



MINUTES

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters

Monday, December 5, 2016

1 p.m.

Committee Room 3, City Hall

66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne

Attendees:

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges CHCH
Co-Chair Angie Desmarais, Councillor
John Maloney, Mayor
George Kurzawa, CMHA Niagara
Chris Healey, Staff Sergeant, NRP
Neal Schoen, Justice Niagara
Kyle Kuyzk, Start me up Niagara
Jeff Sinclair, Niagara Region

Sherry Hanson, Supervisor, By-law
Enforcement Division
Scott Lawson, Fire Prevention Officer
Harry Hakim, Manager of Community
Services
Leanne James, Salvation Army

Minutes:

Carrie McIntosh

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by G. Kurzawa
Seconded by S. Lawson

That the agenda for the December 5, 2016 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee be approved.
CARRIED.

3. Approval of the October 4, 2016 Minutes

Moved by G. Kurzawa
Seconded by S. Lawson

That the October 4, 2016 minutes of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee be approved.
CARRIED.

4. Business Arising from the October 4, 2016 Minutes

None.

5. Affordable Housing

Update was provided from Sub-Committee (notes attached). It was noted that this is not permanent sub-committee rather a group of people brought together to discuss resources available to deal with squatters (people who are “rough living”).

Discussion took place with respect to the lack of resources in the community which is why the committee has reached out to RAFT, Start me up Niagara, the Region, Salvation Army. Discussion took place about housing first and the provision of more transitional housing as opposed to shelters.

Committee members agreed that it would be helpful to have a count of how many homeless there are, including couch surfers.

S. Hanson noted that the By-law Division is researching licensing of rental units, however, capturing some of the statistics has been more difficult than expected. Other committee members also noted that there is a difficulty with obtaining data and with who should be collecting the data. Dave noted that the Region is assembling a team and there will be a hodgepodge of data but it will be used to put a system in place. Committee members suggested that a standardized survey for every agency would be ideal and would help to create an accurate municipal profile.

It was suggested that MP Badawey and MPP Forster be invited to a future meeting in order for the committee to put forth concerns with respect to housing and inform them about what the committee is working on.

6. New Business

None.

7. Action Items

At the next meeting, discuss meeting with the MP and MPP and how the meeting will be structured.

8. Next Meeting

January 26, 1 p.m.

Jeff Sinclair will continue to attend and Kyle Kuyzk will remain on the circulation list.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.



MEETING NOTES

October 26, 2016

Social Determinants of Health – Sub Committee – Rapid Response

People who are Rough Living

Committee Room 3, City Hall

66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Attendees:

Neal Schoen, Justice Niagara

Christine Clark-Lafleur, Port Cares

Judy Cassan, Bridges CHC

Travis Morden, City By-law Enforcement Officer

Heather Stones, City By-law Enforcement Officer

Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer

Minutes: C. McIntosh

The purpose of the meeting arose from the issue of squatters (people who are “rough living”) on City property that By-law and Police have been dealing with. It was suggested at the October 4, 2016 Social Determinants of Health Committee meeting that a sub-committee meet with respect to developing a rapid response to deal with the un-housed individuals.

Discussion took place with respect to the fact that some individuals do not want to be housed and that is something that outreach supports have to respect.

For those individuals who do want to be housed, the outreach supports are very limited and the shelter spots are very limited. Port Cares workers cannot go to community sites. Some supports include the Welland Salvation Army and Start me Up Niagara. (RAFT deals with children in Port Colborne).

The issue exists when individuals are on City property, particularly a work-site, it creates a safety issue. Someone who wishes to receive help needs someone to case manage within hours of discovery on-site. It may be possible for agencies to partner in order to fund outreach.

As far as shelter, the trend has been to move away from short-term shelters. There are no CMHA beds in Port Colborne. There are no incentives and a lot of red tape to open a vulnerable occupancy home. More need for emergency shelter may occur as housing values rise.

Christine advised she would seek information from Windsor.

C. McIntosh was directed to invite the Salvation Army and Start me Up Niagara to a future Social Determinants of Health Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

Port Colborne Rental Housing Inventory Project Idea

Purpose:

- To create an inventory of rental housing in the City of Port Colborne (including houses, apartment units, supportive living, and rooms for rent)
- To understand rental housing from tenants' perspectives with respect to affordability, quality, and sense of security
- To identify local rental housing issues, needs/gaps, and potential solutions
- To use the data collected to advocate for needed changes – by-laws, funding, partnerships, etc.

Strategies/Information Needed:

- Identify all addresses of rental housing in the City of Port Colborne and categorize based on size and type – are there other types of info needed – furnished or not, utilities included or not, etc.) – could map out
- Number of Port Colborne residents receiving a rent supplement
- Number of Port Colborne residents in rent-geared to-income housing
- Number of Port Colborne residents on waiting list for affordable housing – Port Cares list vs Niagara Regional Housing
- Number of people experiencing absolute homelessness (live outside), couch surfing, etc – data from point-in-time count?
- Add extra demographic data for the above (i.e. age, gender, family unit)
- Need to determine how to find out rental rates (survey landlords or tenants)
- Tenant survey – perceived affordability, quality, and sense of security (in unit, building, neighbourhood); document specific issues such as needed repairs, appliances, noise, mold, etc.
- Could also interview some landlords