

Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

February 22nd, 2022

Virtual WebEx Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Those in Attendance: Tom Manzuk, Lance Dingman, Paula Kilburn, Robert Semkow, James Kemp

Also in Attendance: Jessica Bowen

Those Absent: Sophie Geffros, Jayne Cardno

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of February 22nd Agenda: February 22nd agenda was approved.

3. Approval of January 18th Meeting Notes: January 18th Meeting Notes were approved.

4. HHAC Presentation Review and Discussion: The Chair showed the slide show and described the presentation. Lance brought up some points that he wanted shared to the HHAC regarding

RCFs like: stagnant social assistance rates forcing people to choose between enough money to live on or a roof over their heads; Lack of funding for any sort of educational or social events/programming like those available in LTCs, why are there no activity directors?; Lack of privacy in RCFs or any place to allow for interpersonal relationships.

5. Review of Jayne's Letter Regarding Homelessness: Jayne was not in attendance to discuss it with us. We were very happy with the original version and just thought it needed a little polish in a couple of trouble spots, but Jayne wanted to add more depth. We will review this version at the next HWG that Jayne is in attendance so that we can finalize the document.

6. Discuss New Housing Programs/Developments: We discussed some of the new activities around Hamilton regarding new building developments, affordable housing initiatives and how they work, Rapid Housing Developments and how they are moving too

fast to ensure accessibility until they are complete.

7. Other Business: Paula raised the issue of LTCs and informed us of some of the difficulties that Mary Sinclair was experiencing. While LTCs are seen to be in the purview of SAC, there are residents with accessibility issues and we should explore it. Of note from Mary: Layouts are constantly being changed and furniture moved, problems with turning radii.

8. Adjournment.

Housing Working Group's

February 2022 Outstanding Business List

1. Accessible Housing Modifications and the Promotion of Universal Design.
2. Social Housing Inventory, in particular, whether we have actually achieved 20% accessible housing.
3. Reviewing the Housing Application Forms and suggesting improvements to make them more accessible.

4. Review the Smoke Free Policy with CityHousing regarding Medical Marijuana and the use of it by persons with disabilities to alleviate their symptoms.

5. Review the Transitional Housing Process when transferring from the hospital into other forms of housing. It is currently very confusing, convoluted and detrimental to the proper recovery of patients. We hope to have suggestions for improvement as soon as we can understand how it all works and who is in charge. When we have answers there, we would like to produce a transitional section of the housing guide providing help for those going through the process.

6. Review of the Residential Care Facility system and try to suggest improvements for the betterment of residents. We have added the RCF Poster/Placemat/Fridge Magnet project to this. We would also like to eventually produce a section of the housing guide for RCF residents.

7. Review of CityHousing's AODA related policies in order to highlight barriers in housing and seek solutions to address them. If we are successful, we plan to move on to other social housing providers.

8. Creating relationships with other agencies and stakeholders involved in housing matters: We will continue to seek out other like-minded groups for the purposes of future collaborations or round tables.

9. Social Assistance Allowance: It was felt that, because rent is taking up so much of a monthly allowance, that it is best placed here. We will discuss next steps soon.

10. Review of the Accessible Housing Guide: We will review the housing guide and make sure it is still current or suggest if an update is in order.

11. Long Term Care Facilities: It was suggested that even though LTCs are considered senior's facilities, there are a lot of people in them with accessibility issues and so we will begin to review the accessibility of them when we are able.