

**Present:**

Councillor Elford – Chairperson  
Councillor Annis  
Councillor Guerra  
A. Heinrich  
K. Macdonald  
R. Prasad

**Absent:****Guests:**

H. Lynch, Options Community Services  
M. Bisgaard, Ministry of Social  
Development and Poverty Reduction  
L. Schneider, Surrey Student  
I. Aftu, Surrey Student  
R. Sando, Surrey Student  
R. Gounder, Surrey Student  
J. Sically, Surrey Student

**Staff:**

R. Costanzo, General Manager,  
Corporate Services  
T. Waterhouse, General Manager,  
Policing Transition  
P. Sanderson, Manager, Policing  
Transition  
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Program  
Manager  
L. Blake, Legislative Services

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**A. ADOPTIONS****1. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was Moved by Councillor Guerra  
Seconded by Councillor Annis  
That the Community Services Committee  
meeting agenda of May 26, 2021, be adopted.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes**

It was Moved by Councillor Guerra  
Seconded by K. Macdonald  
That the Community Services Committee  
meeting minutes of April 28, 2021, be adopted.  
Carried

**B. NEW BUSINESS/DELEGATIONS**

The agenda was varied to address Item B.1 first on the agenda.

**2. Brian Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager, Heather Lynch, Options Community Services, and Morten Bisgaard, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the SAFE (Surrey Anti-Gang Family) Program and SMART (Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table) and highlighted the following information:

- SAFE aims to reduce youth gang involvement through 11 programs delivered by 10 partners and continues to grow.

- As of March 2021, SAFE has extended services to over 2100 youth, 320 parents and caregivers and 310 clients have been provided culturally sensitive services. SAFE has hosted 400 collaborative functions to support over 5000 in-person or virtual visits to the SAFE Centre.
- The CHART table takes place through the SAFE centre with 15 active agencies that meet weekly to support vulnerable youth aged 6-19 years old. As of May 2021, CHART has accepted 300 cases.
- As a leader in crime and gang prevention, Surrey has hosted three symposiums and multiple webinars to over 600 participants, including local, national and international events.
- SAFE has many outputs that contribute to community safety, including:
  - Chalo Baat Karein (Come Let's Talk): a weekly virtual meeting for South Asian caregivers. 55 sessions have been hosted for 496 participations, with most repeatedly attending multiple sessions. Session topics are informed by participants.
  - Targeted and coordinated outreach at a 168-unit complex in Newton, in partnership with BC Housing. Partners took turns hosting afterschool programming in a nearby club house. While this initiative shutdown due to Public Health Orders during the pandemic, it was the only program that was eventually permitted to re-open due to the recognized risk in the area.
  - #blockemdontshareem is a campaign that was launch in conjunction with Pink Shirt Day and features a one-minute video that was designed for youth, by youth, about the consequences of sharing images on Instagram. This campaign specifically targets female youth who are at risk of gang activity. The video attracted 1800 views in the first week it was launched and was featured as a session at the Surrey Steps Up event.
  - Empowersurrey.ca was designed to educated and empower parents, caregivers and trusted adults to recognize warning signs of gang life and empower them to engage in conversations if they have concerns. Over 100 Surrey youth and 14 external agencies informed the website and it is available in 80 different languages through Google Translate. The website shares information regarding Surrey's unique gang landscape, how to identify potential gang activity and links to resources, including SAFE. Since the website launched on April 6, 2021, it has welcomed over 4000 unique visitors.
  - The City has received a \$73,000 grant to pilot a "Wrap Worker", an outreach worker embedded in the School District who work with 30 high-risk, focusing on female and Indigenous youth.

- In the Fall 2021, SAFE will work with two University of the Fraser Valley criminology students who will help prepare a document that will help with future funding for SAFE and expand the program for more preventative work to fill out the SAFE model.
- As of March, SAFE is at its 45% mark and has reached its target of 45% of its five-year target to reach 4700 children and youth. Since the pandemic began in March 2021, SAFE has supported 633 new clients. This time frame represents 22% of SAFE's timeline to date but 30% of its clients, indicating that the need for SAFE has accelerated during the pandemic.
- As of March 2021, CHART has had 113 clients concluded, meaning they were connected to one or more services and experienced a significant reduction in gang involvement risk.
- CHART provides a gathering space for community experts who have a shared vision of supporting the most vulnerable residents and leveraging resources within their own organizations.
- SMART provides services to older individuals who cannot be serviced by CHART. Beginning in 2015 after a review of RCMP calls for service found that many calls were for social issues, such as homelessness and drug use, SMART was developed as a pro-active initiative that seeks to address community issues before they become a police or emergency matter by providing wrap-around services for individuals with acute, elevated risk levels.
- CHART and SMART are two of ten active situation tables in BC. Risk factors presented at both tables over time have increased, resulting in more complex situations.
- There is a community of practice through Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General that has Chairs from the situation tables across BC to meet to share information and identify issues.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following information was provided:

- While referrals for services, such as youth justice, are generally gated, access to SAFE and CHART is open to the public. Family members, social workers, probation officers, community members can connect with any of the 10 CHART partners, who can bring the case to the table to discuss if the individual can be assisted by two or more services at the table.
- One of the next steps will be to create a preventative program for youth aged 8 – 12 so the SAFE program will only be needed for kids who really need it. There is currently a wait list for 50% of the programs available through CHART, which demonstrates that kids are accessing the services but there is a need for more.

- Social media was the main driver for empowersurrey.ca and will continue to be used in the future to promote it, along with digital billboards throughout the city.
- SMART and CHART were able to adopt technology in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has made some parts of the program stronger, for example different agencies expressed interest in joining and there is better attendance at the virtual meetings. However, there was also additional pressures put on services due to increased demands.
- There are currently no projects planned that involve youth directly, but the City is always open to collaborating and accepting new ideas.
- Staff will be preparing for the anticipated increase in immigration once the borders re-open. Options has a settlement program to support newer immigrants and clinical counselling available in many languages.

#### 1. **Surrey Students**

A delegation of Surrey students provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding diversity, inclusion and how racism has affected their lives. The following information was highlighted:

- In order to remove racism from social institutions, there must be community action immediately. The community needs to work together to grow together to achieve this goal.
- While a student may feel left out or uninvolved at school if they are a minority, snitch culture can lead students feeling like they are unable to seek help or speak about the issue.
- Kids can be uneducated on racial slurs and may use them to appear cool or may not understand the meaning behind them. Racism is taught by peers and parents and there must be ways to prevent kids from learning this type of behavior. More educated adults are needed because the education system is not adequately addressing this issue. Discussing racism and addressing micro-aggressions in a classroom setting should be normalized to provide education on the topic at a young age. Teachers can address racism by:
  - Not shying away from discussing the issue;
  - Talk about their own personal experiences;
  - Understand that it is acceptable to be uneducated at first;
  - Listen when students come forward with complaints or situations that make them uncomfortable.

- Students discussed personal instances of racism. The following suggestions were provided to address racism:
  - Reform and better train police officers on how to properly address mental health situations;
  - Reallocate resources to support victims of discrimination;
  - Advertise resources that are available better, specifically using social media to target young people;
  - Provide more power to young people so they can better relate to students experiencing these issues.

The Committee commended the students on their presentation and encouraged them to continue working on the issues. It was suggested that the students provide their presentation to the School Board, since many of the issues raised are beyond the City's control.

#### **C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

This section had no items.

#### **D. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

This section had no items.

#### **E. CORRESPONDENCE**

This section had no items.

#### **F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **1. Overdose Prevention Sites in Surrey** File: N/A (Verbal Report)

Rob Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services, provided the following information regarding overdose prevention sites in Surrey:

- A business license hearing was held on May 10, 2021 for the BC Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors. The organization had applied for a business license as a non-profit society that would administer meetings once per week; however, upon inspection of the facility earlier this year regarding a complaint that people within the facility were not following Provincial Health Orders on COVID safety requirements, it appeared that the facility was operating as an overdose prevention site. The City and RCMP had also received complaints related to the activity of the organization's patrons. Council resolved to uphold the decision of the Manager of Bylaw Services to refuse the business license and it is understood that the organization has ceased their operation.

- As drug overdose deaths remain prevalent, there is a need for overdose prevention sites; however, these sites must be endorsed by Council and follow the proper processes, including community engagement. Fraser Health has issued a Request for Proposals for a new overdose prevention site to be located in Surrey. The new site will be subject to Council review and public consultation.

## G. OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Anti-Racism Task Force

File: 5080-01

Councillor Elford, Chair, provided the following information regarding the Anti-Racism Task Force:

- The former Social Equity and Diversity Committee (SEDC) hosted a delegation that discussed institutional racism against black, Indigenous and people of color. In response to the delegation, the Committee directed its Chair, Councillor Locke, to raise a Notice of Motion to Council to initiate an Anti-Racism Task Force.
- Council approved the Anti-Racism Task Force at the July 27, 2020 Regular Council – Public Hearing meeting and \$40,000 was allocated to the Task Force to hire a consultant.
- In December 2020, the SEDC was disbanded and the Community Services Committee was formed to discuss diversity and inclusion and a staff Anti-Racism Working Group was developed.

Councillor Elford raised the issue of whether or not a consultant is still required to determine if systemic racism exists in the City's institutions, noting all of the work the City currently has done to address diversity and inclusion, as well the City's status as a Best Diversity Employer for three years in a row.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

It was Moved by Councillor Elford  
 Seconded by Councillor Guerra  
 That the Community Services Committee  
 recommend that Council direct staff to provide a presentation at a future  
 Council-in-Committee meeting and an accompanying Corporate Report outlining  
 the City's approach to diversity and equity, including anti-racism.

Carried

A Committee member asked for clarification that the recommendation was to have Council receive a presentation in Council-in-Committee to hear what the City is doing with respect to diversity, equity and anti-racism and that the Community Services Committee is not making a decision as to whether the City hires a consultant or not. Councillor Elford confirmed this to be correct.

**J. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
  
meeting do now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Guerra  
Seconded by Councillor Annis  
That the Community Services Committee

Carried

The Community Services Committee meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Elford, Chairperson

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

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**1. Anti-Racism Task Force**

File: 5080-01

That Council direct staff to provide a presentation at a future Council-in-Committee meeting and an accompanying Corporate Report outlining the City's approach to diversity and equity, including anti-racism.