

MINUTES
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2019-JUL-17, AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Councillor E. Hemmens
K. Bailee (BC Housing alternate)
K. Good
J. Harrison
A. LaHue (joined via teleconference 3:20 p.m.)
S. Madden
J. McCormick (joined via teleconference 3:03 p.m.)
L. McHaffie
L. Murphy
K. Smythe

Absent: J. Fix
M. McNaughton

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Community Development
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
S. Snelgrove, City Clerk
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. REPORTS:

(a) Introductions

1. City of Nanaimo Staff introduced themselves and explained their role regarding the Health and Housing Task Force.
2. Task Force Members introduced themselves and stated their place of employment and their goals for the Health and Housing Task Force.

(b) Terms of Reference

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning reviewed the Terms of Reference with Staff and Health and Housing Task Force members.

(c) Future Meeting Schedule

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Health and Housing Task Force of procedures, meeting practices a future meeting schedule, operating and procedural guidelines, public access to meetings and materials handed out at meetings, quorum, closed meetings and *Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* regarding emails and correspondence.

Health and Housing Task Force members agreed that meetings would be held every 2 weeks from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Service and Resource Centre Boardroom, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services stated that quorum for the Health and Housing Task Force will be six (6) and any alternates need to be approved by Council.

(d) Current Health and Housing Overview

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning, provided the task force members with an update on the current health and housing situation, which included the following information:

- Complex causes of homelessness including poverty, lack of affordable housing, child welfare and childhood trauma
- Widening gap between income and housing costs
- Homeless count doubled between Spring of 2016 and Winter of 2018
- Barriers to housing include rents too high, low income, discrimination, addiction and poor housing conditions
- Health challenges and gaps in current service system
- Tent City and crisis housing timeline and number of shelters beds made available
- Impact of temporary housing sites on residents and business surrounding these areas
- Gaps and transition challenges including emergency housing, non-market housing and market housing
- Municipal, Provincial and Federal funding roles in the housing crisis
- Community of Nanaimo is divided and frustrated

(e) Priorities of the Health and Housing Task Force

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning.

Karen Kronstal, Social Planner, provided the Health and Housing Task Force members with feedback collected from task force members regarding their top priorities and goals for the Task Force. The following eight priorities were identified as most common between the members of the Task Force:

- Confirm existing plans/strategies
- Identify gaps in health and housing services
- Integrated approach
- More supportive housing
- Rising cost of marketing housing
- Public safety
- Communication and engagement
- Increased collaboration

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Types of supportive housing and designing programs that set people up for success
- Expectation of the Task Force and how, when and what recommendations can be brought to Council
- The importance of community engagement, communication and support; how to get support from the community on actions the task force wants to recommend to Council
- Creative solutions and the goal of Nanaimo becoming innovative and successful in solving the homeless crisis
- Inviting community stakeholders, employees of housing and service agencies, employment resources and others to speak to the Task Force
- The need to identify gaps in service providers
- Identifying the root cause of homelessness and how to best serve the individual on a case by case basis so they are successful in housing and job placement
- Lack of funding and resources for trauma victims on Snuneymuxw First Nation reserve to tackle issues of housing, pride in home ownership and counselling for trauma victims
- Mental health exclusive of substance abuse

(f) Next Steps

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, advised the Task Force that Staff will bring a Draft Key Date Calendar to the next scheduled Health and Housing Task Force meeting on 2019-AUG-07, for approval.

Health and Housing Task Force discussion took place regarding future agenda topics and included the following information:

- Invite Dena Kay Beno, Housing and Homelessness Coordinator, City of Abbotsford, to speak to the Health and Housing Task Force as a resource on asset mapping and coordinator for homeless programs and best practices
- Discuss short and long term goals and solutions to the homeless crisis
- Discussion regarding child poverty, resources, counselling and solutions to ensure the cycle does not continue
- Asset mapping to show successes and gaps in helping individuals acquire housing and employment
- Identifying agencies/service providers communications staff and working together to communicate success stories to the community
- Protocols for task force communication, the importance of early engagement events in the community
- Acquiring a copy of the City of Kelowna, Journey Home Strategy and other municipalities documents to learn from their experience and other resources
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4. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:53 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER