

MINUTES
SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
THURSDAY, 2020-NOV-26, AT 2:17 P.M.

Present: Councillor Bonner, Chair
Councillor Hemmens
L. Fletcher, A/OIC, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment (joined electronically 2:17 p.m.)
J. Harrison, Executive Director, Mid-Island Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association (joined electronically)
A. LaHue, A/Director Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Strategic Services Branch, Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Dev and Poverty Reduction (joined electronically 3:10 p.m.)
S. Madden, Executive Director, United Way (joined electronically)
Councillor Emmy Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 3:36 p.m.)
J. McCormick, Executive Director, John Howard Society (joined electronically)
L. McHaffie, Service Manager (joined electronically 2:32 p.m.)
K. Smythe, CEO, Chamber of Commerce (joined electronically)
M. White, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 3:35 p.m.)

Absent: K. Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use
M. McNaughton, BC Housing

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer (joined electronically)
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications (joined electronically)
D. LaBerge, Manager Bylaw Services (joined electronically)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
D. Stewart, Social Planner (joined electronically)
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

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

Quorum was not present at 2:02 p.m. Councillor Bonner, Chair, advised that the Task Force would wait 15 minutes for the meeting to gain quorum.

Lisa Fletcher joined the meeting electronically at 2:17 p.m.

The Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday 2020-NOV-12, at 2:05 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker PowerPoint presentation re: Health and Housing Action Plan Draft Review

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Final stages of work for the Task Force
- Today the Task Force needs to flag any major strategic pieces still missing from the draft plan (minor edits can be emailed to Dr. Turner)
- Next Steps will be implementation and resourcing of the plan
- Heard from the working group that the next steps need to be specific and actionable
- Provided a list of next steps relating to “Calls to Action” for immediate partners:
 1. Partners calls to action
 2. Establish Council of Champions
 3. Health Housing Systems Planner entity incubation at United Way
 4. Integrated Coordinated Access start-up with priority list
 5. Health and Housing Intervention teams start-up/funded
 6. Permanent Supportive Housing units start-up/funded
- Funding needs:
 - Systems Planner Organization (SPO) total cost for five years \$3.5 million which could be approached in equal contributions from each investor/partner
 - Supports requiring \$33.6 million over five years splitting costs 80/20 provincial to municipal/donors/private
 - Housing requiring \$28.4 million over five years split 80/20 provincial to municipal/donors/private
 - Total costs over five years \$65.5 million

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Items 4 and 5 (Integrated Coordinated Access start-up with priority list and Health and Housing Intervention teams start-up/funded) being part of the frontline work of a new entity
- Funding of item 6 (Permanent Supportive Housing Units start-up/funded)
- Council of Champions intent is to represent Nanaimo’s needs and advocate for funding
- Integrated coordinated access needs agreement and commitment between funders

Lisa McHaffie joined the meeting electronically at 2:32 p.m.

- Landmark Memorandum of Understanding between the City and BC Housing, with 190 units being provided. Concern that this could impact the number of units provided in the future
- Using the 190 confirmed units to test the “Call to Action” steps

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- 2021 Start-up Investment:
 - Health and Housing Intervention Teams will require 140 spaces and \$2.7 million per year to do this work in addition to rent subsidies

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Clarification regarding the total number of units available in the City with the new BC Housing units
- Process for closing down old facilities while construction is underway for the new BC Housing units

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, provided clarification that the requirement for permanent supportive housing is 90 net new units for next year, and 140 net new spaces for scattered site housing.

Task Force discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Importance of establishing the first four items on the “Call to Action” list and using items 3 and 4 (Health and Housing Systems Planner entity incubation at United Way and Integrated Coordinated Access start-up with priority list) to help articulate what is needed
- Maintaining a realistic timeframe and continuing to work on processes

(b) Discussion re: Shared Commitment Model Options

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- Provided a list of potential investment sources and what their focus relates to
- Permanent supportive housing and medical support need to go together
- Challenges (capacity issues) around detox and treatment beds
- Not feasible to rely on Reaching Home funds as a primary funding source
- Peace Officers will remain necessary on the frontline response
- Need for psychosocial supports
- Need for a funding strategy to coordinate investment opportunities between multiple investors/organizations
- Council of Champions to lobby decision makers

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The City's role as outlined in the "Call to Action" list
- Approximately 90% of community funding comes from Island Health and BC Housing and concerns regarding the ability for Island Health to adapt to a municipal plan that might not align with a Provincial plan
- BC Housing currently looking for a site for a navigation centre

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- "Call to Action" list outlines the next step
- City Council will review the plan and has the ability to ask other partners to do the same
- Articulating each step and what each organization is willing to commit

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The City needs to review the recommendation and decide how to commit resources and drive the plan
- Clarification regarding the process for recommendations being endorsed by Council and Staff moving forward on actionable items
- Amount of City staff time and resources being committed

Anita LaHue joined the meeting electronically at 3:10 p.m.

- Importance of having clear leadership take stock in the plan
- Organizations providing lists of specific things they are able to do (and what makes sense for their organization to do) to support the plan
- Task Force members needing to solidify the recommendations going to Council
- Reviewing options across Canada for housing people who are difficult to house
- Decision making is bottlenecking progress and ability to get on with the work
- Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience recently provided a similar recommendation for a leadership group and an ongoing ask
- Need more resources and potential benefit of the new Minister of Mental Health and Addictions being located within the area
- Nanaimo's response to people facing homelessness, or people who are close to being homeless, has not been adequate and the new housing units that are coming will not be sufficient to respond to the growing demand

(c) Discussion re: Next Steps for Health and Housing Action Plan

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, asked if Task Force members were in agreement with Dr. Turner's work, or if they wished to make any substantial changes. He asked if Task Force members wanted to review a revised final document to provide their approval on, or if they were comfortable with the report being updated and forwarded to a Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting (GPC). The GPC meeting would be an opportunity to present the report and have a fulsome discussion regarding the role of the City. If the report was placed on a GPC meeting in December

it might provide Staff with sufficient time to prepare a report to Council in January 2021 outlining implications.

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- There will be further opportunities for defining the City's role during a GPC meeting
- The majority of Council is looking for this report to inform the role of the City

Councillor Bonner asked the Task Force members if there were any significant issues with the draft report. Discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Email minor edits/changes to Dr. Turner to update the final document
- Deadline for comments can be extended to ensure members who were not in attendance can provide their suggestions
- Concern regarding the commitments to reconciliation creating expectations that cannot be met because they are not imbedded in the work plan
- Another potential layer of work needing to be done to engage with the various groups/organization to confirm resources and ensure the recommendations have backing

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, advised against waiting for other organization to commit resources at this stage as it will slow the momentum. He suggested establishing the Council of Champions to begin their work of advocating for resources.

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The plan will continue to change as it is implemented
- Once commitments have been identified, and action begins, the to-do list becomes clear

Marina White joined the meeting electronically at 3:35 p.m.

- Creating opportunities to learn

Emmy Manson joined the meeting electronically at 3:36 p.m.

- Ensuring proper protocols are followed

Councillor Bonner asked Task Force members if there were any other edits to the draft report. He requested that members submit their minor edits to Dr. Turner (via email) by Tuesday, 2020-DEC-02 to ensure the finalized document will be ready for a GPC meeting on 2020-DEC-14.

Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, enquired about the format of the report being provided to Council during the 2020-DEC-14 GPC meeting and if clear recommendations would be provided to aid in discussion.

Councillor Hemmens noted that Dr. Turner would be invited to attend the 2020-DEC-14 GPC meeting to present to Council, and Councillor Bonner and Councillor Hemmens will have recommendations prepared.

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Suggestion that the Health and Housing Task Force Co-Chairs communicate with the new Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Sheila Malcolmson
- Requested feedback from Councillor Emmy Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation, regarding the First Nation items listed within the plan – will provide feedback to Dr. Turner after reviewing with Marina White
- Ensuring Snuneymuxw First Nation are aware of what is imbedded within the plan and that the initiatives align with their plans

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:45 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER