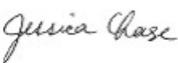




CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Children's and Community Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 18, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Community Safety and Well-Being Situation Table (HSC24006) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Kristy Tadeson (365) 323- 4985 Rachelle Ihekwoaba (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5909
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children's and Community Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City enter into a Collaboration and Information Sharing Agreement or Agreements with the Community Safety and Well-Being Situation Table participants in accordance with the terms and conditions described in this report; and,
- (b) That the City enter into a Risk-driven Tracking Database Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General (the "Ministry") in accordance with the terms and conditions described in this report; and,
- (c) That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or designate be authorized and directed to execute the Agreement(s) in recommendation (a), together with any amendments, renewals, or ancillary documents necessary, all in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (d) That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department or designate be authorized and directed to execute the Agreement in recommendation (b), together with any amendments, renewals, or ancillary documents necessary, all in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2021, the Emergency and Community Services Committee approved Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032(a)). The plan aims to ensure all residents in the community feel safe, have a sense of belonging and can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. In Hamilton, priorities include hate incidents, violence, mental health and stigmatization, substance use, homelessness and access to affordable housing and income.

In November 2022, a community consultation was held bringing together more than 110 participants, representing a wide range of sectors and organizations to learn more about Community Safety and Well-Being and provide an opportunity to inform what initiatives should be included in the 2023 Community Safety and Well-Being Implementation Plan. Of six key recommendations, the most prevalent suggestion from the community was the development of a Situation Table with a focus on supporting children and youth.

Situation tables are a forum that involves decision-makers from several organizations including health, social service, and public safety sectors to convene regularly and leverage community assets and relationships to rapidly connect clients living with acutely elevated risk to a holistic group of protective services to prevent a crisis and help clients to better manage and reduce the risk factors in their lives. Situation tables can have a variety of focus areas depending on the needs of a community.

To move forward, a Collaboration and Information Sharing Agreement is being developed in consultation with the City Solicitor to outline the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved and the required measures of accountability. Core participants of the Situation Table will be consulted in development of the agreement and each organization that participates as a core member of the table will be required to enter into the agreement. Additionally, the Ministry of the Solicitor General provides municipalities with access to a Risk-driven Tracking Database as a standardized means of gathering information without direct identifiers on situations of elevated risk for communities implementing multi-sectoral risk intervention models, such as a situation table. Upon approval, the City will enter into an agreement to collect data at the Situation Table through the Risk-driven Tracking Database.

The development of a Situation Table in Hamilton provides an opportunity for multisectoral organizations to come together to implement an upstream risk intervention and prevention initiative that will provide wraparound supports to children and families with the goal of improving their overall safety and well-being.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Not Applicable

Staffing: Not Applicable

Legal: Legal Services are assisting with the preparation of a Collaboration and Information Sharing Agreement and are reviewing the Risk Driven Tracking Database Agreement from the Ministry of the Solicitor General to ensure it is in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was notified of new legislative requirements for municipalities to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032). In June 2021, the Emergency and Community Services Committee approved Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032(a)). This plan outlines a framework for collaborating with partners to promote the safety and well-being of all residents. The content within the plan was informed through data and evidence related to local risk factors and trends, as well as consultation with Hamilton residents, service providers and advisory committee members. The local priorities include hate incidents, violence, mental health and stigmatization, substance use, homelessness and access to affordable housing and income.

Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is overseen by an advisory committee, referred to as the System Leadership Table, which meets both legislative requirements and brings together various sectors' perspectives to provide strategic advice and direction to the City of Hamilton on the plan. The committee brings together partners from the health, social service, and public safety sectors.

A Situation Table Working Group comprised of partners from across various social service, health and public safety sectors was established in April 2023 to develop a model for Hamilton (Appendix A). Several components were consulted to inform the model for Hamilton including:

- Public Safety Canada's Hub Model/Situation Table Model¹

¹ Retrieved from: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntn/dtls-en.aspx?i=10015> on January 22,2024.

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- Ministry of the Solicitor Generals' guidance document on Information Sharing in Multi-Sectoral Risk Intervention Models²
- Data from the Situation Table Working Group; and,
- Scan of existing local tables to ensure no duplication of mandates for the situation table.

Drawing on these important elements and in collaboration with community partners, a conceptual model has been developed. The focus area of the table for the pilot phase will include youth 8 to 14 years of age with acutely elevated risk and their families.

The “acutely elevated” nature of risk situations means that:

- Chronic conditions (like poverty, addictions and negative parenting) have accumulated to the point where a crisis is imminent.
- New circumstances have contributed to significantly increase chances of severe harm or victimization; and/or,
- The effort to mitigate risk and thus avoid harms exceeds the capacities of any one agency or even two agencies acting in partnership.

It is expected that the risk situations accessing the Situation Table will entail two or more risk factors and benefit from multiple human services organizations working together to improve outcomes.

Membership of the Situation Table will consist of representatives from a variety of sectors including health, social service, and the public safety sector and the Collaboration and Information Sharing agreement(s) that they will be required to enter into will be structured to allow membership to change as needed.

To support the operations of the Situation Table, the Risk-driven Tracking Database managed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General's Office will be utilized. The Risk-driven Tracking Database is a tool that helps communities collect information on local priorities such as agency and sector engagement, risks, vulnerable groups, protective factors and service availability and mobilization. A Risk-driven Tracking Database Agreement must be entered with His Majesty the King as represented by the Solicitor General before the City can access the database. Training and resources are provided for all new users of the database. The Ministry has implemented privacy and security measures to protect the information stored in the database.

The Situation Table will be a pilot that will run for 12 months from its inception. An evaluation will be completed, and recommendations will be made to determine if the

² Retrieved from: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/nvntr/dtls-en.aspx?i=10015> on January 22,2024

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Situation Table will continue to operate and/or if there are opportunities to develop additional tables to support other focus areas within the community. The anticipated timeline for implementation of the Situation Table is Q3 2024.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

All required policy and legislative requirements will be reviewed and adhered to in the execution of the agreements with guidance from the legal, privacy, and information technology business units.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with Legal, Privacy, Risk Management, and Information Technology who have provided input into this report. In addition, consultation was completed with community partners representing a variety of sectors during a Community Partner Workshop, with members of the Situation Table Working Group, Situation Table participants and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The development of a Situation Table and the collection of information without direct identifiers will provide data to assist with informing the Community Safety and Well-Being priorities, support the development of policies and initiatives to address challenges of safety and well-being in our community and provide the provincial government with data to inform future funding to support Community Safety and Well-Being initiatives that will enhance public safety and well-being for all residents in Hamilton. The Situation Table will provide an opportunity to respond to several of the key priority areas identified in Hamilton’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan with the focus on risk intervention and prevention. Should the Collaboration and Information Sharing agreement not be endorsed the Situation Table will not move forward and the benefits for working in this collaborative model will not be realized.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report HSC24006: Community Safety and Well-Being Situation Table.