

**MINUTES**  
HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING  
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
WEDNESDAY, 2020-SEP-16, AT 3:02 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor Bonner, Chair  
Councillor Hemmens  
L. Fletcher, A/OIC, RCMP  
Heidi Hartman (joined electronically 3:37 p.m., disconnected 4:30 p.m.)  
Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association  
Anita LaHue, A/Director Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Strategic Services Branch, Service Delivery Division, Ministry of Social Dev and Poverty Reduction (vacated 3:30 p.m.)  
Terra Kaethler, Impact Officer, United Way  
Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way  
Councillor Emmy Manson, SFN (joined electronically 3:14 p.m., disconnected 4:18 p.m.)  
John McCormick, Executive Director, John Howard Society  
Lisa Murphy, Director, MHSU, Island Health (joined electronically 3:07 p.m.)  
Kim Smythe, CEO, Chamber of Commerce  
Marina White, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 3:29 p.m., disconnected 4:18 p.m.)

Absent: Malcolm McNaughton, BC Housing  
Jan Fix, Director Program Delivery, Service Canada  
Lisa McHaffie, Service Manager  
Virginia Fenton, Director of Programs, John Howard Society  
Keva Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
D. Stewart, Social Planner (joined electronically)  
K. Kronstal, Social Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy 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. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Remove Agenda Item 5(a) – Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way re: Nanaimo 2020 Point-In-Time Homelessness Count Results

- (b) Add Agenda Item 5(a) – Sheila Malcolmson, MLA, to provide an announcement re: Navigation Centre.
- (c) Add Agenda Item 5(b) - PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, titled “Updates and Transition Planning”.
- (d) Agenda Item 7(a) – Discussion re: Draft Integrated Coordinated Access (ICA) Technician Position – Replace Attachment A with revised ICA Tech Job Description.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Health and Housing Task Force held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2020-SEP-02, at 3:04 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Sheila Malcolmson, MLA re: Navigation Centre

Sheila Malcolmson, MLA, provided the Health and Housing Task Force with an update regarding the Province’s response to COVID-19 and the Navigation Centre and advised:

- COVID-19 pandemic responses and long term commitment decisions are moving quickly
- 2020-SEP-16 the expansion of safe supply prescription alternative was ordered by Dr. Bonnie Henry
- As of this morning criteria only includes overdose risk and the order authorizes registered and psychiatric nurses the ability to prescribe safe supply drugs
- Link to the press release will be sent to the Chairs of the Health and Housing Task Force
- On 2020-SEP-16 it was announced that Nanaimo was the successful Vancouver Island community for the homelessness Navigation Centre pilot project
- 60 beds in the City of Nanaimo will become available along with resources homeless people need to become permanently housed
- The Situation Table Program is moving forward and will encourage communication between different resources and social services to breakdown silos between different agencies
- Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition members have received correspondence regarding three (3) grant opportunities, which include:

1. Support operators of existing bed based treatment services that were challenged by COVID-19-19, deadline for applications closes September 18, 2020
2. 50 – 70 new publically funded treatment beds and the grant is currently open for applications
3. 123 new beds for youth (ages 15 – 24) involving substance abuse and withdrawal treatment options which is a 36 million funding grant

(b) Presentation from Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker - Updates and Transition Planning

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker provided the Health and Housing Task Force with a PowerPoint presentation titled "Updates and Transition Planning". Highlights included:

- Community engagement process is ongoing with some design labs completed and submitted, completed but not yet submitted and 3 which have not yet taken place including Families, Youth and Homelessness and Accessibility and Inclusiveness
- Community engagement includes live forums and stakeholder engagement
- Feedback from all engagement/design labs will be compiled and sent to the Health and Housing Task Force once completed
- Recommendations are tailored with ant-colonialism and anti-racism embedded in
- Commitment 1: Truth and Reconciliation. Highlights include:
  1. Education and awareness
  2. Supporting local capacity for Indigenous housing and social supports
  3. Exploring the potential for a Indigenous Cultural Healing Centre (Snuneymuxw First Nation [SFN] to lead)
  4. Ensuring a minimum of 30% Indigenous representation on governance and coordination tables
  5. Support programming to address intergenerational trauma
  6. Educate and encourage landlords to rent to Indigenous people and support cultural practices
  7. Develop Integrated Coordinated Access with access point specific to Indigenous points
- Ensure SFN's input is taken in account when creating access sites
- Racism is experienced within housing providers and in support services in Nanaimo and need to finding methods to ensure this does not continue to occur

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Ensuring that SFN is at the decision table and recognizing their distinct culture
- SFN is currently working with BC Housing on acquiring housing on the reserve
- Lack of opportunity for Indigenous people and include supports for SFN to operate their own social housing sites

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

- Commitment 2: Challenging Discrimination and Stigma. Highlights include:
  1. Developing innovative community engagement and public education regarding mental health, substance use, crime, safety, racism and discrimination
  2. Removing stigma and challenging negative public perceptions
  3. Service navigation should be available and accessible to diverse groups
  4. Trauma-informed and culturally appropriate engagement
- Lived experience engagement session feedback included ensuring there is more community engagement and public education regarding mental health and substance abuse
- Conversations need to start happening regarding the role of the City of Nanaimo, service providers, stakeholders and who, specifically, needs to be involved in the launch and operation of the integrated systems mapping program
- Priorities 1: Ecosystem Coordination, which includes:
  1. Development of a community based governance model that will act as the stewardship group/board of directors to provide oversight and management
  2. Support and resource dedicated staff to coordinate plan activities
  3. Support continuous improvement and innovation activities across the ecosystem
- Systems planner organization to deliver performance management, engage in research and development, compile data management, information systems and facilitate stakeholders
- Feedback received so far includes skepticism that the plan will be realized after the engagement sessions end and data is compiled
- Governance recommendations include:
  1. Revamp health and housing task force as stewardship group for the action plan and implementation oversight with a link to Council but does not serve Council
  2. System plan organization needs to focus on local needs and plays a key role in ensuring all partners contribute
  3. Ensuring engagement with the business community to access resources and develop a cost share function
- Complete the Assessing Options chart as a group and ensure any other resources are included such as the Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition
- Kelowna created a Systems Planner Organization which focused on accountability for strategy implementation
- Reviewed an example rollout from Kelowna which included the start up, ramp up and transition from a task force to a new model
- Costs included in the Kelowna example rollout included start up fees and full implementation costs per year
- Initiate discussions regarding roles, buy-in implementation and high level actions such as systems planner organization and stakeholders/investor tables
- Upcoming topics for October and November include:
  1. Transition planning and implementation roles discussions
  2. Plan launch approach

3. Project wrap up
4. Plan rollout

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Ensuring the work, feedback and engagement outcomes from the design labs are properly presented and received and what role does the City play
- How to address social issues, truth and reconciliation and economic development in Nanaimo
- Maintaining businesses and attracting new businesses to Nanaimo especially in the downtown core with the social issues ongoing
- Suggested bringing the Economic Development Task Force and the Health and Housing Task together as a arm's length organization to address social and economic issues
- This organization could encourage equitable and sustainable growth while tackling social issues from a business and community approach
- Organization would advocate to the Province and Federal Government together which has been proven in the City of Duncan to be effective
- Vancouver Island University's (VIU) involvement and how to encourage a strong connection to VIU through this process
- Ensuring there are clear guidelines to decision making, accountability and funding
- Exploration of creating this organization could encourage balancing of resources responsibilities and communication between agencies
- Proposed new organization aligns with the work the City, other task force's and committees are currently doing
- City of Duncan and the Cowichan Valley Regional District are examples of municipalities working and advocating together with resources, agencies and community partners
- Learn best practices from other multi-agency responses and how to implement those best practices here in Nanaimo

It was moved and seconded that the City of Nanaimo collaboratively through the Health and Housing Task Force and Economic Development Task Force explore an arms-length organization that includes economic development and social development planning coordination. The motion carried unanimously.

## 6. REPORTS:

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

Introduced by Karin Kronstal, Social Planner.

Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way, provided the task force with a review of the funding for the Integrated Coordinated Access Technician Position. Highlights included:

- The position will be funded through the Reaching Home Fund that is managed by the United Way

- Awarded 5 years of funding for the coordinated access system and must be used for the development and implementation of the program
- In order to keep the funding it must be spent by the end of each fiscal year and the community is obligated to develop the coordinated access system or the funding will be lost
- Priority of the position will be to bring organizations and resources together, compile data and manage the implementation of the program with the goal of having the program up and running in the next year and a half

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- How to identify challenges, initiate conversations and bring groups together
- Concerns regarding the position being temporary and how that will affect the pool of applicants

E. Manson and M. White disconnected from the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

- Merging the coordinated access system with the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)
- The goal is to continue to expand the use of HIFIS and incorporate all data in Nanaimo into one central location

(b) David Stewart, Social Planner, Community Planning Section re: BC Housing Navigation Centre

David Stewart, Social Planner, Community Planning, provided the Health and Housing Task Force with a verbal update regarding the BC Housing Navigation Centre. Highlights included:

- Nanaimo has been selected for a Navigation Centre pilot project
- Currently the City is working with BC Housing to select an operator and location for the Navigation Centre
- Bridge to housing model which will include 24 support and use of the coordinated access system
- Staff have heard from other service providers requesting their participation in the creation of and assistance at the Navigation Centre
- Staff will continue to update Task Force members on their progress with BC Housing
- Nanaimo and Vancouver were chosen for the pilot project and Vancouver has already created and sent out their Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operator of the site
- BC Housing will utilize Vancouver's RFP as a learning tool to ensure best practices and outcome for the Nanaimo RFP

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (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-19-19
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Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Guidelines depend on the amount of people at encampment sites and the level of services needed
- Challenges moving forward include the complexity of the individuals at the sites and services needed to help each individual
- Have looked at best practices in other municipalities and compared to the homeless in Nanaimo where some individuals may be less likely to follow the guidelines
- Nanaimo needs to have a lot of support, wrap around resources and infrastructure in place to house and help these individuals

- (b) Discussion regarding the Extension of the Health and Housing Task Force

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Extension needed to accommodate validation labs with Dr. Turner that are currently underway
- Task Force members require time to go over results of design labs

It was moved and seconded that the Health and Housing Task Force recommend that Council extend the mandate of the Health and Housing Task Force to November 30, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:34 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER