



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 7, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Residential Care Facility (RCF) Liaison Update #5 (HSC20040(d)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rikki Frith (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7604
SUBMITTED BY:	Grace Mater General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Emergency and Community Services Committee at its meeting of June 19, 2020 approved the following:

“That Staff be directed to report back on the recommended accountability standards, service levels and process requirements for the various types of complaints that can be addressed by the RCF Liaison position, including details regarding:

- (i) How the facility will be told that there is a complaint and given an opportunity to correct the situation;
- (ii) If the investigation reveals non-compliance, how the facility will be required to correct the situation and ensure future compliance and how the public will be notified; and,
- (iii) How the Complainant will be provided with follow up information regarding the outcome of the investigation.

That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department will report quarterly a summary of the complaints received, and the status of the complaints”.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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At its July 8, 2021 meeting, Emergency and Community Services Committee approved the following recommendation to extend the pilot project for six months:

“That the temporary Residential Care Facilities (RCF) Liaison position, approved under a Notice of Motion at the Emergency and Community Services meeting of June 19, 2020, be extended to December 31, 2021 to allow for the completion of an internal RCF program review.”

INFORMATION

Although now extended until the end of December 2021, initially a one-year temporary Residential Care Facility (RCF) Liaison position was created in June 2020 to answer phone calls and emails from RCF residents and/or their families, friends, caregivers, staff, etc. who have serious concerns or complaints about their residential care facility. Concerns may include (but not limited to) facility cleanliness or disrepair, food issues (lack thereof or quality), infestation, abuse or neglect, aggressive residents or lack of supervision, medication control and/or fire hazards. In the early days of this position being created, posters advertising the RCF Liaison phone number and email were distributed to all Hamilton-based RCFs for posting in their common areas. Public Health Inspectors and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers look for the posters during their inspections to ensure they are posted in high-visibility areas. The contact information is also available on the City of Hamilton website.

All complaints received are logged and forwarded on to the appropriate city staff to deal with (i.e. Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE), Public Health, Hamilton Fire Department) or, in some cases (including abuse and neglect), to the Retirement Home Regulatory Authority (RHRA) (www.rhra.ca or 1-855-ASK-RHRA). Where the RHRA might play a role, residents or their advocates are encouraged to call the RHRA directly to connect with someone who can either provide immediate support and recommendations or can begin an official investigation into the facility. If an investigation is warranted, results are posted on the RHRA website approximately 90 days after the investigation is opened.

The following table outlines the contact volume/type of contacts received from July-September 2021:

Complainant	Complaint Type	Departments Involved	Outcome
Friend	Food quantity	Public Health	Resolved
Agency Worker	Bed bug infestation	Public Health	Resolved
Resident	Food quality	Public Health	Resolved
Family Member	Bed bug infestation	Public Health, RCF Subsidy	Resolved
Resident	Harassment by staff	MLE, RCF Subsidy	Ongoing

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Complainant	Complaint Type	Departments Involved	Outcome
Family Member	Bed bug infestation	Public Health	Resolved
Resident	Harassment by staff	MLE, RCF Subsidy	Resolved

Other phone calls and emails received via the RCF Liaison complaint mechanism were not specific to RCF residents and/or caregivers, friends, family, etc. These included neighbour complaints specific to RCF resident behaviours (i.e. drug dealing and use, public urination/defecation, noise/bad language, theft, aggressive panhandling), perceived lack of supervision by operators/RCF home staff, general disorderly conduct within a neighbourhood and the impacts these behaviours have on neighbours' lives and the quality of life of resident peers. These complaints are continuously investigated by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to ensure compliance and adequate care is being taken by the operators. Neighbours are reminded to contact Hamilton Police Services for more immediate disturbances. Other phone calls and emails received had nothing to do with RCFs and were redirected as appropriate.

Public Health Inspectors and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers work proactively with operators of these RCFs to address issues related to food/menu planning, adherence to COVID guidelines and regulations and finding solutions to resident complaints. Notices to Comply are followed-up to ensure compliance. MLE and Public Health staff also track complaints received through their offices and if a pattern emerges, additional steps can be taken including, but not limited to, suspension of RCF operator license renewal. In some cases (as noted above) the same complaint comes in via several different contacts (i.e. emails and phone calls to various departments, Councillor's office, Customer Contact Centre and RCF Liaison). Representatives from the RCF multi-disciplinary team are looking forward to a review of Schedule 20 to address some of the duplicities seen with these concerns. In the meantime, the RCF multi-disciplinary team meets on a regular basis to discuss mutual issues and proactively address concerns and inefficiencies.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None