



Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes

6pm

Tuesday, June 6th, 2017

Meeting room 264

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Lance Dingman, Julia Verbitsky, Chelsea MacDonald, Stephanie Greenaway, Tyson Benn, Trevor Jaundoo, Marie Raftis, Thomas Mobley, Councillor VanderBeek, Michael Slusarenko

Absent with Regrets: Elske de VischEybergen, Eileen Campbell, Yim Chung, Obaid Shah, Councillor Collins, Councillor Green

Absent: Sandy Leyland, Michael Cameron

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

(Raftis/Greenaway)

Approved as presented

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(Slusarenko/MacDonald)

Minutes from the May 2nd, 2017 Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee were approved with changes.

CARRIED

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 5)

5.1 Homelessness Serving System

- Homelessness is a complex, but solvable problem. One of the biggest hurdles to ending homelessness in communities is the way in which services are organized and delivered.
- A system of care is a local system that coordinates resources to effectively meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Rather than relying on an organization by organization approach, system planning aims to develop a framework for the delivery of initiatives in a purposeful and strategic manner for a collective group of stakeholders
- Currently different local agencies own different pieces of the housing process and have no formal mechanisms to communicate with one another. These various services require redundant forms, applications and interview steps that are lengthy and consume significant resources. The unintended negative consequence results in people remaining homeless longer.
- The system requires a real time tracking process, called a By Name Priority List. The By Name list enables the system to track progress and identify ways to improve and streamline processes in order to move people from homelessness to housing as efficiently as possible.
- The By Name lists transcend statistical estimates and provide a comprehensive accounting for every person who is actually unsheltered (living on the streets or in an emergency homeless shelter)
- With an updated by-name list, community leaders can know exactly how many people are experiencing homelessness at any given time, along with their names, needs and circumstances. That means they can prioritize housing, track inflow, and make resources allocation decisions efficiently and in real time.
- The City of Hamilton does an annual Point in Time count. This is an annual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. The objective is to provide national figures on the number of people experiencing homelessness each year and aid the federal government in allocating resources upon which communities depend.
- Person specific data collected through a common assessment tool (VI-SPDAT), allows a community to produce a comprehensive, continuously updated by-name list of people experiencing homelessness. It also allows communities to begin tracking people all the way through the

housing process. Communities no longer need to make major decisions based on imperfect data. At any moment, they can pull a real time snapshot of everyone experiencing homelessness and update their strategy to get those people what they need.

- The Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) was developed as a pre-screening tool for communities that are very busy and do not have the resources to conduct a full SPDAT assessment for every client.
- It was made in collaboration with Community Solutions, creators of the Vulnerability Index, as a brief survey that can be conducted to quickly determine whether a client has high, moderate, or low acuity. The use of this survey can help prioritize which clients should be given a full SPDAT

(Slusarenko/MacDonald)

Motion: presentation to be received.

CARRIED

5.2 National Housing Day - Roundtable

- National event, annually on November 22nd, and has been celebrated since 2000. The events are generally focused on raising awareness about housing and homelessness issues.
- 2015 event was focused on gentrification, 2016 event was focused on balanced neighbourhoods.
- Past events have included guest speakers, panel discussions and participatory sections of the event.
- Brainstorming for 2017 event (topics, logistics, guest speakers):
 - Topics:
 - Creating and environment for development. The need to increases supply
 - The gap between market rental rates and affordable housing
 - Financing development (debt financing vs equity financing)
 - Building knowledge around private development
 - Building knowledge of private developers (around community need and supports for tenants)
 - Housing and newcomers
 - Information for landlords regarding tenant supports
 - Community conversation on the relationship between landlords and tenants
 - Tenant associations
 - Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates
 - Youth speaker series, with speakers who have lived experience

Guest Speaker suggestions:

- Sen Hugh Segal
- Hear from the development community
- A Developer who has affordable housing experience
- Financial/Real-estate speaker
- Youth with lived experience

Logistics:

- Art Gallery was a good location
- Have multiple events (or speaker series) that goes into 2018 to touch on as many topics as possible
- Live tweet the event

Overall conversation was about having all stakeholders around the table for the National Housing Day event. Those with lived experience, the nonprofit sector, community advocates and government are engaged in the conversation. Wanted to continue to ensure the private sector is engaged about affordable housing. The private sector stakeholders include both developers and landlords. A key part of this was the interaction of tenants with landlords.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 9)

(Greenaway/ Slusarenko)

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:59pm.

CARRIED

Next meeting, September 5th, 2017
City Hall – Room 264 – 2nd Floor

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Verbitsky
Chair, Housing and
Homelessness Advisory
Committee

James O'Brien
Senior Project Manager
Housing Services Division