



## Minutes of Homelessness Task Force

April 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Electronic and In-Person Participation - Homelessness Task Force  
The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville  
(Chair and Secretary at Town Hall - 87 Broadway)  
Orangeville, Ontario

Members Present: R. Alvarez  
Councillor Andrews  
T. Carter  
E. Dunn  
E. Goodyear  
T. Grabb  
Councillor Sherwood

Staff Present: T. Barry, Executive Assistant, Community Services

**1. Call to Order**

7:01 pm

**2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest**

None

**3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**2024-004**

**Moved By** T. Carter

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: March 20, 2024

**Carried**

**4. Presentations**

#### **4.1 Guest Speaker - Inspector Michael Di Pasquale**

James Giovanni and Michael Di Pasquale attended to speak about the committee and what their involvement is in the community.

J. Giovanni is OPP and also in MCRT and he deals with vulnerable persons in the community. They have noticed that calls are increasing with the difficult economic times. When the OPP does go to calls nursing staff also attends as part of their staff and the two work together to help the community.

Foot patrols are one way OPP tries to help out those vulnerable individuals. The coverage is 5 days a week and 2 weekends a month.

T. Carter asked J. Giovanni what they do when someone is in crisis and homeless. J. Giovanni said there are options available to assist. If the individual is involved in a justice issue or may have mental health issues then the individual is referred to Safe Beds and forensic beds are made available. If the police are called and if the individual does meet the criteria and that individual wants assistance, police will arrange transport to Safe Beds which is a two week stay and 24 access to mental health professionals. There is one location in Brampton and one location in Mississauga. Once they leave the facility, they will now have resources that they can rely on.

Last winter the OPP/MCRT did have a program and offered motel rooms to clients for one or two nights and the next business day a housing support worker from Dufferin County would go meet with them and help navigate for housing and mental health.

Another option is Family Transition Place. This is the most well-know women's shelter and assists many families. Very rare that they aren't at capacity, but they do try to assist OPP.

Choices and the Men's Shelter - A major impact in the community over the years.

OPP will look outside of Dufferin County to assist (i.e. Alliston, Beeton, GTA, etc.)

Front line officers are also reaching out to those suspected to be homeless and make sure they are connected to services or help them get connected.

OPP is developing a homelessness encampment strategy and updates will be provided.

## **5. Items for Discussion and Reports**

### **5.1 Questions for Meeting with Potential Project Managers of Out of the Cold**

Reviewed the questions that will be discussed at the meeting with potential project managers.

Youth Unlimited is interested in being a property manager but it will need assistance with other faith-based groups, and it needs to speak with its Board.

The space at Youth Unlimited was a perfect fit for an Out of the Cold program and all departments have gone and looked at the space and it has passed the first review of the area.

A question to add to the slide for the Q & A is recommending a non-denominational program

### **5.2 Presentation to Council for Task Force Wind Up**

Chair Andrews thanked everyone for the assistance and went through the draft delegation and what will be presented.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- Finding homes for homeless and members of task force able to apply to new task force or apply for affordable housing.
- Tag line - Housing and services are a right.
- Council to commit to annual funding for out of the cold program
- Should encourage County to focus on homeless in the County
- That the County form a task force
- Terms of Reference for affordable housing September 2024 and recruitment occurs prior to that (potentially in the summer)

Distribute to the task force prior to the meeting and not dissolving until we get Council's endorsement. Dufferin County staff will be bringing back a report to the County about the formation of a taskforce

## **6. Correspondence**

Christopher Graham attended as member of public and he provided a prototype of a shed from Jay's Sheds and provided estimates of the construction of "shed" (which does not provide a washroom or electricity). Not permanent and can be moved. R. Ugalini attended as a member of the public and discussed the quotes that Christopher Graham had received on the sheds and asked why HST is on these quotes.

A. Marshall attended as a member of the public and asked how 236 First Street will be allocated (men/women/only women). Chair Andrews advised that SHIP will manage the allocation.

**7. Announcements**

Men's Shelter Update - 10 men currently in shelter and they are anticipating 2 more to arrive the week of April 17. The shelter still remains open Sunday and Monday but this will end at the end of April. The shelter filled two employment positions and one additional employment position at Family Transition Place. There has been an official name change to the shelter - it is now Choices Shelter and Support Services.

There are three youths in the youth centre.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

No future meetings

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m