



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
STRATEGIC HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SHHC - 5/2019

The Region of Peel Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee met on November 21, 2019 at 9:33 a.m., in the Regional Council Chambers, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Members Present: G. Carlson; G.S. Dhillon*; A. Groves; N. Iannicca*; M. Medeiros; C. Parrish*; P. Vicente

Members Absent: Nil

Also Present: N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer; J. Hastings, Acting Commissioner of Human Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; C. Granger, Acting Commissioner of Health Services; A. Farr, Commissioner of Public Works; P. Caza, Acting Regional Solicitor; N. Jamal, Acting Chief Planner; A. Baird, Director, Housing Services; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Legal Services; H. West, Legislative Specialist; A. Dhindsa, Legislative Assistant; S. MacGregor, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Councillor A. Groves

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST -Nil

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION SHHC-13-2019

That the agenda for the November 21, 2019 Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting, be approved.

3. DELEGATIONS – Nil

3.1. Ian Hanney, Policy Analyst, Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, Providing an Overview of Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH)

Received

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Ian Hanney, Policy Analyst, Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) reintroduced PAEH which is a collaboration of agencies and stakeholders who work to prevent and end homelessness in Peel region. Members of the agencies and stakeholders have provided in kind time and resources to reach shared goals. PAEH was formed when local champions participated in the National 20,000 Homes Campaign organized by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. The campaign collected data from the most vulnerable citizens and an enumeration was presented in 2016; another enumeration was completed in 2018 and one will be completed in 2020. Ian Hanney stated that since 2016, PAEH has expanded its membership and duties. He highlighted that PAEH is the community advisory board through the federal homelessness funding program known as the Reaching Home Strategy; leads the Built for Zero team (completing data driven tests for change for those that are most vulnerable) and will build the Coordinated Access system with the Region of Peel.

Councillor Parrish arrived at 9:37 a.m.

Regional Chair Iannicca arrived at 9:40 a.m.

3.2. **William Graham, Volunteer, The Royal Canadian Legion, Knights of Columbus and The Society of St. Vincent dePaul, Providing Suggestions on Working Toward Homelessness Solutions**

Received

William Graham, Volunteer, The Royal Canadian Legion, Knights of Columbus and The Society of St. Vincent DePaul provided suggestions on ways that the public can change attitudes and views of the homeless noting that they are human beings, many of whom have great life experience but are down on their luck. He stated that there are 900 homeless people in the Region of Peel and 230,000 across Canada each year and he provided reasons for why they may be homeless. William Graham noted that support systems are required for individuals after they are housed to ensure their success for staying housed. He suggested that members of the public change their assumptions and treat homeless people with civility, respect, love, and justice. He provided an opportunity for local businesses, in an act of kindness, to post a sticker on a window or door that 'Homeless are Welcome'.

Members of the Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee thanked William Graham for his delegation. Regional Chair Iannicca requested that he delegate at an upcoming Regional Council meeting.

Councillor Groves requested that Human Services staff work with William Graham to help raise public awareness regarding his campaign.

- 3.3 **Mark Alfano, Founder, CITIZENX**, Providing Suggestions on How to Anticipate New Challenges to Affordable Housing Emergencies

Withdrawn

4. **REPORTS**

4.1. **Housing and Homelessness Service Transformation: Shifting to a Needs-Based Approach**

Presentation by Grace Caron, Program Director and Joyce Nielsen, Program Manager, Service Transformation, Human Services

Received

Grace Caron, Program Director, Service Transformation, provided an overview of the transformation of the current chronological housing or centralized wait list approach to shifting to a needs based approach. She stated that the way housing services are delivered today does not align with the demands and the changing needs of the community and as a result, there is a growing impact on the shelter system. She explained that a key principle of Housing First is to deliver services prioritized based on need with a focus on securing permanent Housing as quickly as possible. She noted that only 17 per cent of Peel's rent supplements are funded by the provincial government which allows opportunities to utilize Regional contributions to implement a needs-based approach, as provincial legislation currently requires a chronological approach. A needs-based approach will have all clients participate in a needs assessment to categorize low, medium or high needs.

Joyce Nielsen, Program Manager, Service Transformation, stated that the Government of Canada's Renewed Homelessness Strategy mandates implementation of a Coordinated Access System by March 31, 2022. She indicated that the Region of Peel's proposed model will navigate the right services to individual needs noting it was developed in partnership with PAEH and was co-designed with community partners while utilizing best practices from other jurisdictions.

Grace Caron stated that staff will report back to the Committee in early 2020 with implementation of the housing needs assessment, Coordinated Access, as well as a comprehensive policy and funding framework.

Councillor Dhillon arrived at 10:10 a.m.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Parrish regarding the lack of proper housing and the services that are provided through homeless shelters, Grace Caron responded that a concrete policy framework and recommendations will be brought forward in 2020 to change from the current model to a needs based approach. The needs based approach will use the

current funding envelope, but takes an approach on how to use those funds differently to divert people from shelters. Councillor Parrish asked that the new needs based approach be communicated in a simplified way so that all members of the public and media will understand.

Aileen Baird, Director, Housing Services, added that 'housing' is usually thought of as creating supply and the provision of capital dollars. She noted that a solid capital plan has been put before Council and that staff are working on a funding strategy; however, another component of the Peel Housing & Homelessness Plan is managing the demands to achieve greater outcomes, such as the transformation to a needs based approach.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Medeiros regarding needs assessment and metrics, Grace Caron stated that the right modeling and forecasting will be required to understand the impact of the proposed recommendations, which will guide the metrics. Individual responses will be created to determine the provision of what will be offered to ensure long term successes which will allow clients to move out of the system and become independent.

In response to questions raised by Councillor Medeiros regarding staff training and activities of the transformation, Grace Caron stated that in addition to training and internal process changes there is a small project team working with staff and community partners such as PAEH. The group is streamlining internal processes which will be a multi-year initiative and will continue to evolve and adjust over time. Councillor Medeiros asked that Members of Council be provided with an information sheet so that communication is consistent. Aileen Baird, Director, Housing Services confirmed that an information sheet will be sent to Members of Council.

Councillor Groves stated that she had provided a brochure from the Region of York to Peel Regional staff, regarding a program for 'empty-nesters' to house individuals in their unused rooms. Aileen Baird responded that staff will be reporting back in 2020 regarding optimizing existing stock with nine different options, one of which is a 'host' program, as described by Councillor Groves.

4.2. Housing and Homelessness Service Transformation: Implementing a Coordinated Access System

RECOMMENDATION SHHC-14-2019

That the Commissioner of Human Services be delegated authority to approve the use of the Community Capacity and Innovation funding allocated to The Regional Municipality of Peel under an amendment to the Reaching Home transfer payment agreement with the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada (the "Minister"), in the amount of \$623,250, for the federal funding period of 2019 through to 2024, or as may be extended by the Minister, for service provision by community agencies in accordance with federal funding obligations;

And further, that the Director of Housing Services be delegated authority to execute agreements and other related documents to conduct Community Capacity and Innovation activities, on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Human Services and on legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor for the federal funding period of 2019 through to 2024 or as may be extended by the Minister;

And further, that the 2019 Homelessness Support gross expenditures and revenues be increased by \$60,000 as a result of the additional federal funding;

And further, that \$181,780 in gross expenditures and revenues be included for consideration in the 2020 Homelessness Support operating budget.

5. COMMUNICATIONS - Nil

6. IN CAMERA MATTERS - Nil

7. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Strategic Housing and Homelessness Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., Regional Administrative Headquarters, Council Chamber, 5th floor, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Please forward regrets to Helena West, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, extension 4697 or at Helena.west@peelregion.ca.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.