

**Present:**

Councillor Locke, Chair  
S. Andhi Bilkhu  
A. Begalka  
G. Bremault  
M. Cheema  
A. Dhillon  
S. Kular  
N. Nastoh  
A. Willis

**Absent:**

N. Chima  
C. Mohr

**Staff Present:**

A. Murphy, Senior Planner  
K. Patten, Planner  
L. Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Round table of introductions.

**ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR**

**Note:** The Vice-Chair would be responsible for chairing meetings if Councillor Locke is unable to attend.

It was

Moved by M. Cheema  
Seconded by S. Andhi Bilkhu  
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

appoint G. Bremault as Vice Chair for the 2019 calendar year.

Carried

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****1. March 27, 2019 Social Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

It was

Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by N. Nastoh  
That the minutes of the Social Policy

Advisory Committee meeting held March 27, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Meryl McDowell, Clinical Director Mental Health and Substance Use Service, Fraser Health**  
**Leanne Deromeri, Manager, Clinical Operations, Gateway Primary Care Network, Fraser Health**  
**Catherine Barnardo, Director, Clinical Operations, Community Services Surrey, Fraser Health**  
**Brenda Prosken, Regional Director of Shelter and Supportive Housing Operations, BC Housing**

The delegation was in attendance to discuss unhoused residents from a health perspective. A PowerPoint presentation was provided, and the following information was highlighted:

- A December 2018 snapshot survey reported that there are, on average, 60 patients with no fixed address are in a bed in Surrey Memorial Hospital on any given day. Approximately 20% are waiting for a health-related residential resource and the remaining 80% do not have an identified residence to be discharged to.
- Homeless patients tend to have multiple health related needs; the six main health issues are:
  - Mental illness;
  - Medical conditions (e.g. Cellulitis);
  - Substance use disorders;
  - Functional issues (e.g. managing finances);
  - Physical disability; and
  - Developmental disability.
- There are some complex challenges with health service delivery for this population. In particular, clients feel a lot of shame and worry about how they will be treated by providers, there is a lack of trust, and difficulty with keeping appointments and following up with treatment plans.
- The Home Health Service Line is the single point of access for home health referrals such as nursing care, home support, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Through one number, 1-855-412-2121, referrals are sent to the Gateway Primary Care Network who contact shelter staff to coordinate setting up a visit, services, ER follow-up, etc.
- Future home health services being considered include a dedicated clinic versus an individual appointment, and enhancements to existing services such as Dietician and Clinical Pharmacist consultations, and having a Nurse Practitioner for medically complex patients (without a doctor, no permanent address, living in a shelter, etc.).

- Mental health and substance use (MHSU) services are provided in a partnership model. Working with many partners, including closely with the new Aboriginal Wellness Centre, a number of teams have been established and service centres/sites are available to respond to mental health and substance use concerns and provide assistance.
- Intensive Case Management (ICM) provides support for individuals that have substance abuse issues, are homeless and struggling for health care services (ie. people who are living in shelters or on the street). The ICM Team has offices in the shelter building on 135A Street.
- The Surrey MHSU Urgent Care Response Centre is scheduled for completion summer 2019. It is a community-based facility for people that may be less acute in their presentation, do not require hospital or need to be hospitalized. It will be open seven days a week, 16 hours per day (no overnight stays), to all people who live in Surrey, including people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The facility will offer same day consultations and will be staffed with nurses, psychiatrists, clinical councilors and mental health care workers. The focus will be assessment and quick treatment and referral to care.

An overview of the BC Housing (BCH) and Fraser Health - Housing First Principles was provided as it pertains to individuals in Surrey. It was reported that BCH funds over 2,000 spaces and places in Surrey to serve the homeless population as well as seniors, disabled and women at risk of or vulnerable to being homeless. The following comments were also provided:

- The 2017 Homeless Count identified an increase in homelessness in every community across the province, including Surrey. If the trend has continued since 2017 like in other jurisdictions, then there's as many as 900+ street and sheltered homeless currently in Surrey, 45% of which are 45 years of age and over.
- An increase in homelessness can be attributed to certain circumstances such as unaffordable housing prices, children aging out of foster care, people who have been in jail and come back to nowhere to live, etc., which may also be layered with other complexities such as mental health and substance abuse.
- Homeless counts are not able to capture the "hidden homeless", therefore the figures presented tend to underestimate the actual number of individuals who maybe homeless at the time of each count.
- In addition to the 2,025 shelters and supportive housing units for homeless people in Surrey, there were approximately 200 extra temporary shelter beds opened with a further 100+ extreme weather response beds/mats, which were all 100% full; more are needed. Partnering with the municipality to provide the land base is fundamental to providing the necessary urgent care response, shelters, etc.



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

- It is difficult to provide an annual figure of the number of homeless patients received and kept overnight at SMH as there is a percentage of repeat patients.
- With respect to follow-up nursing care, if temporary housing is in place then there is a fixed timeframe to be able to attend, but it is very difficult for those without an address. Outpatient services are available at the J. Pattison Ambulatory Care Clinic and in Newton, however the issue is that unless the service is taken to them, they rarely go.
- Needle recovery and disposal throughout the community is contracted by Fraser Health.

The Committee noted the following:

- There is concern with respect to homelessness awareness, response and resources available for the Newton area.
- It is a City responsibility to be leaders in helping to identify the need for supportive housing and to find the land to accommodate. It can be a challenge to gain the confidence of the community for proposed supportive housing.

It was reported that the new shelter at Green Timbers (across from the J. Pattison Outpatient facility) will begin construction in the fall, 2019. In contrast to some of the make-shift shelters in place, the new shelter will be purpose built, designed for its use, to accommodate 96 supportive housing and 28 transitional beds. It will include amenity areas that include spaces for one on one consultations, nurse exams, etc.

## C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

## D. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Review of Housing Resources

Aileen Murphy, Senior Social Planner, provided a brief overview of the following housing resources contained in the Committee's agenda package:

- Supportive Modular Housing - Key Messages.
- Housing and Homelessness – Key Terms.
- Housing Continuum – Indicators of housing vulnerability and need, and current housing inventory in Surrey, in development and anticipated.

Copies of the Surrey Housing Profile, as at December 2018, were provided on-table.

## 2. Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Social Equity and Diversity Committee, and it was suggested a person representing people with disabilities be added to the membership as a voting member, increasing the Committee membership to nine voting members.

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was  
Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by A. Begalka  
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee  
recommend that Council approve the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Social Equity and Diversity Committee, as presented at the May 1, 2019 Social Policy Advisory Committee meeting, with a further amendment to add a person representing people with disabilities as a voting member, increasing the Committee membership to nine voting members.

Carried

## 3. 2019 Committee Work Plan

The Committee discussed options for developing the 2019 Committee Work Plan. It was determined that a longer meeting, focused specifically on the goals and objectives of the Committee for 2019, be scheduled (approximately 3-4 hours).

The following issues were noted:

- Affordable Housing, and specifically what the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is doing to address the housing crisis.
- Daycare is a challenge.
- Climate change – the social impacts of climate change, for example the need for cooling centres during heat waves, and the impacts of smoke from forest fires.
- There is a need for more physicians in the City; however, Doctors of BC and the Division of Family Practice are addressing this issue.
- Women's shelters and resources – what is available and what is the need.
- It was further recommended that the Committee should leave some time and space to address issues that may come up throughout the year.

Committee members noted that there is a need to be strategic and prioritize where to focus. This will require adequate time to plan, and an understanding of what the City can and can't do. The additions of diversity and accessibility to the Committee will also need to be considered.

The Chair noted further that the Committee should get a better understanding of social infrastructure for a city the size of Surrey – where are we and where should we be. This would include affordable housing, food banks, resources for women fleeing violence, etc.

The following future delegations were suggested:

- The Surrey RCMP's Police Mental Health and Outreach Team (formerly the Surrey Outreach Team).
- Women's shelters and resources; Elizabeth Fry and Atira provide BC Housing funded shelters and housing in Surrey for women and could be potential delegations. Surrey Women's Centre provides supports for women experiencing violence.

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **World Refugee Day**  
**June 19, 2019**
2. **National Indigenous Peoples Day**  
**June 21, 2019**  
**3:00 – 8:00 p.m., Holland Park**

<https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/26726.aspx>

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Committee Updates**

It was requested that Committee updates be added as a regular agenda item for each meeting. Updates should be focused on information sharing such as identifying emerging issues that may be of concern to the Committee.

**I. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by G. Bremault  
Seconded by A. Begalka  
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:46 p.m.



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Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



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Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair

**SOCIAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION INDEX  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

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**1. Committee Terms of Reference**

That the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Social Equity and Diversity Committee be adopted with a further amendment to add a person representing people with disabilities as a voting member, increasing the Committee membership to nine voting members.

Carried