



MINUTES

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters

Thursday, June 6, 2019

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
Jay McKnight, Niagara Regional Police
Jeffrey Sinclair, Niagara Region
Susan Therrien, Director of Library Services
Ryan Pearson, Niagara Community Legal Clinic
Scott Lawson, Deputy Fire Chief
Casey Forgeron, Public Member

Regrets:

Christine Clark-Lafleur, Port Cares
Joanne Ferraccioli, Acting Health Services Coordinator
Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Steele, Mayor
Sherry Hanson, Manager of By-law Services
Judy Cassan, Bridges CHC
Tara McKendrick – CMHA

Minutes:

Nancy Giles, EA to Mayor and CAO

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by C. Forgeron
Seconded by J. Sinclair

That the agenda for the June 6, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters as amended be approved.
CARRIED.

2. Approval of the April 4, 2019 minutes

Moved by C. Forgeron
Seconded by J. McKnight

That the minutes for the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters be approved.
CARRIED.

3. Business Arising

Affordable Housing Report to Council – Planner has not yet brought back the report to council – hoping for before the end of June. Let's Talk Series at the library about Housing and Homelessness has generated a lot of talk.

Planners from all municipalities will be joining Niagara Region tomorrow to discuss the CCEA report (Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis) – now have data on housing supply and demand. Working on scenarios and growth numbers for municipalities. Setting some targets – looks like 24,000 need affordable housing. Port Colborne had the highest rate of core housing need. We need to look at how we define affordable housing. Angie attended a recent Committee of Adjustment conference and spoke with other municipalities facing the same issues as us. What else do we need to do in our municipality to make housing affordable?

By-law for rooming, lodging and boarding houses – not finalized yet. NOTL is implementing a short-term rental by-law, i.e. Air BnB's. Lori asked Port Cares about what they are seeing with renters (report attached).

Ryan mentioned that 70% of their clients are dealing with housing issues. He will get us some of the Legal Clinic's pamphlets that describe their services. Susan offered the library as a venue for the Legal Clinic to meet and provide outreach. There are also issues in the other residential apartments. Angie is concerned that people in some of these apartments don't have any supports. Port-All is dealing with some of these issues – if there are issues, give him a call. Jeff mentioned Housing First could also be involved.

4. New Business

Next steps for the committee – Living wage piece could be a good next step for this committee.

For the City of Port Colborne, we are on target. Our crossing guards are currently not at a living wage. Lori will provide Angie with contact information for the Living Wage Network. Angie is working with the CAO with respect to the crossing guards.

Contractors – an expectation that future contracts would include a clause about living wage.

There are now 20 employers in Niagara committed to paying a living wage. Angie has been talking to 3 employers in Port Colborne who are committed to coming on board after the city does.

Scott Lawson asked if increasing wages is going to increase costs for businesses and then have a negative affect on employees.

Access to Education – Casey explained that there are a lot of barriers to getting further education. An example is the DSBN course for PSW used to be offered in Port Colborne – now it is only offered at 2 schools in the whole region.

Access to Employment – buses used to pick up people in Port Colborne and take them to the hotels for work.

Transportation is a piece for access to both education and employment.

Angie expressed concern about racism in the community. Jay said it really isn't an issue.

Opioid issue – Jay says the police are fighting a battle with opioid use and drugs laced with other products causing overdoses. Naloxone kits are being used every day.

Angie participated in the community trail clean-up and they did not find a lot of needles on the site.

Mental health counselling in Port Colborne is now happening in Port Colborne. She is getting busier. Pathstone Mental Health is starting their walk-in clinic in Port Colborne and Fort Erie next week. Information is being sent to the schools and we will send to all staff. Lori will touch base with Pathstone as far as reaching out to the youth.

Library is having teens redesign their library card and perhaps they can engage some of the youth with respect to Pathstone.

5. Community Updates

Susan handed out flyers for the upcoming Let's Talk Series about Human Trafficking on June 26th at the Guild Hall.

6. Action Items

Follow up on Affordable Housing Report to Council
Update on living wage for City of Port Colborne employees
Report on Let's Talk Series at Library

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, September 5, 2019 1 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.