

**MINUTES**  
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING  
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
WEDNESDAY, 2019-SEP-04, AT 3:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
J. Harrison  
A. LaHue  
S. Madden  
J. McCormick (joined via phone)  
M. McNaughton  
Supt. C. Miller  
L. Murphy (vacated 4:49 p.m.)  
K. Smythe

Absent: K. Good  
H. Hartman  
L. McHaffie

Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services (arrived 3:05 p.m.)  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications  
D. LaBerge, Manager, Community Safety  
K. Kronstal, Social Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
N. Sponaugle, Legislative Services Clerk  
G. Whitters, 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 3:03 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(a)(4) – Presentations on Nanaimo Resources and Investment Update – Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, City of Nanaimo, update wording on presentation slide number nine to replace DCC Reductions with DCC Contributions.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 5(a) – Update re: Meeting with Minister Darcy, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and reorder items accordingly.

D. Lindsay entered the Boardroom at 3:05 p.m.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Health and Housing Task Force meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC on Wednesday, 2019-AUG-07 at 3:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Update re: Meeting with Minister Darcy, Mental Health and Addictions

Councillor Bonner provided a verbal update on the session with Task Force Members and the Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister, Mental Health and Addictions, and Neilane Mayhew, Deputy Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. Councillor Bonner advised that during the session discussion took place regarding:

- Overview of the role of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Opportunities to help connect with other ministries
- Funding that will be available soon and criteria to apply for it
- Decriminalization as a federal issue
- Sheila Malcolmson, MLA, attended
- Nanaimo may be considered for funding opportunities

(b) Presentations on Nanaimo Resources and Investment

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

1. Lisa Murphy, Director, Mental Health and Substance Use, Central/North Island, provided a presentation regarding Island Health Services that included the following information:

- Island Health coverage areas and services provided
- Psychiatric services
- Number and type of beds, staffing, and funding
- Outreach teams
- Changes to services provided

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Number of detox beds available
- Access to supportive beds or access to treatment and recovery beds
- Pressure for and lack of inpatient beds
- Services available for the homeless

The presentation continued regarding:

- Organizational structure for Population and Community Health and Mental Health and Substance Use Services
- Financial investment in Nanaimo

- Island Health informational handouts provides access points for services including: Walk-in Crisis Counselling Clinic, General Walk-In, Substance Use Counselling Services, Our Substance Use Services – Outreach, Our Community Outreach Response Team, Sobering and Assessment Beds and Overdose Prevention Services

Task Force discussion took place regarding stress and pressure on staff.

2. Malcolm McNaughton, Director of Regional Development, Vancouver Island Region - BC Housing, provided a presentation regarding Nanaimo Housing Updates that included the following information:

- The Housing Spectrum and Housing Hub
- Rental assistance in the private market
- Housing with support systems
- Port Alberni shelter program
- Time limits on supportive housing
- Moving people through the housing system
- Community Housing Fund to provide almost \$1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed income affordable rentals
- Indigenous Housing Fund to provide \$550 Million over the next 10 years to build and operate 1,750 new social housing units
- Indigenous housing is oversubscribed and more money and representation for indigenous homeless is required
- Supportive Housing Fund to provide \$1.2 Billion over 10 years to deliver 2,500 new homes
- Women's Transition Housing Fund to provide \$734 million over 10 years for 1,500 units
- Time limits on transition housing and funding program
- Housing Hub works with development community and provides: assistance to planning and development process, access to funding, low-cost financing, project coordination and a collaboration space for organizers
- Housing Hub projects in Nanaimo

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Who is responsible for establishing covenants
- Rent subsidies
- Business development with non-profits
- Capacity of non-profits
- Community support for supportive housing
- Issues retaining qualified staff
- Matching services to customers' needs

The presentation continued regarding:

- Housing Hub Projects
- Average rent supplements and new projects in Nanaimo

3. Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island, provided a presentation regarding Federal Investments to end Homelessness in Nanaimo: Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS)/Reaching Home that included the following:
- 10-year commitment to reinvest in affordable housing
  - HPS funding began in 2001 to provide services to support people out of transitional to permanent housing
  - Nanaimo Homeless Coalition
  - Coordination between service providers to connect needs and funding
  - Annual plan to determine the direction of funds
  - HPS Investments from 2014-2019 for Nanaimo Designated Investment and Nanaimo Aboriginal Funding
  - Using the housing first approach and coordinated access system
  - Four more years of federal dollars with programs to be renewed at the direction of the Federal Government
  - Reaching Home designed to improve access to safe stable and affordable housing and reducing chronic homelessness
  - Reaching Home goals include: reducing chronic homelessness, reducing homelessness overall, reducing new inflows into homelessness and reducing returns to homelessness
  - Funding streams include: Designated, Indigenous, Rural and Remote, and Territorial
  - Consultation underway to determine if an indigenous agency should hold the Indigenous Funding
  - United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island (UWCNVI) is the Reaching Home 'Community Entity' managing the funds for Nanaimo Designated, Nanaimo Indigenous and Duncan Indigenous
  - UWCNVI works with Community Advisory Boards to allocate funding
  - Reaching Home Funding for 2019-2024
  - Coordinated Access timing and funding
  - Potential future Task Force meeting to discuss Coordinated Access

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
- How to meet needs of the community
- The UWCNVI 2018-2019 Impact Report

4. Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, City of Nanaimo, provided a presentation that included the following information:
- What the City has been doing to support affordable housing
  - City's financial contributions for 2018-2019
  - 153 housing units created in 2008-2018
  - Housing Legacy reserve
  - Development Cost Charges

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Discussion re: Engagement – Who and How

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

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Nanaimo aboriginal youth group and other stakeholders interested in participating
- Inviting other community stakeholders to present or provide a report to the Task Force
- Potential changes to structure of Task Force
- Seniors issues

Councillor Hemmens vacated 4:48 p.m.

L. Murphy vacated 4:49 p.m.

- Information fatigue
- How to maximize dollars, how to get more resources and consultation to direct funding
- Topics for September 18 Health and Housing Task Force Meeting
- Homeless Coalition filtering information to the Task Force
- Task Force's timelines for reporting to Council

Councillor Hemmens returned to the boardroom at 4:54 p.m.

- Community eager for progress
- Providing summaries to Council
- Working with BC Housing to bring non-profits together to start getting ready for future projects
- Plotting out a short term to a long term plan for the Task Force
- Learning from other communities
- Looking at current City projects

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:03 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CHAIR

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CORPORATE OFFICER