

Present:

Councillor Locke, Chair (left at 5:15 p.m.)
G. Bremault, Vice-Chair
A. Begalka
M. Cheema
N. Chima
A. Dhillon
N. Nastoh
A. Willis

Absent:

S. Andhi Bilkhu
C. Mohr
S. Kular

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Planner
L. Blake, Administrative Assistant

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. Minutes of May 1, 2019**

It was

Moved by A. Begalka

Seconded by M. Cheema

That the minutes of the Social Policy

Advisory Committee meeting held May 1, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Sgt. Trevor Dinwoodie, Police Mental Health Outreach Team, Surrey RCMP**

The delegation provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new Mental Health Outreach Team and highlighted the following information:

- City Centre has experienced social issues since the 1960s due to its history as a blue-collar community and entertainment district. Until recently, police policy was zero tolerance for illegal substance use. It is now known that these types of enforcement policies were ineffective.
- In response to the encampment of unhoused residents sleeping on 135A Street that emerged in April 2016, combined with the highest rate of overdose-related deaths due to fentanyl, in September 2016, the Surrey RCMP created an operational plan to address the "tent city" on 135A Street. This included establishing a mobile command station on the street.
- The Surrey Outreach Team was launched with the support of numerous partners, such as the City of Surrey, BC Ambulance and social services like the Surrey Urban Mission and Lookout Society. The goal of the Surrey Outreach Team was to collaborate and build relationships.
- RCMP Officers consulted with the campers to get a better understanding of their needs. The RCMP also mobilized to address the communities' needs during the 2016 snowstorm. These actions established trust-based relationships between the RCMP and community of people who were homeless.

- Fraser Health provided training for trauma-informed practices and substance use and misuse. The training also addressed how police services have victimized marginalized groups in the past.

In June 2018, the Surrey Outreach Team relocated 200 unhoused residents into three BC Housing temporary housing projects, as well as into a woman's housing project and shelters. The relocation occurred without an injunction over a three-day period with no issues.

- As the encampment issue on 135A Street had been addressed, the Surrey Outreach Team merged with the Police Mental Health Intervention Unit to create the Police Mental Health Outreach Team (PMHOT) to address substance misuse, mental health and homelessness across Surrey. There are currently four units in the PMHOT that provide 19 hours of coverage per day, with cross-coverage during the busiest time periods. The specialization of the PMHOT provides enhanced support for the community and enhanced safety and security for marginalized populations in Surrey.
- The PMHOT includes "Car 67" that pairs mental health nurses with police officers to address mental health calls.

In response to questions from the Commission, the delegation advised that Surrey RCMP has been progressive in addressing mental health issues in the community, adapting to changes and working with community partners. Ideally, the training provided to PMHOT members would be integrated into basic police training; however, this has not been implemented at this point.

The Committee commended Sargent Dinwoodie for his work in the community and the Surrey RCMP for implementing helpful community programs such as PMHOT. The former Surrey City Council that implemented that relocated unhoused residents from 135A Street was also acknowledged.

The Committee noted that the PMHOT is setting a high bar for urban policing best practice. The Committee recommended that the positive progress achieved by the PMHOT continue with the municipal police force.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Development of the 2019 – 2020 Committee Work Plan**

Aileen Murphy, Social Planner, led the Committee through developing the 2019 Committee Work Plan. Committee members completed a three-question survey requesting information regarding why they joined the Committee, how much time they have to spend on Committee work and their top three social issues they would like to address. Committee members brainstormed suggestions of topics they would like to learn about or discuss and possible actions that the Committee could take.

Councillor Locke left the meeting at 5:14 p.m.; G. Bremault assumed the role of the Chair.

Ms. Murphy advised that staff will summarize the topics and ideas provided and present a draft workplan at the July 3, 2019 meeting.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 1. Youth in Care Week BBQ**
Thursday, June 6, 2019, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre
Volunteers Needed
- 2. World Refugee Day**
Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Surrey City Hall Atrium
- 3. National Indigenous Peoples Day**
Friday, June 21, 2019 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Holland Park

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

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 3 at 4:00 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by A. Willis
Seconded by M. Cheema
That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



Jennifer Ficocelli, City Clerk



Councillor Brenda Locke, Chair