

ACPD's Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

January 21st, 2025

Virtual Teams Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Members in Attendance: Robert Westbrook, Paula Kilburn, Lance Dingman, James Kemp, Hargun Kaur

Members Absent: Benjamin Cullimore

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of January 21st Agenda: Agenda was approved.

3. Outstanding Business List and Priorities for 2025:

a. Universal Accessible Design: We are awaiting a report from the social policy department from Housing Services. We last checked in with the Housing Secretariat in August.

b. Social Housing Inventory: We are still waiting to speak to Housing Services regarding whether

they have achieved 20% Accessible Housing. We now know they are using the CMHC's definition of accessible housing as a baseline.

c. Social Housing Application

Standardization/Simplification: We are still waiting to hear from housing services regarding this issue.

d. Smoke Free Policy at CityHousing: We need to meet with Public Health and CityHousing to address this issue. CityHousing is amenable to change, but requires the other party and they are short staffed.

e. Transitional Housing: We met with Loft from the GTHA and learned that we are missing the Ontario Health Team when trying to understand this issue. We discussed that this should include transitioning from penitentiaries as well.

f. RCF Report: We are awaiting a little background information on how we ended up where we are today. Other regions call them Domiciliary Hostels.

g. CityHousing and the AODA: We put forth our recommendations in 2023. CityHousing has been

working towards implementing them one at a time. We will meet with them in March to check on their progress.

- h. Collaboration with other agencies:** We just co-hosted a public event regarding the Canada Disability Benefit in September 2024 with the RFPR, SPRC, HCLC and ACORN. Trying to meet with Hamilton is Home. Will continue to seek opportunities or relevant conferences.
- i. Social Assistance Rates:** This has been taken up by the SPRC and the RFPR with little movement. Will consider next steps.
- j. Housing Guide Review:** We determined last term that the Housing guide needs a complete rewrite. We restarted the review this month and got halfway through section 4. We will take all the good material and rework it.
- k. LTC Accessibility inspection:** This is on our to-do list, but not high on priorities,
- l. Shelter system Inspection:** We need to visit some shelter spaces and review their accessibility to reside there.

4. Invitations For 2025: We reviewed possible invites for 2025, list included: St. Joseph's Peer Support Program, CityHousing + Public Health, Hamilton is Home, SAC HWG, Helping Hands, Indwell, Keeping Six, RFPR, Housing Services

5. Vice-Chair Discussion: We briefly discussed the open Vice Chair position. Members are wary of the workload and availability.

6. Housing Guide Review: We restarted the Housing Guide Review. The previous term flagged serious issues with the housing guide and reviewed it up to section 8. We decided to restart the review from scratch. We will identify the good sections of the guide, consolidate them together and redesign the housing guide using SAC's as a template. The staff member mostly responsible for its last iteration seemed to design it more for staff than persons with disabilities.

7. Other Business: There was no other business.

8. Adjournment