



MINUTES

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters

Thursday, September 6, 2018

1:00 p.m.

**Committee Room 3, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne**

Attendees:

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges CHC
Co-Chair Angie Desmarais, Councillor
John Maloney, Mayor (arrived at 1:30)
Rob Laplante, Staff Sergeant, NRP
Christine Clark-Lafleur, Port Cares
Patrick Volpe – Port Cares
Deborah Rollo, Health Services
Coordinator (left at 1:45)
Jeffrey Sinclair – Niagara Region
Casey Forgeron – member of the public
Susan Therrien – Director of Library
Services

Regrets:

Scott Luey - CAO
Neal Schoen - Chair – East Village
Neighbourhood Improvement Task
Force

Guests:

Minutes:

Nancy Giles, EA to Mayor and CAO

There was an informal discussion prior to quorum about recent comments on social media about Port Cares and its services and clients.

Christine advised there was a break-in earlier this year which cost the organization over \$24,000. New protocols have been put in place with new sign-in cards. Message is out to the community that Port Cares will not tolerate these actions that are criminal and destructive to the community. Need to do myth-busting. A big part of the problem is the drug scene.

Jeff – Port Colborne is not unique in this area. Criminal individuals are usually not wanting the services of places like Port Cares. You can't lump them in with the homeless population. More awareness about the issues of homelessness and public is speaking out against it.

Christine – review of social programs by provincial government will have a big impact on our community this fall.

Susan – the libraries in the communities are feeling the effect of the mental health issues in the community – still need to be welcoming, open and a safe place for everyone. If you want any information sessions, the library is available.

Angie – community leaders are speaking about vigilantism. This is not good.

Deb – a lot of stigma with opioid users.

Rob – police are willing to help but we need the community's help

Port-All – started in February 2018 – for those with acute and elevated risk - brings the services to the people in need – identifying those in need – stakeholders are working together – the people have to want the help – must keep the confidentiality of the individuals served – have dealt with 30 cases since starting – have one officer dedicated to this program.

1. Call to order

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Introductions were made around the table.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by C. Forgeron

Seconded by R. Laplante

That the agenda for the September 6, 2018 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters be approved.

CARRIED.

3. Approval of the May 3, 2018 minutes

Moved by C.Clark-Lafleur

Seconded by C. Forgeron

That the minutes for the May 3, 2018 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters be approved.

CARRIED.

4. Business Arising

Ideas on how to use the information in the Report on Health Equity.

The Library is available for use for information sessions.

Deb Rollo – shared the information with our local family physicians. A couple reached out. Part of the City's Strategic Plan was to have a planning session with family physicians and perhaps this report could be presented by Christine. Bridges would like to be part of this conversation. The different health care teams being brought in would be good.

Fetal alcohol is a problem and perhaps education would be valuable to the community.

This report will lend to on-going ideas.

5. Affordable Housing

St. Catharines Housing Plan – a presentation was made to Port Colborne City Council on July 9th. Council received the report – a couple of councillors are very interested in what we can do about housing. This has started the conversation.

Lori asked if there was any direction back to staff. Councillor Desmarais said no specifics – but hopefully our Planner will take this back and use it. We would like to see some of the pieces of the recommendation adopted. Will have to wait until after the new council. This committee could make recommendations in the annual report.

Jeff – the Region is working on the new Official Plan - new resources are coming. The Region is doing an analysis of housing in communities in the Region and there will be a Port Colborne report early 2019. Region is working with CMHC for some of their data. Jeff will share the links to the resources. Vacancy rates for under \$800 for an apartment is basically zero in Port Colborne.

Do we want to pull some info from the St. Catharines report and bring it back to the committee? Members are asked to contact Nancy if they are interested in sitting on a committee to review the report in detail and bring recommendations back to the committee before our next meeting in November.

Christine reported that capital funding from CMHC dropped by 70% to 40%. This affects the Port Cares project. Jeff feels that Port Colborne is still ahead of many other communities in the Region in the work that we are doing.

6. New Business

Annual Report to Council

Angie would like to aim for a January presentation to the new Council. Lori, Angie and Nancy will get together in November.

From the committee, what do you want us to include? Christine would like to see some recommendations to Council. Develop and adopt an affordable housing strategy for short and long-term solutions. Something from the health equity report. Vulnerable Seniors.

Others Items

Lori made a presentation to the committee at the Region for oral health with seniors.

Growing year is winding down at the community garden – would it be appropriate for this committee to send a thank you letter to Sarah LaCharity – send after October 22.

Next council meeting will be speaking about crime in the downtown core and it is open the public to participate.

Bridges is bringing back their social group. Every other Monday starting October 1st at 2 – 4 p.m. Light refreshments, conversation to help with social isolation.

Port Cares is now the provider for child development services at the Seaway Mall.

7. Action Items

Hoarding – since May meeting there has been a brighter light shone on the hoarding issue by the Fire Department. Scott Lawson and Judy Cassan will come to address this at the November meeting.

Scott and Judy are attending a provincial hoarding meeting in October and a regional meeting shortly after.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday November 1, 2018 1 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.