

Social Planning Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chairperson – J. Villeneuve
Councillor Rasode
L. Alexander
K. Ardawa
S. Dooley
D. Chattha
M. Chatwin
L. Coyle
Dr. Z. Malik
R. Mehta (alternate)

Absent:

G. Gill
K. Kreis (LOA until Dec.'09)

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by D Chatha
Seconded by K. Ardawa
That Social Planning Advisory Committee

Minutes of June 25, 2009 to be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Susan Papadionissou, Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning & Care, Surrey, to present on early childhood initiatives in Surrey.**
File No. 4750-01; 5080-01

The following information was provided:

- Susan is the Coordinator for the Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning and Care. Her predecessor was Penny Coates.
- Early Childhood Partnership MOU includes City of Surrey, School District, United Way of the Lower Mainland, Fraser Health, MCFD Fraser Region.
- Functions: Research, planning, public awareness, capacity building, project coordination, external relationships, accountability.
- Strategic Plan 2009-2010
 - Vision, mission, strategies (see page 9 in agenda package)
 - Provided on table: a document prepared by Dr. Clyde Hertzman, of the HELP research group at UBC: *15 by 15: A Comprehensive Policy framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC.*
 - Strategies:
 - Promote the importance of healthy, supportive environments for children and families.
 - Build and support links and connections that enable supportive environments for children and families.

- Target and focus resources on communities where we can have the most impact on children and families.
- HELP at UBC has developed the Early Development Indicator (EDI) that assesses childrens' developmental status when they enter kindergarten. 29% of BC kids are considered vulnerable and not school ready. Early Development Indicator (EDI) chart of Surrey results was provided on table. The chart is available on the HELP website.
- Clyde Hertzman's research shows what can contribute to increased risk of vulnerability which includes low family income, mother's education and transiency.
- HELP website link: <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>.
- Clyde Hertzman will be speaking on the provincial results on October 27, 2009 at 10:00 am -12:00 pm at SFU Harbour Centre. The event is free but you must register www.earlylearning.ubc.ca.
- Fraser Regional Workshop on the EDI results is on November 3, 2009 at 10:00 am -3:00 pm at Lena Shaw Elementary School in Surrey (register at www.earlylearning.ubc.ca).
- On November 3, 2009 the Office of Early Childhood Development, Learning and Care is hosting a Community Leaders Breakfast. By invitation only.

2. **Patti Boyle, Executive Director, Ministry of Housing and Social Development, Fraser Region**, to present on the Homelessness Intervention Project (HIP).

File No. 5080-01

The following information was provided:

- HIP is a cross-government initiative focused on moving the chronically homeless into stable housing. It started in March 2009 and will run until September 2010.
- Provincial Government Partners include: BC Housing, Fraser Health Authority, and Ministry of Housing and Social Development (MHSD). MHSD is the lead agency.
- Five BC municipalities were selected for HIP: Surrey, Victoria, Prince George, Vancouver, and Kelowna.
- The 2008 Homeless Count found 403 homeless people in Surrey. HIP has set a target of housing 160 chronically homeless people in Surrey. We are on target as 150 homeless people have been housed in Surrey through the HIP program since it started in March 2009.
- Youth homelessness is on rise, especially in Surrey. Community partners that are part of the HIP Guiding Team in Surrey along with the provincial partners are:
 - OPTIONS Services to Communities Society
 - South Fraser Community Services Society
 - Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Centre
 - Newton Advocacy Group Society
 - Elizabeth Fry Society
 - Surrey Memorial Hospital
 - City of Surrey

- The Surrey Homelessness and Housing Taskforce
- BC Housing – has made social housing units available for HIP clients in Surrey. Rent supplements have been provided for those who can live more independently in a private market rental apartment/suite.
- In the past year, MHSD has introduced a new funding program for supportive recovery homes. Recovery home operators can apply for funding (\$30 per day per occupied bed). The application process includes an assessment of the recovery home's policies and programs, as well as an inspection of the premises by BC Housing. In addition, to qualify for the funding, the recovery house must verify that they comply with city by-laws. This has created a barrier for recovery houses in Surrey to access this funding as none can comply with the City's zoning bylaw. Surrey's Zoning By-law defines an alcohol and drug recovery house as a facility that is regulated under the Ministry of Health's Community Care and Assisted Living Act. Assisted living residences for people with addictions and/or mental health issues are currently exempt from Act.)
- The new per diem program is providing additional supportive housing for people with addictions with the funding coming out of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, not Health.
- This Supportive Recovery House Program will continue. Phase II begins September 2010. The Deputy Minister is on side.
- Trying to amend city regulations to enable houses to comply would enable them to accept provincial funding and be accountable to the Ministry for their operations. This could bring up the standards so that they offer decent housing.

In response to queries the following information was provided:

- Surrey offers more facilities than Burnaby has. Downtown eastside has a lot of homeless and also has many more resources. Surrey's geography is such that people can't walk between the service agencies.
- Tracking of the chronically homeless. 161 Surrey persons are chronically homeless. 150/400 have been housed. If they stay for 30 days they are considered housed.
- Shelters have different lengths of stays. Some are just one night, others are up to 30 days. With additional BC Housing funding, the Gateway Shelter has changed their model: 10/40 beds are check-in check-out; 30/40 beds are for people who want help in transitioning out of the shelter and into housing. Staff from Front Room/Gateway Shelter are providing linkages to their clients who are being housed in the Ted Keuhn Tower as part of the HIP program.
- Many agencies are now working together in being creative in finding housing for approximately two persons per day.

The Chair thanked the delegate for presentation and commended her on her passion and commitment to working in Surrey.

The Chair recommended this issue be brought to the next Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting for a short discussion of ideas.

C. DELEGATION REQUESTS

1. **Lesley Tannen, Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Surrey White Rock Implementation Team**, to provide a presentation at a future meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee Meeting.
File No. 4750-01

It was Moved by Lesley
Seconded by Steve
That Social Planning Advisory Committee
hear the delegation at the next meeting as requested.
Carried

2. **Olawale Lewis Oladuntoye, President of Yoruba Social and Cultural Association of British Columbia**, to provide a presentation on his community at the meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee Meeting as recommended by Kuldip Ardawa, SPAC.
File No. 5080-01

Kuldip Ardawa, Newton Advocacy Society and member of SPAC noted that:

- Mr. Oladuntoye is trying to get his association registered as a charitable organization. He has been turned down by CCRA due to the association not having enough involvement with the community. He is endeavouring to get more engaged with the community.
- Kuldip recommended that he be invited to speak to the SPAC. The Yoruba group will be entertaining at the NAGS Fourth Annual Gala Fundraiser on October 28, 2009.
- This is a good opportunity for us all to learn about the organization and African people in Surrey.
- It was noted that Umoja is a registered charity and provides services to the African community in Surrey.

It was Moved by K. Ardawa
Seconded by D. Chattha
That Social Planning Advisory Committee
hear the Yoruba Social and Cultural Association as a delegation at the next meeting, as requested.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Surrey Housing Action Plan**
File No. 4815-20

Brought forward from June 25, 2009.

Aileen Murphy provided an update on the development of the Housing Action Plan as follows:

- Housing Action Plan (HAP) process:
 - Step 1 – Compiled all housing related data in Surrey and looked at existing City of Surrey policies and practices.
 - Step 2 – Consultation Phase – to identify priority issues and solutions and strategies met with:
 - Multi stakeholder Advisory Group
 - Inter-departmental staff committee
 - OCP Review – Social Issues Coordination Committee
 - Key Informant Interviews
 - Step 3 – Moving into the third phase to look at solutions and strategies.
- Priorities identified in the consultation phase:
 1. Transition/supportive housing: Homeless, addictions, mental health, aboriginal, youth, women, and women with children
 2. Rental accommodation for low income households
 3. Secondary suites
 4. Affordable home ownership
 5. Manufactured homes

Future Updates will be provided.

Committee comments:

- With reference to the affordable home ownership and availability of rental housing, it was noted that the high housing prices in Vancouver has contributed to a significant drop in school enrollment. Surrey is still more affordable.
- Creating livable cities should include affordable housing, i.e. children! The City needs to be careful to ensure that we continue to accommodate families in the future. Children living in density is a new reality for many families.
- Legalize secondary suites. Regulation gives tenants the ability to ensure their own safety and tenant rights.
- Federal Government should get involved in co-op housing once again. Coops provide affordable rents so can enable some people to save so they can eventually own their own homes.
- There is a gap in the housing stock for older women who are single and moving out of the single family home. Many do not want to live in a senior's facility, but don't want to live on their own. They are fighting depression due to loneliness.

E. NEW BUSINESS

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

G. UPDATES**1. Surrey Housing Homelessness & Housing Society**

File No. 5080-01

- On October 8, 2009 at 11:30 am there will be a media event at City Hall. An announcement will be made regarding the \$200,000 in grants that the Society is awarding to projects in the community.
- Everyone invited.
- Next push for the Society will be to put together a fund raising plan to grow the Fund. The \$9 Million endowment fund remains, only the interest is being used to fund grants.

2. Homelessness Action Week

File No. 5080-01

All events going on in Metro Vancouver during the week of October 11-17, 2009 are listed on the website: www.stophomelessness.ca.

3. There are a number of events happening in Surrey during the week, including a Connect event for homeless people on October 15, 2009 at Surrey Urban Mission.

H. CORRESPONDENCE**I. INFORMATION ITEMS****J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

The following information was provided:

Mervin Chatwin -

- October 5, 2009 – Surrey Arts Centre – Food Security event
- Screening of a film: “Fresh” – 5:00 pm.
- Michael McKnight, CEO United Way to talk on food security.
 - Kathleen Zimmermann, Regional Agrologist will talk about the issues of local farmers.

Zambka Malik –

- October 30, 2009 – Dhaliwal Banquet Hall
- Sanjha Vehra Women's Association presents their 5th Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser. 6:30 pm.

Linda Coyle –

- Is a member of the Surrey White Rock Canadian Federation of University Women's Association.
- Issues discussed tonight are the same as they are addressing. Attended Covenant House in Vancouver to learn concerns regarding human trafficking (sex trade) and

the Olympics. Fear is the import of people, particularly that youth will be at risk. Linda will take tonight's information to her committee.

- Youth homelessness is a growing issue in White Rock. They are working with "Nightshift". Nightshift patrols White Rock providing homeless with food, sleeping bags, and transportation to the United Church if they haven't a place to sleep. Many of the homeless are local youth who have left home.

Davinder Chattha –

- Dhaliwal Gala – October 13, 2009.
- Raising funds for second stage housing for South Asian women fleeing domestic violence.

Kuldip Ardawa –

- Newton Advocacy Group Society Fourth Annual Gala Fundraiser event – October 28, 2009, 6:00 pm.
 - Bollywood Banquet Hall
 - Halloween theme that will be fun for families.
- HIP has funded 2 positions in Newton Advocacy to work as a support mechanism with people who have been housed. Thanks to HIP for that support!
- A new initiative that has been funded by VanCity is a "Rent Bank". The rent bank will prevent homelessness by providing loans to people who are at risk of losing their housing (loss of job due to illness, etc.).
- Link Line was launched, but is not being used as much as expected, but coming on gradually. The weather is changing and are now getting more help calls from businesses. Have received tremendous support from RCMP and Salvation Army. The Line is helping to relieve the workload of the RCMP.

Raj Mehta –

- With regards to homeless people: We have discussed finding housing for them but have not discussed how to bring those homeless people who are able to work into the work force. This is something to discuss in future.

K. NEXT MEETING

The meeting of the Social Planning Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2009 is cancelled. The next meeting is November 26, 2009.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by M. Chatwin
Seconded by Z. Malik
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee