



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Community Advisory Board on Homelessness
August 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
Upstairs Boardroom

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall Upstairs Boardroom. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Present: Councillor L. Bussey, chair,
B. Denning,
D. McKee,
I. Notley, and
M. Gebauer.

The following advisory members were in attendance:

E. Shea, NWT Housing Corporation.

The following representatives of the Federal Government were in attendance:

R. Kelly.

The following representatives of the public were in attendance:

T. Hawker, Native Women's Society of the NWT.

The following members of the Administration staff were in attendance:

G. White,
H. Ferris,
M. Mercredi, and
C. Kida.

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of members.



Approval of Agenda

2. I. Notley moved,
D. McKee seconded,

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Past Minutes:

4. a. June 28, 2018

Board deferred the approval of the Minutes to the next meeting and requested revision to Item #6, the Coordinated Access Funding to fund the Youth and Families Housing First Project for a second year.

Action: Administration to provide a clip of the audio recording for June 28, 2018 meeting regarding the discussion to allocate the Coordinated Access funding to Youth and Families Housing First Project.

- b. July 27, 2018

Board deferred the approval of the Minutes to the next meeting as some members who were present at the July 27, 2018 meeting were not in attendance to approve the Minutes.

Project Update:

5. a. YWCA Housing First for Families
Administration informed members that the YWCA Housing First for Families currently house fifteen families and are expecting to house more families now that they received the reallocation of the Coordinated Access Fund.
- b. Yellowknife Women's Society (YWS) Housing First
Administration noted that the quarterly report was shared with members and it states that seventeen clients have been housed but that the YWS is currently supporting twenty two clients.
- c. Rapid Rehousing Request for Proposal (RFP) Update
Administration reported that the SideDoor was selected as the successful proponent for the Rapid Rehousing RFP and noted that work will commence this month.



CAB Training Opportunities:

6. Administration presented some suggestions on training to members. The suggestions are as follows:
 1. The History & Legacy of Residential Schools & Colonization
 2. Alex Abramovich – Focus on issue of LGBTQ2S youth homelessness
 3. Dr. Gabor Mate – The Hungry Ghost: A Biophysosocial Perspective on Addiction, from Heroin to Workaholism – Based on the book *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*.
 4. Housing Procurement, which would include (1.5 days possibly 2 days):
 - a. Landlord relations and tenancy issues
 - b. Home visits
 - c. Rapid rehousing
 - d. Permanent supportive housing
 5. Person Centered Intensive Case Management, which would include (2 days):
 - a. Strength based case management essentials
 - b. Process of case management
 6. Team Leader Training, which would include (2 days):
 - a. Mostly for team leads in supervising Housing First teams
 - b. Documentation/case notes
 - c. Documentation monitoring
 7. Indigenous Housing First Training, which include (2 days):
 - a. Intensive Case Management from this perspective
 - b. Trauma Informed
 - c. Cultural Competency
 - d. Partnerships
 8. Harm Reduction, which would include (1.5 days possibly 2 days):
 - a. Harm Reduction Understanding
 - b. Practices and interventions
 - c. Managed alcohol development and implementation

Board discussed some of the suggestions that included Dr. Gabor Mate, Alex Abramovich and the Indigenous Housing First Training. Board requested more time to review the training options and suggested to choose the top three or four training options using Doodle Poll. A conference call will be scheduled for the final vote. During the discussion some members inquired if the funding for training could be used to help alleviate costs in sending members to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) Conference in Hamilton, Ontario.

Action: Administration to provide handouts when items need to be discussed.



Action: R. Kelly to determine if funding for training can be used to alleviate costs in sending members to conferences.

7. M. Gebauer moved,
I. Notley seconded,

That Administration explore the possibility of bringing Dr. Gabor Mate to Yellowknife to do a presentation on *The Hungry Ghost: A Biophysocial Perspective on Addiction*.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. D. McKee moved,
I. Notley seconded,

That if Dr. Gabor Mate is not available to come to Yellowknife to present that Administration reallocates the training funding towards the other training opportunities.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Round Table:

9. B. Denning noted that Housing First will be sending two people to a program called Ready to Rent Train the Trainer in Calgary from October 1 to 4, 2018. The program is applicable for anyone involved with the Housing First Program and anyone struggling to be successful in their homes. The training is designed to work with tenants, front line workers and landlords. Another training session will take place in Edmonton in November.

D. McKee noted that at this point in time there is no set date for opening the Sobering Centre but that it is expected to be open by October. D. McKee further noted that a new tracking system has been implemented to track other information such as missing people within the homelessness population so that actions can be taken early in the process. D. McKee further noted that they are doubling their early intervention through working with First Nation families to access Jordan's Principle Funding. This funding is designed to help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs for children up to eighteen years old.

R. Kelly relayed that a few months ago the Minister announced that the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Contribution Agreement will be renewed for another 5 years. It is expected that in this contribution more consideration will be given to Coordinated Access.

I. Notley noted that the SideDoor provides services in house to attend youth needs and navigators to help clients with appointments and any other needs. I. Notley further noted that it has been a struggle dealing with Income Support to help youth with high addiction



to access that benefit. I. Notley further noted that the SideDoor has currently eighteen youths under the age of nineteen and that over the past year the SideDoor has helped move some youth back to their own community.

E. Shea noted that there are some funds applicable to Yellowknife that some organizations are welcome to apply for. They are as follows:

- a. Homelessness Assistant Fund;
- b. Shelter Enhancement Fund; and
- c. Rapid Rehousing Fund.

E. Shea further noted that the GNWT is reviewing its resources specifically to homelessness to use the gathered information towards the GNWT Strategic Plan around homelessness in the territory.

M. Gebauer noted that Avens is experiencing difficulties in accessing Income Support for some of its seniors due to the fact that they are in a care facility.

T. Hawker noted that the Native Women's Society experiences the same difficulty in accessing Income Support for its clients. T. Hawker further noted that the Federal Government funding they received for the past two years will be used toward a research study to discover how women become homeless. Based on this research the Native Women's Society hopes to better understand and support these women in the future.

H. Ferris informed members that a draft of the PiT count is currently being reviewed and that it will be ready to be circulated among members at the September meeting.

M. Mercredi noted that she holds a new position with the City as the Indigenous Relations Advisor and requested that she be able to give inputs at the CAB meetings. M. Mercredi further noted that relationship building is one of the most important aspects of her work with the City.

Action: E. Shea to send Homelessness Assistant Fund applications to I. Notley and M. Gebauer.

Action: E. Shea to invite an Income Support representative to participate in a future CAB meeting.

Next Meeting:

10. The following meetings are scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2018 and Thursday, October 11, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



Prepared: August 29, 2018 GW/ck