

Present:

Chairperson – Councillor Hunt
Councillor Bose
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Rasode
Mayor Watts

Absent:

Councillor Martin
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve

Staff Present:

City Manager
City Clerk
Deputy City Manager
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Human Resources

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Dr. Julio Montaner, Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and President, International AIDS Society, Ms. Irene Day, Director of Operations, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS**

File: 4900-01; 0550-20-10

Dr. Julio Montaner, Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, and President, International AIDS Society, and Ms. Irene Day, Director of Operations, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS were in attendance before Council to make a presentation with respect to the increased rates of incidence and deaths related to HIV and the impact on Surrey.

- Dr. Montaner discussed the use of an HIV treatment as a means of preventing AIDS and death for people who have HIV
- In the early cases of HIV, the trends in the US replicated the trends in Canada. HIV related deaths increased quickly and there was a sense of desperation because the virus was spreading so quickly.
- Drugs specifically designed to work against HIV were developed to treat the illness. By 1996, work that was undertaken in British Columbia under UBC and St. Paul leadership, the Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) became the cocktail that was instrumental in putting the disease into remission. Life expectancy has improved substantially.
- The HAART treatment controls aids and deaths related to aids.
- The BC Centre for Excellence advocates that British Columbia could be doing a better job bringing the treatment to people.
- Once the blood and the body tissues become undetectable for HIV, the transmission becomes less and less. A controversial paper was published on this treatment. There was a case study for expanding access to highly active antiretroviral therapy. Hopefully one day there will be a vaccine or a cure for the illness.
- The prevention strategies to date have not been successful in controlling the growth of the disease.

- We must do a better job of bringing treatment to the people and people to the treatment the HIV program would realize greater success.
- The transmission of HIV infection from women to their children who are on the HAART treatment has decreased substantially since 1996 as women have been treated systematically since that time.
- Prior to HAART treatment, in 1991, a woman would be told her reproductive life would cease. Now, if entered into the HAART treatment program women can have a normal life and expect a normal life for her child without HIV.
- HIV incidence among intravenous drug users, specifically the amount of virus in the community, can be driven down to dramatically decreased levels if the HAART therapy is applied.
- The rate of new infections in British Columbia was relatively stable between 1995 and 1999 there was a 50% decrease with the rapid roll out of the HAART therapy.
- HAART therapy is lifesaving and when its impact on HIV transmission is considered; HAART expansion becomes a cost-averting strategy and lessens the drain on the health care system.
- The therapy has been widely recognized as the new way to control HIV globally. The BC Government has made a commitment to expand this initiative and the Premier has asked for the information to be disseminated among municipalities. The US will be adopting our proposed approach to controlling the HIV epidemic in the US.
- Two high priority communities identified for HAART treatment within British Columbia right now are the Down Town Eastside in Vancouver and the Municipality of Prince George.
- There were 5,000 documented patients in 2009. New HIV diagnosis in injection drug users has had a 50% decrease between 2007 and 2009.
- If community outreach was improved, there would be a greater impact on the decrease of HIV and AIDS in British Columbia, along with a decrease death rates and progression to AIDS.
- Unfortunately, 30% of those infected with HIV in BC are not aware they are affected. More work needs to be done to encourage the public (and high risk individuals) to engage in proper HIV testing. There are a number of other interventions that need to support a program of this nature. If British Columbia were to optimise this approach, we could be regarded as a world leader in treatment and development.

The following comments were made:

- With respect to the safe injection program, it was discussed that HAART was engaged in the safe injection site program years ago. Involvement in safe injection sites realized dramatic changes in people having access to treatment. It has been proven that the safe injection site does not enable drug use and does support health care. The British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS is currently awaiting the Federal government to open additional sites in areas of high drug use.
- Surrey could be considered an area for a safe injection site. It was discussed that the Fraser Health Authority is currently not a part of this project.

2. **Kimberly Angel, Executive Director, Surrey Foundation and Mary Miller, Co-Senior Project Manager.**

File: 0620-20; 0550-20-10

Kimberly Angel, Executive Director, Surrey Foundation and Mary Miller, Co-Senior Project Manager were in attendance before Council to provide an overview of the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Project.

- In 1999, the Surrey Foundation applied for funding and was successful in receiving four grants to support newcomer integration, intercultural understanding, and creation of a welcoming and inclusive community.
- The mandate of the program is to focus on the broader topics of integration and integration understanding.
- Key projects undertaken are as follows: knowledge development, public education, engaging youth and middle year aged children and demonstration projects.
- In public education, it is about engaging and educating the community.
- The Surrey Foundation will be presenting the results of the research to the Mayor and Council and are excited to share information on what has been learned.
- A new website will be produced in concert with the City of Surrey and the Multicultural Advisory Committee.
- Another project the Surrey Foundation is undertaking will be the creation of a documentary film. They have retained the services of a well known film director to create a documentary to follow the lives of newcomers to Surrey.
- The Foundation is putting a special focus on dealing with youth and middle aged children and will achieve this through a partnership through schools and through a full one day kids program and will also work with the City of Surrey's Parks Recreation and Culture Department.
- The last piece of this project has to do with demonstration projects as going from an idea to action, it is very difficult. The demonstration project will provide funding for 4 demonstration projects in 4 different organizations to help them move from an idea to a pilot stage. If they are successful, it will be easier for them to move from pilot to project. A community forum will be held for all the organizations to discuss the projects.
- The issue of multiculturalism and new comers needs to engage the heart. Focus will start on painting a picture of Surrey's population and the changing needs. The post settlement will be addressed; the Foundation believes that have the best opportunity to give something new to Surrey.
- The belief is that there is really good work going on in the work place of focussing on the multicultural aspect in the community.
- Strategies are key, and the Foundation wants to create a welcoming an accepting committee.
- There were over 50 community organizations aware of this project. There will be a lot of interviews and focus groups taking place because of this new research. The Foundation has a very close and rewarding working relationship with the City and School Board on this project.
- The support for this project has been incredible. People have been calling to volunteer; the challenge now is to live up to the enthusiasm.

The following comments were made:

- The Surrey Foundation was commended by Council for their support of the Haiti relief project.

3. **Angela Sealy, Surrey Seniors Community Planning Table**

File: 5000-20; 0550-20-10

Angela Sealy, Surrey Seniors Community Planning Table was in attendance before Council.

- The Community Planning Table is a United Way funded project that is seniors lead to create an age friendly community. People will have the opportunity for people to enjoy life in Surrey as long as they are able to participate.
- The group would like Surrey to be presented as an Age Friendly City that encourages active ageing.
- Making Surrey age friendly can be achieved by creating multiuse walking trails and a safe environment with people to get around the city.
- There are 11% of people over the age of 65. The planning table held 10 community forums to ask seniors what an age friendly community looks like and what type of services they are looking for.
- The group developed a strategic plan and also held a transportation forum. From the forum, six working groups were formed, and City staff members are on the planning table. The focus on seniors forums, Chaired by Councillor Steele have been very successful.
- Other programs offered include sensitivity training for seniors and ways of developing sensitivity training for seniors.
- Mayor and Council were asked to consider having the word Age Friendly added to the Surrey Community Charter and also to include some photographs of seniors on the City of Surrey website.
- The Seniors Community Planning Table would like the City to consider making an umbrella statement on the Surrey website to broaden the charter and make it a continuum. The group also suggested that Surrey consider funding an "age friendly" grant program for seniors.
- Adopting new policies for seniors will reflect the age friendly concept.
- Although this is a short-term program, the Planning Table will ensure the planning activities will continue after the contract with the United Way ends.
- A suggestion was made to change the last line of the sustainability charter to read:

"The City promotes an age-friendly community, which means it embraces its cultural diversity, values its seniors, and promotes tolerance, social connections and a sense of belonging."

The following comments were made:

- Signage was addressed at all 10 seniors planning forums and the City of Surrey Transportation Committee was asked to consider developing signage that is larger and gives more notice to drivers. Information surrounding this request also provided to the City's Social Planning and Engineering Departments.

- B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL
- C. CORPORATE REPORTS
- D. DELEGATION REQUESTS
- E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
- F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS
- G. ADJOURNMENT


It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Hepner
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Hunt, Chairperson