

Present:

Chair, Councillor Villeneuve
K. Ardawa
D. Chattha
M. Chatwin
L. Coyle
G. Dean
S. Dooley
G. Gill
D. Lawrance
Dr. Z. Malik

Absent:**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
M. McCargar, Planning Technician
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

Also Present:

Matthew Johnston
Shayne Williams

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by G. Gill
Seconded by Z. Malik
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee minutes of March 29, 2012, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. **Matthew Johnston** presented on the counseling project he operates for Surrey's most at-risk children and youth. The project is funded by the CKNW Orphans' Fund.

Also in attendance was Shayne Williams, Executive Director of South Fraser Community Services Society. Beginning in July 2012, Matt Johnston will be working collaboratively with South Fraser.

Matthew Johnston is a qualified clinical counselor. Since 2008, his company, Centered Lifestyle Services, has received \$40,000 annually from the CKNW Orphans' Fund to provide "efficient and cost-effective" community-based counseling services for children and youth aged 5 to 18 years living in Bridgeview, Surrey-Central and Guildford areas. His caseload is approximately 20 young people per year. Referrals come from school based counselors, child and youth care workers, probation officers, RCMP and outreach workers.

About 90% of the young people Matthew serves are growing up in families living in poverty - about half are experiencing both poverty and neglect. Since transportation can be a barrier, Matthew provides mobile services. In addition to traditional counseling, he does pet therapy, play therapy, arts therapy, as well as using outdoor and athletic experiences to support young people.

Matthew presented data that he has been collecting on the risk factors of the children and youth on his caseload. Out of a total of 24 risk factors, the average is 6 risk factors per child. This is a very disadvantaged population facing a multitude of challenges such as depression, neglect, abuse, grief, severe behavioral, bullying, spectrum disorders, and death/divorce of parents or caregivers. Matthew noted that ages 12-14 years is an important period of transition - gang activity and other risky behaviours can be prevented by interventions at this stage of life.

Municipal recommendations were presented. These include:

- Explore the feasibility of a comprehensive Youth Worker model similar to the City of Vancouver (eg. Ray Cam Community Centre in the Downtown Eastside has 5 youth workers.).
- Create a consistent model of youth work that flows from the Executive to Day Camp employee (eg. 4-5 workshops for staff).
- Commit to a pilot project where trained Youth Workers set out to "attach" with high risk children and youth in Surrey libraries and recreation centres.
- Commit more prevention resources to the high risk pre-teen age group (11-13 years of age).

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Update on the Poverty Project ("*this*" is how we end poverty in Surrey)

File No. 5080-01

a. "*this*" is how we end poverty in Surrey booklets:

- The Facts on Poverty in Surrey (Key Facts and Figures, Transportation, Housing, Income and Support)
- Living in Poverty in Surrey (Families, Seniors, People with Health and Activity Limitations, Women, Men, Aboriginal and Immigrants)

Comments:

- 12 Fact sheets on poverty in Surrey were released on March 30, 2012.
- A Forum was held March 30, 2012. 100 people attended—a great cross section of people. Participants at the Forum discussed the Fact Sheets and provided feedback on actions to reduce poverty. There will be a meeting on Monday, April 30, 2012, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for people interested in providing further feedback into the priorities for the Surrey Poverty Reduction Action Plan.
- A report on the Poverty Reduction Action Plan will go to Council in July 2012. Vibrant Surrey, SPARC BC, Kwantlen's CIR:CLE and the City of Surrey are working together to develop the Plan.
- Funded by Vibrant Surrey, Surrey Homelessness Society, United Way.

b. News Release – Ministry of Children and Family Development & UBCM - Seven communities to pilot poverty reduction strategies

c. **Newspaper articles:**

- Surrey Now, April 3, 2012 – *Surrey takes step toward first poverty action plan*
- Vancouver Sun, April 14, 2012 – *BC targets family poverty in pilot project in Surrey, six other areas*

Ministry of Children and Family Development Initiative - The Province is launching a pilot project regarding child poverty. Surrey is one of seven communities selected for the one-year pilot. The project has a two-stage approach: Stage 1 will assess the community to determine what exists in the community, and Stage 2 will involve working with 7-15 families who are living below the poverty line to assist them in navigating the system. A half-time staff person will be responsible for managing this project in Surrey.

The Ministry of Childhood Development is interested in working with the City of Surrey and aligning this child poverty project with the Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan.

2. **Update on the Doors Open**

File No. 8000-01

(www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/11056.aspx)

Zanbka provided an update on today's Doors Open meeting.

Doors Open event is scheduled for June 3, 2012, 11:00am – 4:00 pm. 30 venues have been selected in the City centre and Newton areas. Marketing materials, including a website, are being finalized. It was suggested that the Social Planning Advisory Committee could help to get the word out.

There was discussion about the role of the SPAC at the event. It was decided that SPAC and DIAC members could participate by being "ambassadors" at an information table at a central location in Newton (firehall arts centre or recreation centre) or City Centre (Library). If interested in helping, let Marlis or Aileen know.

Councillor Villeneuve thanked everybody for all their hard work.

3. **Standards of Maintenance Bylaw**

Councillor Villeneuve summarized the Committee's activities of the past year related to concerns about the maintenance of rental housing. This has included meetings with and a delegation from ACORN, meeting with the Executive Director of the Residential Tenancy Branch, and research by staff on standards of maintenance by-laws in other municipalities.

A preliminary draft of a basic standards of maintenance by-law was provided on table. It was noted that fire and electrical safety issues are already covered under provincial legislation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by S. Dooley
 Seconded by L. Coyle
 That the Social Planning Advisory
 Committee recommend that Council adopt a standards of maintenance by-law
 that addresses issues related to the provision of water, heat, light, basic utilities,
 and elevators in rental premises.

Carried

Discussion:

The Province is responsible for the *Residential Tenancy Act* - the legislation that outlines the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants. A draft UBCM Resolution was provided on table.

PROPOSED UBCM RESOLUTION:***AMENDMENTS TO THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS***

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has enacted legislation through the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) to protect tenants from unacceptable living conditions;

AND WHEREAS Part 5 of the RTA outlines a process for resolving disputes that provides the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) with the authority to make any order necessary to give effect to the rights, obligations and prohibitions under the RTA, but in order to enforce an RTB order, it must be filed in the Court and enforced as a judgment or an order of the Court;

AND WHEREAS tenants who wish to enforce their rights under the RTA must navigate a complex bureaucratic and legal process and be prepared to spend significant amounts of time and money to engage with the process, creating barriers for tenants to access the RTA, especially tenants with low incomes or other vulnerabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of the residential tenancy dispute resolution process by amending the RTA such that the RTB enforces their dispute resolution decisions or orders, and does so within a reasonable timeframe.

It was Moved by D. Lawrance
 Seconded by G. Gill
 That the Social Planning Advisory
 Committee recommend that Council recommend that the UBCM pass a resolution
 to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* such that the Residential Tenancy Branch
 enforces the decisions within a reasonable time.

Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Stephen Dooley facilitated the **2012 Committee Planning Workshop – Part II.**
(See notes from March 29, 2012 Workshop)

The Committee identified specific projects that SPAC could work on throughout the coming year:

- Heart in the City Awards. Planning will start for the 2014 Civic Awards in early 2013 Poverty Reduction Action Plan – there might be some initiatives in the Plan that the SPAC can take on.
- Branding/Promoting the SPAC - A new subcommittee be formed to work on developing a Committee logo, a possible name change etc. - Debbie Lawrance to chair.
- Hosting a "Funding Fair" - A new subcommittee to be formed to explore the idea of convening an event for funders and non-profits. Steve Dooley to chair.

2. **"Fun" Schedule**

The Committee discussed ideas for presentations and delegations and potential meeting dates:

- Staff presentation on the Official Community Plan (June meeting)
 - Refugee Strategy (July meeting)
 - Update on Poverty Reduction Action Plan (June meeting)
 - Debrief on Doors Open (June meeting)
 - New immigrant settlement service contracts – Devinder Chattha (July meeting)
 - Master Plan for Housing the Homeless (July or September meeting)
 - 2011 Heart in the City award recipients (July meeting)
 - Kwantlen's CIR:CLE research on homeless and at-risk people (fall meeting)
 - Aboriginal issues - (September) Lisa Monchalin, new Kwantlen faculty member, was suggested as a possible presenter. (September meeting)
- Building neighbourhood connections – Zambka would like to work on researching this issue. It was suggested that the Vancouver Foundation and Oak Ave. Neighbourhood Hub could be invited to present on the Neighbourhood Grants Program (fall meeting).

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from Minister Jason Kenny to Mayor Dianne Watts regarding the **Refugee Transportation Loan Program**
File No. 5080-01; 0220-05

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Employment Program of British Columbia: Contractors, Service Providers and Service Locations
2. Vancouver Foundation, *A better connection: Ideas to help strengthen connection with and engagement in community*, Fall 2011
3. Newspaper Article: Vancouver Sun, April 17, 2012 – *An Olympic Legacy – Surrey community embraces supportive housing development*
4. **2011 Annual Report – Plan for the Social Well-being of Surrey Residents**

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. Committee Members' Updates**

- a. Updates from Committee members who represent SPAC on community committees:

Neighbouring Faiths Interfaith Council – Devinder Chattha

Steering committee is working on the vision, mission and constitution for the new Surrey Interfaith Council.

- b. Committee members' updates on community events and initiatives:

Merlin Chatwin – CommunityLink funding for vulnerable students was doubled. This is the result of six months of advocacy by School District 36, the City, the Board of Trade and other organizations.

Stephen Dooley and Zambka Malik - facilitating a Muslim youth event on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Kwantlen. The intention is to provide a safe space for youth to talk about issues of concern, especially drug and alcohol.

Zambka Malik – invited the committee members to a dinner at her house on May 24, 2012. A Doors Open meeting is scheduled for that night. Aileen to confirm with Doors Open staff.

Linda Coyle – attended a lecture on Islam phobia held at the Ismaili Centre. She is arranging for a special event at the Ismaili Centre for people to have an opportunity to learn about Ismaili history and culture. Tomorrow Linda is attending an event focusing on the reduction of domestic violence against women and children. Councillor Rasode is involved.

Councillor Villeneuve gave a presentation at the Board of Trade on the poverty initiative.

I. NEXT MEETING

The Social Planning Advisory Committee meeting on **May 24, 2012 is cancelled.**

- Next Committee meeting – June 28, 2012
- Items for next meeting's Agenda:
 - Debrief Doors Open event
 - Review draft Surrey Poverty Reduction Plan
 - Staff Presentation on Official Community Plan Update

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by L. Coyle
Seconded by Z. Malik
That the Social Planning Advisory

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Planning Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor J. Villeneuve
Social Planning Advisory Committee