

Present:

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair
Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair
A. Begalka
C. Mohr
D. Jimeno
M. Bains
M. Tutt (Youth Representative)
S. Dooley
Y. Guo

Absent:

M. Dhillon
M. Schaafsma
W. Al-Jabiri
K. Thiara
M. Shaw

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
K. Patten, Planner
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of September 6, 2017.

It was

Moved by A. Begalka

Seconded by D. Jimeno

That the minutes of the Social Policy
Advisory Committee meeting held September 6, 2017 be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Pathways to Education**
Amanee Elchehimi, Manager, Pathways to Education, Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS)
File: 0250-20

The delegation provided a Power-Point Presentation on the Pathways to Education program in Surrey.

The following comments were made:

- The Pathways to Education is a community based program that improves educational success of youth in Surrey. The Program offers the four main supportive initiatives: Tutoring, mentoring, financial support and one-on-one support.
- The Program was launched in 2001 in the Regent Park neighbourhood in Toronto. The key issue identified was that high school graduation rates were as low as 30-50% in low-income communities, while the Canadian high school graduation rate is 85%.

- Pathways primary vision is to break the cycle of poverty through education. The delegation noted that communities where Pathways is present have increased graduation rates significantly.

The delegation noted that the Program received three year funding from an anonymous donor who was interested in funding an education program in Surrey.

The delegation noted that students are being accepted into the program from two designated Surrey neighbourhoods, selected because of indicators such as prevalence of low-income families. One is in the Holly Park area and the second is in Whalley between 104 and 108 Avenue near King George Boulevard. Referrals are accepted for at-risk students from the broader Whalley and Guildford communities and are received from parents, students, schools and the WRAP Program.

2. **Overdose Action Exchange Report**

Chris Buchner, Director, Population & Public Health and Dr. Shovita Padhi, Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health
File: 0460-30

The delegation provided a Power-Point Presentation on the overdose issues in Surrey including the Overdose Action Exchange Report.

The following comments were made:

- In 2016, 309 overdose deaths were reported within Fraser Health with males aged from 30-39 having the highest rate of deaths.
- Fraser Health is noticing an increase in the number of overdose deaths in 2017 as compared to 2016. The deaths of 2017 increased the most in Coquitlam, Chilliwack and New Westminster. Maple Ridge had a decrease in deaths compared to last year. Surrey continues to account for over a third of overdose deaths. An increase of approximately 51% is projected in Surrey for 2017.
- Fraser Health conducted research to learn more about people who are more at-risk of dying from overdoses. Their sample was based on 3,821 people living in private residences who have overdosed. The research found that many of these people were living with family, friends, or roommates. This population tends to be underemployed and have a strong history of mental health issues (90%) and substance use. 91% of these individuals accessed some type of service from Fraser Health in the 12 months prior to death.
- Research done with the First Nations Health Authority found that overdose rates in First Nations communities are much higher. The delegation noted that Indigenous communities live with additional trauma.

- In response to the overdose crisis, Fraser Health initiated the following interventions: post discharge follow up, treatment referrals, sessions with industry leaders in trades, and compassion campaigns. Fraser Health is also implementing Supervised Consumption and Overdose Prevention sites in Surrey as well as take home Naloxone kit distribution and training.

Fraser Health will continue to develop targeted interventions based on research, with the intention of preventing more overdose deaths. Public education campaigns hope to educate the public that the overdose crisis is a health issue and not a drug issue.

The Committee is encouraged to take on projects to assist the public in the overdose crisis and surrounding issues.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. **Update on Refugee Transportation Loan Program** Councillor Villeneuve, Councillor

At the end of September, staff received an update from the Federal Government on proposed amendments to the Transportation Loan Program which were published in the Canadian Gazette. Amendments are focused on making loans easier to repay: eliminating interest, delaying the start date for repayments and extending the loan term. Councillor Villeneuve expressed disappointment that the loan is not being eliminated and has sent a letter to the federal government and spoke with the local MP for Surrey City Centre.

Councillor Villeneuve encouraged the Committee to continue lobbying elected officials to eliminate the Refugee Transportation Loan program which impoverishes vulnerable refugee families as they settle into a new life in Canada.

2. **Surrey City Awards**

The 2017 City Awards were presented on October 25, 2017 at Surrey City Hall. Committee members expressed appreciation for the diversity of the awards presented. The 2017 City Award recipient was Douglas Nickerson.

3. **Poverty Reduction and Transportation**

Staff will provide an invitation to members for the opportunity to participate in the Mobility Pricing User Advisory Panel.

4. **Review of 2017-2018 draft Work Plan & SPAC Fun Schedule**

Staff provided a draft Work Plan for 2017-2018 and the Committee recommended to add the following items:

- A presentation from Parks, Recreation and Culture as to how the 10 year PRC Strategic Plan integrates social issues;

- A presentation by a developer that builds affordable housing on what the challenges are (Robert Brown of Catalyst Developers suggested); and
- A presentation by SFU RADIUS Lab regarding a potential focus on refugee employment.

Staff will incorporate work plan items into the SPAC Fun Schedule for 2018. The Committee supported the 2017-2018 draft work plan and approved the proposed "SPAC 2018 Fun Schedule".

5. Social Planning in Surrey

Item C.5 was deferred.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed 2018 Meeting Dates

File: 0540-20 V

The Committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented.

It was

Moved by D. Jimeno

Seconded by M. Bains

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

adopt the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Surrey Social Innovation Summit

The third annual Surrey Social Innovation Summit will be held on November 14, 2017 from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm. Registration is now sold out. SPAC members that are interested in attending are asked to contact staff. Community ambassadors will be working at the event.

2. LIP Newcomers Employment Week

The Surrey Local Immigration Partnership Newcomers Employment Week took place from Friday, October 20 to Friday, October 27, 2017.

3. Surrey Vulnerable Woman and Girls: Progressive Opioid Dialogues Project

The City of Surrey received funding from CARBC to plan and host a series of community dialogue events on opioid use in Surrey. The dialogue series will focus on vulnerable woman. The City of Surrey is the host organization and will implement activities in partnership with the Surrey Vulnerable Woman and Girls Working Group. Staff will provide updates at future meetings.

4. 2017 Homeless Count, Surrey Data Brief

The 2017 Homeless Count in Surrey Data Brief was circulated.

H. OTHER BUSINESS**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 4:45 p.m. in 2E Community Room A.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by D. Jimeno

Seconded by M. Bains

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Jane Sullivan, City Clerk


Councillor Villeneuve, Chair