of Connie McKnight), Larry Huibers, Karen Efron, Katherine Kalinowski, Loretta Hill Finamore and Don Jaffray

Absent with
Regrets: Denise Arkell, Carol Cowen

Also Present: Amanda DiFalco, Manager Homelessness, Nadia Zelisko, Senior Policy Analyst and Michele Attard (minute taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division; and Clair Lechner, Manager Chronic Disease Prevention

Guests: Sandy Skrzypczk and Mary Ellen Prange, Health Promotion Specialists; Public Health

1. WELCOME

Medora welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions we made around the table and thanks to Sandy and Mary Ellen for attending to conduct the consultations on the Hamilton Food Strategy.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Item 6.4 – Report to Council on Volunteer Advisory Committees, Item 6.5 – Membership and 6.6 – June 22 Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting.

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

None

4. APPROVAL OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Notes from May 14th not reviewed due to time constraints.

5. BUSINESSBUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 None

6. Hamilton Food Strategy – Sandy Skrzypczyk

6.1 Hamilton Food Strategy consultation

Sandy distributed a copy of an overview of the Hamilton's Food Strategy. This ten year plan is to improve the local food system. Food related committees and important stakeholders are being consulted, all input will be gathered, and a report will go to Council in early 2016.

Sandy asked members the following questions:

1) What do you feel are the most important food related issues that the City needs to address?

- Income issues and barriers such as transportation
- Need to pay attention to food production, agricultural land, protect and support local consumption
- Seniors accessing food
- Individuals with mental illness accessing food
- Basic fundamentals, being able to prepare food, store food, access adequate food
- Parents go without food in order to feed their children

2) What are the actions to address these issues?

- Need to improve the health of population, now have low birth rates
- Explore alternatives to deliver food to low-income individuals – before 2023, urgent need now
- Need a National approach, with the same message
- Change in government policies, advocate to all levels of government
- Bring back dignity for individuals, don't just feed people, give them choice (have means to purchase food) and life skills
- Educational system has to play a role in this

3) What do you see as Food Shelter & Housing's role in the Food Strategy?

- Identify the gaps in the short term
- Advocate to levels of government
- Look at different strategies

Sandy thanked everyone for their comments, saying that it is important that all your voices are heard.

Informing members that there are workshops online, everyone is welcome. Workshops are June 25th and July 9th, 6:00 – 9:00pm at the Waterfront Centre, 555 Bay St. N. (Good Ideas Workshop Part One and Two).

Sandy distributed a survey info card for members to conduct in their shelters – end date of survey is June 30th.

Link: www.hamilton.ca/foodstrategy

Sandy asked members to contact her if they have any further comments at email: Sandy.Skrzypczyk@hamilton.ca

6.2 Funding Gaps due to HPS/CHPI changes

Nadia distributed a draft copy of a report of the impact on Notre Dame Resource Centre and the Trusteeship Program, both programs delivered by Good Shepherd Centres. Nadia is waiting for a response from Elizabeth Fry and Native Women's Centre regarding their programs. It is anticipated that approx. 700 clients for each of the Notre Dame Resource Centre and Trusteeship programs will be impacted by these changes.

Members had discussions on how or when they communicate to Council of the impacts on the community because of the cuts in funding.

It was suggested that we also highlight the successes and advise Council what will be the impact on the system.

Members suggested that City staff contact Elizabeth Fry and Native Women's Centre and ask if they are OK with using the transition planning information to complete the above draft report to Council.

Medora agreed to draft a brief for Council.

Recommendation:

That the Emergency & Community Services Committee consider the impact on the community of funding gaps due to programs that were unsuccessful in the most recent call for applications through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) as noted in the brief, attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

6.3 Changes to Housing Stability and Utility Areas Benefits

Not discussed due to time restraints.

6.4 Report to Council

Nadia informed members that the report on Volunteer Committees will go before Council on July 6th.

6.5 Membership

Nadia informed members that this will be determined after the report has gone to Council in July. Nadia will inform members of the decisions by Council.

6.6 Emergency & Community Services meeting

Nadia informed members of the Emergency & Community Services meeting on Monday, June 22nd, at 1:30, several housing-related reports are going to Council.

Link: <http://hamilton.AGENDA>

7 UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

8 NEXT MEETING

To be determined

9 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:15

Appendix A

The Food & Shelter Advisory Committee contacted Elizabeth Fry, the Good Shepherd and the Native Women’s Centre to seek input on the impact funding gaps due to programs that were unsuccessful in the most recent call for applications through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). Housing Help Centre and CAS have indicated that they have identified other sources of funds for their programs.

The responses below were provided by the Good Shepherd prior to the June 17 Food & Shelter Advisory Committee meeting.

	Notre Dame Community Resource Centre (Good Shepherd)	Trusteeship (Good Shepherd)
1. What changes to service delivery do you anticipate?	<p>The Community Resource Centre (CRC) provides a range of important services to street-involved and homeless youth in Hamilton. The CRC is often the initial point of contact between youth and services designed to support them being safe, exiting the streets and establishing safe, productive lives in the community. Services include access to mediation with family, supportive counselling, advocacy, referrals, assistance with housing, school and jobs, crisis intervention and safety planning. In addition to services provided by CRC staff, a range of community agencies and programs offer services on site at the CRC. Additionally, youth can access phones, clothing, hot meals and personal needs items at no cost. The services of the CRC respond to youth who are street-involved, those who are experiencing homelessness and youth who are precariously housed in the community and need support to remain housed. Youth supported through the CRC , which is located in the same building as Good Shepherd’s emergency shelter for youth, young people know they can access supports on a 24/7 basis if required.</p> <p>Loss of funding will result in the loss of these services for vulnerable youth.</p> <p>The Community Resource Centre is a hub for the street involved and homeless youth and the precariously housed youth of Hamilton. If this hub goes, the youth will turn to less healthy environments in an attempt to receive these supports, however these will be unhealthy recommendations in reality.</p> <p>Youth who spend time in CRC accessing services are the chronically homeless and those who have persistent issues. Because the CRC has been up and running as established formal program for 7 years, street involved youth are very aware that they can access services here. If they are in crisis they know where to come for support.</p> <p>We will not see the same amount of young people coming to Notre Dame House for support when in crisis with same certainty that they will receive services. By losing the CRC, it increases a young person’s likelihood of going into crisis as they will no longer having access to food, supportive staff (including mental health clinicians, addictions support, physicians) and daily services (i.e. laundry, phone, and computers). The youth will not know where to go to find these services as there is not another hub in the community that provides all of the services available in the CRC.</p> <p>Concern for funding agencies and the community is that these youth will not have a certain place to go to and will access unhealthier places and will be more highly likely to go into crisis, lose their housing, go into mental health crisis and begin using substances that are not healthy to them.</p> <p>The loss of the CRC will not only impact the youth, but will impact community at large, as the youth would be accessing the CRC for services will be out on streets.</p>	<p>If alternate funding is not secured, 700 individuals would lose Trusteeship Service.</p>
2. How many clients do you anticipate will be impacted by these changes?	<p>In the period April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015 the CRC provided outreach supports to 977 individual youth, of which 763 were provided formal case management and care coordination through Notre Dame Community Resource Centre.</p> <p>Approximately 30% seriously ill youth are served by Mental Health Clinicians annually through the CRC. The likelihood of these youth being identified as youth being in need of significant mental health services will diminish</p>	<p>559 O.D.S.P. recipients.</p>

	greatly with the loss of CRC and the number of youth accessing appropriate mental health care will decrease with the lack of CRC being a hub.	
3. What will be the impact on clients of the changes?	<p>The CRC engages vulnerable youth, supports them in exiting the streets and achieving housing (whether through return to family or establishing independent living) and provides essential supports and resources to youth who are precariously housed in the community. We anticipate that closure of the CRC will result in increased housing instability for youth and increased homelessness amongst youth in Hamilton.</p> <p>For mentally ill youth, we are highly likely to see an increase in hospital stays and an increase in distressed behaviour in the community which will involve Police, COAST and other emergency services. The likelihood of suicide attempts will be increased due to the loss of access to the CRC when these youth are in crisis.</p>	75% will be homeless within 6 months.
4. Other impacts that should be noted?	<p>We anticipate increased demand in adult stream services from youth if the CRC ceases operations. For example, youth currently attending the daily meal program at the CRC will likely migrate to adult meal programs and increase their access at food banks. We also anticipate that some youth will stop seeking needed services because they do not feel comfortable accessing in a milieu designed for adults. The opportunity for early intervention and diversion from adult homelessness may be lost as a result. The CRC operates out of the Good Shepherd Notre Dame emergency shelter for youth. Youth are comfortable and familiar with this environment and know that they can access urgent and crisis supports at this location 24/7. Without that connection through the CRC, youth may begin to seek afterhours/crisis supports at different venues (e.g. emergency rooms). The co-location and operation of the CRC and the Notre Dame shelter offers a number of economies and efficiencies that will be lost as a result of the closure of the CRC and as result will impact shelter operations.</p> <p>If the CRC were to close, the community should be concerned about the impact on other community services as there will be a huge demand on other high intensity, expensive community services such as Police and Emergency Healthcare Services.</p>	Effect on the Emergency Shelter system.
5. Are you seeking other sources of funding? Or are you winding down?	We continue to seek other sources of funding for the CRC.	We are seeking alternative funding.
6. If you are winding down, or reducing service what is your contingency plan?		Decision will be made in October 2015.
7. What alternate sources of revenue are you exploring?	We continually pursue grants and alternative funding from all available sources. We continue to dialogue with the City's Housing Services Division to identify sustainable funding for this program.	Housing Stability Benefit.
8. At what point will you prepare to wind down services if alternate funding cannot be secured?	Good Shepherd will initiate a plan to wind down services at least 90 days prior to March 31, 2016 should funding not be secured.	Fall of 2015.
9. What is your mitigation plan to reduce client impact if alternate sources of funding cannot be secured?	Clients will be advised of imminent closure and provided information about other potential sources for supports, resources and services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Close program.2. Serve less individuals.3. Charge clients for service.