

MINUTES
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2020-SEP-02, AT 3:04 P.M.

Present: Councillor Bonner, Chair
Councillor Hemmens, Chair
Anita LaHue, A/Director Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Strategic Services Branch, Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Dev and Poverty Reduction (joined electronically)
Kim Smythe, CEO, Chamber of Commerce (joined electronically)
Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way (joined electronically)
John McCormick, Executive Director, John Howard Society (joined electronically)
Lisa Fletcher, Inspector, Police Services (joined electronically)

Absent: Jan Fix, Director Program Delivery, Service Canada
Keva Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use
Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association
Councillor Emmy Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation
Malcolm McNaughton, Director Regional Development, BC Housing
Lisa Murphy, Director, Mental Health and Substance Use, Island Health

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications (joined electronically)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner, Community Planning
D. Stewart, Social Planner, Community Planning
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
K. Lundgren, 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 3:04 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 following Minutes be adopted as circulated:

- Minutes of the Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2020-JUL-20 at 9:00 a.m.

- Minutes of the Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-JUL-22 at 3:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dr. Alina Turner, CEO HelpSeeker re: Recommendation/Priorities Overview

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

- Draft Nanaimo Health & Housing Action Plan (HHAP) in final stages
- Validation labs are still underway in the community and the HHAP will be returning to the Task Force as a final document for review
- Working group looking into governance options for implementation
- March design labs included 200 participants
- Indigenous engagement currently underway
- The goals of the design labs include validating the direction of the HHAP, generating ideas from the community, ensuring the HHAP is well-coordinated, human-centered, and embraced by the community and to listen to stakeholders and people with lived/living experience
- Governance and implementation options will be presented at the next Health and Housing Task Force Meeting
- Two commitments of the HHAP include ‘truth and reconciliation’ and ‘challenging discrimination and stigma’
- Once the HHAP strategies and actions are validated, the next steps include further defining roles and sub actions
- Six priority directions have emerged so far in the validation process
- Priority 1: Ecosystem Coordination
 - Develop a community-based governance model
 - Designating a lead Systems Planner Organization and dedicated staff to coordinate plan activities
 - Develop and implement an integrated data management strategy to measure progress and share information from the database
 - Creation of a Funders Table to maximize resources
 - Need service provider coordination to ensure alignment with the 600 service providers
 - Supporting improvement and innovation across the ecosystem

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The role of the System Planner Organization
- Future meeting to review potential candidates as System Planner Organization and the consideration for a new arms-length entity if there isn’t an organization that has the capacity

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

- Priority 2: Leadership and Engagement
 - Ensure community awareness and engagement in HHAP activities
 - Developing a Coordinated Interfaith Action Council for support across faith communities
 - Supporting the HHAP through strong advocacy efforts
 - Real-time data monitoring to track implementation progress and provide accountability to the community
 - Communicate HHAP goals and progress on either a quarterly or annual basis
 - The distinction between lived and living experience
 - Enhancing a sense of belonging and wellbeing within the community

Task Force discussion took place regarding condensing points 2, 3 and 8 on the “Priority 2: Leadership and Engagement” PowerPoint Slide.

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

- Priority 3: Prevention
 - Increase awareness on how to access services for diverse populations
 - Online systems map using the HelpSeeker platform currently with 600 service providers
 - Implementing Integrated Coordinated Access and the consideration for accurate access points based on different demographics (Indigenous people, seniors, families and youth)
 - Training for natural navigators such as schools, libraries, community centres and recreation facilities
- Priority 4: Complex Needs Capability
 - Ensure consistent practices across service providers
 - The coordination of multiple Complex Needs Action Tables to avoid duplicated efforts
 - Create and resource Health and Housing Intervention Teams as frontline workers for immediate engagement with complex needs and vulnerable clients
 - “Opportunity Centre” to bring together diverse key services as well as basic services
 - Ensuring access to basic human hygiene services such as clean water, toilets, and safe, low barrier spaces
 - Creating peer networks of individuals who have come out of homelessness themselves
 - Community safety measures for downtown businesses and neighbourhoods impacted by the effects of homelessness
 - Other municipalities have peer community ambassadors, with lived experience of homelessness, to act as a liaison during conflicts
 - Ways to provide community safety that benefit everyone, such as peer employment opportunities

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The readiness, engagement and capability of various service providers for service delivery

- The validation labs happening over the next two weeks include BC Housing, Island Health and United Way

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

- Priority 5: Poverty Reduction
 - Encouraging businesses to provide living wages and encourage purchasing from vendors that provide living wages
 - Alternative transportation options such as community based ride share options
 - Increase financial, employment and training supports
 - Support community economic development
 - Social innovation fund to encourage creative solutions in the ecosystem
 - Food security measures, such as a community garden, to support healthy lifestyles
- Priority 6: Diverse Housing Options
 - Creating a link between the HHAP and the City's 2018 Affordable Housing Strategy
 - Detox treatment and transition housing identified as a gap in the community
 - Opportunities through different levels of government to create grants/support for low income households
 - Track and report process to enable public accountability
 - Expand rent supplement for market units
 - Encourage formal and informal landlord engagement strategy

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force defer consideration of

- Agenda Item 6(a) Discussion re: Integrated Coordinated Access (ICA) Technician Position; and,
- Agenda Item 7(a) Letter dated 2020-JUN-08 from Bonnie Henry, MD, MPH, FRCPC, Provincial Health Officer, re: Homeless Encampment Health Issues Guidelines in the Context of COVID-19

to the 2020-SEP-16 Health and Housing Task Force Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS

(a) Discussion re: Integrated Coordinated Access (ICA) Technician Position

Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, Community Planning, advised updated information regarding the Integrated Coordinated Access technician will be brought forward to the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:01 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER