

MINUTES
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2019-OCT-02 AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor D. Bonner, Chair
Councillor E. Hemmens
J. Harrison
H. Hartman
A. LaHue
S. Madden
J. McCormick (joined via phone)
Supt. C. Miller, OIC, Nanaimo Detachment, RCMP
K. Smythe

Absent: J. Fix
E. Manson
M. McNaughton
L. Murphy

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services (vacated 4:58 p.m.)
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community and Cultural Planning
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications
D. LaBerge, Manager, Community Safety (vacated 4:21 p.m.)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
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 3:07 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

3. 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-SEP-18, at 12:30 p.m., be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dena Kae Beno, Homeless Coordinator, City of Abbotsford

Dena Kae Beno, Homeless Coordinator, City of Abbotsford, spoke to the Health and Housing Task Force regarding homelessness in the City of Abbotsford, which included the following information:

- Abbotsford is not a designated community within Service Canada's Reaching Home program and has no significant funding sources
- Funding received from Service Canada for coordinated intake project
- Abbotsford City Council approved homelessness action plan in Fall 2014
- Hard and fast deliverables
- Rebuilding trust that is built on actions
- Over 47 agencies/organizations working with Abbotsford and seven Memorandums of Understanding with non profit agencies
- Homelessness Coordinator who is responsible for child care, food security, poverty reduction and homelessness
- Homelessness Action Advisory Committee acts as informal community advisory board
- Abbotsford homelessness prevention and response system is a community owned, invested and mobilized resource
- First step included aligning activities and resources across sectors to identify gaps and opportunities
- Collaborative mapping
- Multi-stakeholder design team
- Key capability areas emerged including prevention support, discharge coordination, housing first approach, support system coordination and sustainability
- Housing first approach includes: intake and referral, outreach and wraparound support, housing capacity, respectful delivery, community integration
- Division in community regarding harm reduction
- Homelessness prevention and response system looked at levels of housing supports required, working towards adequate levels of housing and supports in community
- Point in Time Count and demographics
- Performance measurements
- Obstacles such as housing cost and barriers to services
- 760 service requests through self refer or agencies/organizations
- Three streams of service delivery include: prevention and diversion, housing/accommodation and support and emergency response
- Use of the BC Housing assessment tool
- Interagency care team provides over 138 individuals with varying levels of shared care and an additional 57 individuals with intensive support
- Care team navigates barriers to individuals that have defined their own wellness plan
- Regional Housing forum held and key theme was a need for access to market rental housing and liaison support

- Currently in phase one and two of designing Housing with Abbotsford Rental Connect
- 2 modular housing units in Abbotsford
- Most prevalent health issues are medical conditions, addictions, mental health and physical disability
- Technical Advisory Group and Peer Advisory Committee
- Survey completed regarding drop-in centre services
- The Abbotsford Community Hub Centre (Hub) provides health services and a foodbank
- Community Infrastructure

Task Force Discussion took place regarding:

- Caseload and capacity of care team
- Persons with disability pilot project
- Potential for incubator space in the Hub
- Community outcomes and progress underway
- Moving toward a coordinated approach with deliverable timelines
- Working through relationships between the City and local stakeholder groups
- Nanaimo hiring a Homelessness Coordinator
- Abbotsford Business Engagement Ambassador Program
- How scalable the Abbotsford model is to the City of Nanaimo
- The significant role of funding from Fraser Health in Abbotsford
- Fraser Health significant funder/operator of the HUB centre
- City of Nanaimo taking a leadership role
- Overall funding provided by the City of Abbotsford

D. LaBerge vacated the Boardroom at 4:21 p.m.

- Community-based action research
- Providing leadership and rebuilding relationships between the City and Stakeholders
- Coordinated access on the Island and best practices
- The tone of the community and businesses in Abbotsford after progress was made

5. REPORTS:

(a) Daytime Resource Centre Expression of Interest

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

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- BC Housing's mandate regarding funding of drop-in centres
- Hiring a coordinator and possibility to repurpose funds
- Challenges of drop-in models
- Developing sub-working groups

- Reorganizing priorities in action plan
- The City's potential to facilitate between stakeholders and organizations in the community

D. Lindsay vacated the Boardroom at 4:58 p.m.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Task Force Priorities Planning

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

Task Force discussion took place regarding:

- Holding workshops to discuss the priorities of the Task Force
- Coordinated access
- Recommendations of the Task Force

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force recommend that Council:

- direct Staff to organize a facilitated strategic planning session during the Health and Housing Task Force meeting scheduled for 2019-OCT-16; and,
- direct Staff to request financial support from the Nanaimo Homeless Coalition to provide a facilitator for future strategic planning sessions.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one in attendance wished to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:10 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER