

DATE OF MEETING June 13, 2018

AUTHORED BY JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL PLANNING

SUBJECT OPIOID RESPONSE FUNDING APPLICATIONS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide information on the City of Nanaimo's support for two funding applications that address the opioid crisis.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee receive the report titled "Opioid Response Funding Applications" dated 2018-JUN-13, for information.

DISCUSSION

As part of its response to the issue of opioid overdoses, the provincial government of BC has created the Overdose Emergency Response Centre. In partnership with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Community Action Initiative, funding is being made available to BC communities to support Community Action Teams (CAT). The Nanaimo CAT (formerly the Overdose Prevention & Management Working Group) will be responsible for supporting the coordination and communication of overdose responses and harm reduction strategies in Nanaimo. City of Nanaimo Social Planning staff have been members of the Nanaimo CAT (Overdose Prevention & Management Working Group) since its inception. The Terms of Reference for the Nanaimo CAT is attached as Schedule A to this report.

The Community Action Team in Nanaimo has applied for a one-time grant of \$100,000 from the provincial government's Overdose Emergency Response Centre. The purpose of the Community Action Team Grants is to help communities develop partnerships to provide focused, action-oriented strategies tailored to local community needs that will support addressing the overdose crisis. The membership of the CAT have asked that the City of Nanaimo be the official recipient and disperser of that funding. Other Island communities with CAT teams that are applying for funding are considering this same approach. Campbell River is one example of a municipality that has agreed to play the role of financial agent on behalf of its Community Action Team.

Secondly, a coalition of local partners has applied to Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program for funding for a research project aimed at reducing the harms associated with opioid use. The applicants (Vancouver Island University, Island Health and others) have requested that the City of Nanaimo act as the recipient and disperser of this funding should the application be successful. The funder, Health Canada, has also indicated a preference that the local municipality be the financial agent for this research proposal.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Two community collaboratives have submitted funding applications to provincial and federal programs to reduce the harms associated with the use of opioids in Nanaimo.
- The City of Nanaimo has been asked to host the funds and act as the financial agent for these applications.
- The activities contemplated in these applications will support the City's goal of reducing the harms associated with substance abuse in our community.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Community Action Team - Terms of Reference

Submitted by:

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Social Planner

Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
Director, Community Development