

MINUTES
SPECIAL HEALTH AND HOUSING TASK FORCE MEETING
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2020-NOV-12, AT 2:05 P.M.

Present: Councillor Bonner, Chair
Councillor Hemmens (joined electronically)
L. Fletcher, A/OIC, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment (joined electronically 2:23 p.m., disconnected 2:37 p.m.)
J. Harrison, Executive Director, Mid-Island Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association (joined electronically)
H. Hartman, BC Housing (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)
S. Madden, Executive Director, United Way (joined electronically, disconnected 3:56 p.m.)
J. McCormick, Executive Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard Society (joined electronically)
K. Smythe, CEO, Chamber of Commerce (joined electronically)
Councillor E. Manson, Snuneymuxw First Nation (joined electronically 2:15 p.m.)
T. Kaethler, Impact Officer (alternate for S. Madden) (joined electronically)

Absent: J. Fix, Director Program Delivery, Service Canada
K. Glynn, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use
L. McHaffie, Service Manager
L. Murphy, Director, Mental Health and Substance Use, Island Health

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer (joined electronically)
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications (joined electronically)
S/Sgt T. Casson, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment (joined electronically 2:37 p.m.)
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

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

The Special Health and Housing Task Force Meeting was called to order at 2:05 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 Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Tuesday 2020-OCT-27, at 3:01 p.m. be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the Community Charter Section 90(1):

- (k) negotiations and related discussion respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary states and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Health and Housing Task Force moved In Camera at 2:09 p.m.

The Health and Housing Task Force moved out of In Camera at 2:12 p.m.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, Verbal Update re: Rapid Re-Housing Fund

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided a verbal update regarding the Rapid Re-Housing Fund. Highlights included:

- Recent announcement for Rapid Re-Housing funding of \$1 billion
- Application open to non-profit organizations, local government and Indigenous governing bodies

E. Manson joined the meeting electronically at 2:15 p.m.

- Applicable categories include standard affordable rental, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and seniors housing with light to no care
- Key requirements include a long-term tenancy (extending beyond COVID-19) and a minimum of five units or beds
- Application deadline is 2020-DEC-31
- Eligible projects must be operational within a 12-month timeframe once funds are distributed Spring 2021
- Eligible projects must have committed operational funding

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The City currently in conversation with BC Housing in regards to the application

- Staff reaching out to Task Force members and service providers to get a sense of the buy-in and where they are able to fit
- The 12-month timeframe parameter presents a challenge, particularly if the project requires re-zoning
- No limit to submissions per community, but coordination between service providers would allow for a stronger ask

(b) Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way, Verbal Update re: Additional COVID-19 Reaching Home Funding

Signy Madden, Executive Director, United Way, provided a verbal update regarding additional COVID-19 Reaching Home Funding. Highlights included:

- Receiving two types of grants under Reaching Home Funding: Canada's Homelessness Strategy program (Indigenous Homeless Stream and Designated Communities Stream)
- In conversation with different service providers, members of the coalition and the City of Nanaimo on how to most effectively administer funding as there is a 30-day deadline to indicate investment of funds
- Services must be related to the COVID-19 pandemic response – some ideas coming forward include warming centres, short term rent supplement for people at risk of losing housing, staff training and supports, top-up for existing COVID-19 projects
- Will work with Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition on recommendation but a motion is not required

(c) Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, and John McCormick, Executive Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard Society, Verbal Update re: Winter Warming Centre Options

John McCormick, Executive Director, Nanaimo Region John Howard Society, provided an update regarding discussions around the recommendation to use Reaching Home Funding for the operation a Winter Warming Centre. Highlights included:

- Salvation Army is a prospective operator and currently in need of a location

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- If a location can be identified quickly, funding can be allocated from the COVID-19 Reaching Home grant
- A large tent in a parking lot could potentially be an option; however, access to an available parking lot is needed

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, added that the City of Nanaimo is involved and waiting to hear the outcome of one possible location. Finding a location is challenging due to need to meet fire code, building safety and zoning, in addition to consideration for COVID-19 safety.

(d) Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Verbal Update re: Integrated Coordinated Access Coordinator (Contract Awarded)

Jason Harrison, Executive Director, Mid-Island Branch, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), provided an update regarding the Integrated Coordinated Access Coordinator. Highlights included:

- Successful in application for funding from the Coalition to build the foundation of the Integrated Coordinated Access System
- CMHA will handle the practical implementation while the John Howard Society builds a community research piece
- Next step includes formalizing the contract, preliminary work and hiring the coordinator
- The use of the “Built For Zero Canada” Coordinated Access Scorecard Guide to assist in developing the Coordinate Access System
- Engaging with the community using the IAP2 method
- System design/initial approach include:
 - Building a By-Name List to categorize individuals
 - Visual map of Coordinator Access System
 - The use of HelpSeeker

Task Force discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Process of the By-Name List to refine information
- The opportunity to expand what is already happening in Nanaimo
- BC Housing adding a second Coordinated Access and Assessment Coordinator to better serve the Central and North Island
- Data set to increase efficiency and knowledgeability through both the practical aspect of matching people with available spaces as well as creating a better understanding of whether demands are being met
- Collaboration with BC Housing Coordinated Access
- Comparison of BC to other provinces
- Creating a visual map of coordinated access to communicate process to the community

The Health and Housing Task Force moved In Camera at 2:48 p.m.

The Health and Housing Task Force moved out of In Camera at 4:03 p.m.

(e) Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, HelpSeeker, PowerPoint Presentation re: Governance Recommendation

This item was addressed In Camera.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:04 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER