

ACPD's Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

May 20th, 2025

Virtual Teams Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Members in Attendance: Robert Westbrook, James Kemp

Members Absent: Paula Kilburn, Lance Dingman(Technical Difficulties), Benjamin Cullimore,

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of May 20th Agenda: Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of April 15th Meeting Notes: Meeting notes were approved.

4. Review of HSC25022 Residential Care Facility Subsidy Program Modernization: Chair reviewed the delegation to GIC regarding this report. This is an early step in the financial review process, but took the opportunity to discuss some areas of RCFs that

require improvement with Council. We discussed the six points of immediate need: Personal Needs Allowance increase; Air Conditioning throughout sleeping areas; Privacy areas for interpersonal relations/private time in a communal living environment; Entertainment or activity planning; Education, volunteer opportunities or job training for personal development, Vehicle to eventually leave RCFs for independent living if so desired. HWG still has a report owing and would like to discuss it with Housing Services. We will arrange to meet with the current person overseeing this, Pilar Homerston.

5. Review of RCF Air Conditioning Inspections from

Public Health: Chair reviewed the results of the Public Health AC inspection. Last year a survey was distributed but there was very low response so it was added to the inspection list this year. Only two RCFs were not included in this inspection and we do not know why. Air conditioning in RCFs is among our six issues needing to be addressed to improve the lives of residents. 29% of RCFs are fully air conditioned, both bedroom and shared spaces. 71% have only a section of the building cooled, usually in a cooling room. This is not enough as residents are sharing bedrooms up to four in a room and need cooling due to their disabilities and required medications that are

heat sensitive. We will have public health and housing services attend a future meeting to discuss next steps.

6. Review of HSC25021 Incorporating Universal Design in Hamilton Community Housing: Chair updated the group on the status of the motion originally approved in Q4 2020. After working with Housing Services' Social Policy Division and the office of the Housing Secretariat, staff from those departments came up with this result. An attempt to turn a design philosophy into viable municipal policy affecting social housing stock. If this is successful, we will try to meet with Hamilton is Home and promote this work with the other social housing providers in the City of Hamilton.

7. Review of Mental Health History in Hamilton: As there was only two of us in attendance, we did not review the Mental Health History Report.

8. Review of Housing Guide: As there was only two of us, we did not review the Housing Guide

9. Other Business: We briefly discussed the Canada Disability Benefit and our efforts to assist people with

the Disability Tax Credit. This issue will be discussed at this WG as well as OWG.

10. Adjournment