

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

K. Macdonald

**Staff Present:**

R. Costanzo, General Manager, Corporate Services  
T. Waterhouse, General Manager, Policing Transition  
L. Thomas, Fire Chief  
K. Marosevich, Bylaw Services Manager  
B. Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager  
L. Blake, Legislative Services

**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 February 23, 2022, be adopted.  
Carried

**2. Adoption of the Minutes**

It was Moved by Councillor Guerra  
Seconded by Councillor Annis  
That the Community Services Committee  
meeting minutes of January 26, 2022, be adopted as presented.  
Carried

**B. NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS****1. Overdose Crisis Update**

Chief Larry Thomas, Surrey Fire Services, provided the following update regarding the overdose crisis:

- Overdose related deaths have been increasing every year since 2014, except for 2019 and it is unclear why 2019 was an anomaly. There were 224 overdose deaths in 2021 and fentanyl is the top contributor to drug toxicity; however, the use of opioids has been declining since 2015. Males have the highest number of overdoses and approximately 80% of overdose deaths occurred within a residence or other residence which includes hotels, motels, rooming houses, shelters, or social/supportive housing. Surrey has consistently had the second-highest number of overdose deaths in BC.

- There was a slight decrease in overdose responses in 2018 and 2019, and a further reduction in 2020 due to the pandemic, as the Province stopped dispatching fire services to medical calls. Overdose responses returned to historical patterns in 2021.
- Surrey initiated actions include:
  - A business intelligence tool developed by Fire Services, based on fire incident data in near real-time, identifies the time, location, and summary details of overdose incidents occurring in clusters within the city. The overdose alerts are sent to Fraser Health and harm reduction team members.
  - Firefighters are registered with the BC Centre for Disease Control as a registered distributor for take-home naloxone kits. Kits are available at four fire halls and are provided to friends and family when fire services attend an overdose call.
  - The 2nd Responder program offers Fraser Health Substance Use Services Access Team support to individuals with substance use disorder following an overdose within a private residence. A firefighter will lead a team that includes a Clinician and peer with lived experience to check-in with an individual, as well as their friends and family, during the "window of opportunity" following an overdose. This program can connect individuals to resources they may be unaware of or know how to access and avoid harm from overdoses in the future.
- Timmins, Ontario has experienced success in reducing overdose deaths mainly due to providing an extended-release Sublocade shot almost immediately when a patient arrives in hospital for care. The regular protocol to administer Sublocade includes daily doses of buprenorphine one-week prior to injecting a patient with Sublocade; however, the majority of patients would not wait the week and instead leave the hospital and dropout of the care program. The immediate provision of Sublocade has resulted in an approximately 70% retention of patients. Fire Services staff have been discussing innovative ideas such as this with Fraser Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

In response to a question from the Committee, Chief Thomas advised that Fire Services responds to overdose calls in two- or four-person crews and provide low doses of naloxone so the individual does not go into immediate withdrawals or have a bad reaction. Fire Services will call the police if they encounter a concerning environment during an overdose call.

The Committee discussed variables that could contribute to overdose rates, including Surrey's proximity to the American border and its rate of unhoused residents. It was suggested that Fraser Health and the School District could integrate overdose education into grade school curriculum.

**2. City's Pandemic Response Update**

Chief Larry Thomas, Surrey Fire Services, provided the following update regarding the City's pandemic response:

- The goal of the pandemic response is to minimize death and serious illness, protect the healthcare system, minimize societal disruption and support social and economic renewal. The tools to achieve these goals include immunization, disease surveillance and monitoring, infection prevention and control, outbreak management in settings with a high risk of serious illness, treatment, antiviral distribution, act and long-term care capacity to manage infection surges and public health measures such as mask usage, BC Vaccination Cards, testing, physical distancing, case and contact management and encouraging sick individuals to stay home.
- Public health officials are ensuring balance in easing restrictions. There has been an incremental easing of restrictions and orders since mid-February 2022. The remaining health measures will be reviewed again in March and April.
- British Columbia's approach has been effective, as hospitalizations, infection rates and deaths are decreasing. The unvaccinated population has more variability and higher hospitalization rates amongst all age groups. There is a noticeable increase in breakthrough infection rates amongst vaccinated individuals aged 70 plus. However, overall, vaccinated individuals have a lower risk compared to unvaccinated individuals.

**3. Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment ("SAFE") Program Update**

Brian Aasebo, Community Safety Program Manager, provided the following update regarding the Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment (SAFE) Program:

- SAFE is a five-year program that aims to reduce youth gang involvement through 11 programs delivered by 10 partners. By the end of September 2021, SAFE was at its 55% mark and was 99.4% on target to support 4730 children and youth, a great success considering the program was able to continue serving clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Children & Youth At-Risk Table (CHART), which is one of the 11 SAFE programs, was able to conclude 314 out of 370 cases, with 223 cases concluded for positive reasons. This innovative approach has had a 71% success rate, in comparison to other situation tables which observe a 60% standard as per the Province.
- Empowersurrey.ca launched in April 2021 to educate caregivers on warning signs of youth gang involvement. The site had 8,601 visits and six Empower Surrey Parent Workshops, which had over 200 registered participants. The workshops also generated nine new Simon Fraser University clinical counselling clients. The second round of nine workshops, including two facilitated in Punjabi, are being launched April to June and are anticipated to bring even more visitors to the website.

- Blueprint Pathways is a new initiative that was launched in August 2021 to expand the resources of the Surrey Wraparound partnership with the School District and RCMP by adding a full-time City youth worker, who currently provides intensive one-on-one support to 13 female clients identifying as BIPOC. Example activities include involving youth in the design and creation of the Every Child Matters mural in North Surrey and supporting an overnight wilderness experience for select clients during Spring Break. Funding is secured until March 2022 and, as the program is performing even better than expected, staff have submitted a funding extension request.
- The City is the lead on three partnership grant opportunities that are currently under review by Provincial and Federal funders. Staff are also requesting the Committee's support to explore all possible opportunities to fund SAFE beyond December 2023.

#### 4. **SMART and SMART Cart Update**

Phillipa Sanderson, Manager, Policing Transition and Community Safety, and Brian Aasebo provided the following update regarding the Surrey Mobilization and Resiliency Table (SMART) and SMART Cart Program:

- SMART Cart is one of six projects funded by a \$14.2 million Pandemic Response Program grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Strengthening Communities' Services Program to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on populations at-risk and experiencing homelessness.
- SMART Cart is a pilot program to leverage frontline Bylaw staff so they are more engaged with outreach and relocation services for unsheltered residents. SMART Cart intersects with SMART, a situation table that involves staff from 21 partner agencies meeting weekly to discuss vulnerable adults and their families. Clients are assessed on a maximum of 105 risk factors to detect Acutely Elevated Risk and provide rapid multi-agency responses within 24 to 48 hours.
- Of 502 total cases, SMART has closed 466 and currently has two cases open. There are 18 reasons for case closure. SMART has a 60% positive conclusion rate, which is on par with the provincial situation table standard. Since inception, housing, mental health and substance use respectively are the biggest risk categories based on individually identified factors. Trauma counselling has been identified as a gap and is being further explored by the Table.
- SMART Cart is a pilot program that will pair Bylaw Services staff with a social and community services worker to connect people experiencing homelessness with necessary supports and services and facilitate connection to the SMART Table where appropriate. In addition, SMART Cart funding will allow Atira Women's Resources Society and Surrey's Women's Shelter to augment their existing mobile outreach services.

- SMART Cart will implement an outsourcing model with a local nonprofit agency being contracted to supply workers to support the project. Staff are currently preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a non-profit with demonstrated experience in Surrey. There is also engagement between the Union and Human Resources to confirm the Bylaw Services pilot team roles and pilot program start date. It is anticipated that the SMART Cart pilot program will begin in May 2022.
- The Union of BC Municipalities has announced a second round of funding opportunities. While existing programs are unable to apply for augmented funding, staff will identify new programs to bring forward for funding consideration.

**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. **Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment ("SAFE") Program Activity Report**  
File: 1810-01

This report was circulated for information.

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

This section had no items.

**H. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee is scheduled for March 30, 2022.

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was

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

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Community Services Committee meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk

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Councillor Elford, Chairperson