

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING: The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEETING: Community Safety & Well-Being Planning, Advisory Committee

DATE: June 9, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Virtual, Grey County MS Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Members of the Steering Committee

vacant (Coordinator)

vacant (Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth – *on leave*)

Anne Marie Shaw (Community Services, Grey County)

Tina Metcalfe (Human Services, Bruce County)

Krista Miller (Inspector, South Bruce OPP)

Jason Wepler (Grey Bruce Health Unit)

RECORDER: Patti McNabb (Grey County)

ATTENDEES: Jason Wepler, Keegan Wilcox, Krista Miller, Tina Metcalfe, Alex van Wieringen, Alison Govier, Angela Freeman, Bernice Connell, Beth Blackwell, Carly Craig, Cathy Addison, Chad Zimmerman, Cheri Roy, Craig Ambrose, Dana Soucie, Dane Nielsen, David Willis, Francesca Dobbyn, Jill Umbach, Josh Gibson, Marilyn Rosner, Michelle Bloomfield, Pam Coulter, Patti McNabb, Rob Atkinson, Rob Fischer, Robert Martin, Sarah Cowley, Scott McKay, Suneet Kukreja, Susan Sakal, Tania Dickson, Tracy Collins, Vivian Kennedy, Warren Dickert

ITEM

1. Welcome and Introductions, Land Acknowledgement

- Jason Wepler (Health Unit & Steering Committee Member)

- Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting and cited land acknowledgements.
- Jason congratulated Krista Miller on her upcoming retirement. Keegan Wilcox will replace Krista as Steering Committee and Advisory Committee member

2. Provincial & Local Updates

- Steering Committee Members
- Tina advised that as of end of Q1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced funding increases for housing and homelessness initiatives. Former Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) ended Dec 2022
- Deputy Mayor Nielsen advised that Grey Highlands has implemented a new community roads safety initiative that will take over the role of police services board
- Keegan Wilson advised of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Grant Funding opportunity. The grant application was for a maximum of \$120,000 per year that is specific for salary's for MCRT workers. Keegan advised that an application has been put forward -

hoping to increase the MCRT complement in South Bruce Detachment to 2 MCRT workers to increase coverage

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

3. Financial / Budget Updates

- Tina Metcalfe (Bruce County & Steering Committee Member)

- Tina presented the financial statement to end of Q1
- End of Q1 Surplus related to staffing with the consultant vacancy
- Tina advised that the vacancy has been posted as a one-year permanent contract position
- Good financial position with no unforeseen issues

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

4. STAR Update / STAR Report

- Cheri Roy

- Cheri advised that there has been an increase in the number of situations being addressed - April to May there were 8 but none in the last few weeks
- People are engaging with their participation
- Training in March noted changes effective April that situations are now addressed by consensus; meetings are now more fulsome and longer
- Adhoc reporting is helping
- 14 situations to date (last year there were 11)

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

5. Action Table Updates

Josh Gibson & Aryn Becker, Jill Umbach, and Alison Govier

- Presentations were made by the following guests

Housing Action Group (Josh Gibson)

- Josh advised that if interested sign up for monthly Grey County Housing Newsletter housing@grey.ca
- Grey County as of April had 181 people on by-names list experiencing homelessness
- Josh noted that for Grey County, chronic homelessness is more accurately reflective 143 of the 181 and 23 households moved to housing options
- HPP increased – emergency short-term options
- Pilot project in Owen Sound for a warming centre initiative to provide supports and build rapport
- Bruce received increased funding also for homelessness response which replaced SSFR with most going into emergency shelter
- Movement of staff at Bruce – 2 new supervisors hired one of which will address homelessness to provide transitional supports
- In the process of hiring consultant for the new Housing and Homelessness report – opportunities will be available for community feedback and input

Poverty Task Force (Jill Umbach)**Income Tax Clinic Initiative**

- 14 organizations offering free income tax clinics
- 32450 eligible to use those services
- 10-12% of the population don't file annual income taxes; often low income families and individuals
- Doing a study to identify the total dollar value coming back into the community – not necessarily high returns for those on lower income, but greater supports and benefits to filing taxes
- Looking into pros and cons for the automatic filing initiative as well as successes – network volunteers and supporting agencies will meet in September to review issues/barriers and identify benefits
- Community Voices to hear from people experiencing successes and challenges

Living Wage Campaign

- Employment agencies are reaching out and talking
- Lots of questions regarding calculations for housing
- Discussions to identify living wage

Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy (Alison Govier)

- Alison provided an overview of the scope of the committee
- Currently entering strategic planning phase
- Peer Advisory Group allows for input from persons with lived experience on services and programming being offered in communities
- Alison also works at the provincial level and the provincial group is drafting media campaign to look at policies that influence services at the ground level
- Next steps include strategic refresh

Crime Prevention

- Committee in implementation phase – no update

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- There were no questions or comments

6. Website Demonstration

- Tina Metcalfe

- Updating the website with easier access to new developments etc.,
- There is a call-to-action section that will be available
- Provide resources
- The new website is not yet live – edits are being made for enhanced accessibility requirements
- Tina provided an overview of the pending website

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There is a draft media release ready to go to announce the launch
- The coordinator will be able to make back-end changes to the website
- **There is a page on what the action tables are – requested further consideration to include actions from those groups – Steering Committee will follow up**

7. CSWBP Coordinator Recruitment

- Jason Wepler

- Interviews are underway to finalize replacement of the vacant Coordinator position
- Advisory committee members will provide an update to all Advisory members once an offer has been successfully made / accepted

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- There were no questions or comments

8. Questions and Next Steps

- Steering Committee Members

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

- What is the feedback process to give direction to the action groups?
 - Shared responsibility to provide feedback
 - Suggested to have a formal process to provide feedback
 - Updates from the action groups could include how their work will address performance indicators identified within the plan
 - **The Steering Committee will have further discussions and consult with new coordinator for next steps**

9. New Business

- There was no new business

Meeting adjourned at 2PM

Should you have any questions throughout the course of this project, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members:

- Anne Marie Shaw annemarie.shaw@grey.ca
- Tina Metcalfe tmetcalfe@brucecounty.on.ca
- Krista Miller Krista.Miller@opp.ca
- Keegan Wilcox Keegan.Wilcox@opp.ca
- Jason Wepler J.Wepler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Next Meeting:

VIRTUAL – Grey County Microsoft Teams (details to follow)