



Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety, Security & Wellbeing January 28, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Bob Chapman, Fred Eismont, Cindy Malachowski, Dave Saliba, Noel Coppins, Kelly Brown, Stephanie Skopyk, Sandra Black, Matt Bowles, Steve Conaby, Hanna Mohammed, Kiersten Allore-Engel

Staff: Tracy Adams, Brenda Jeffs, Kevin Alexander, Haik Beglarov, Shannon McFadyen,

Regrets: Dr. Peter Stoett,

Meeting Location: Cisco Webex Meeting

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome

Chair Chapman welcomed and thanked all Task Force members for joining.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from November 19, 2021 were reviewed and no changes were made.

3. Update on Region's Actions

Chair Bob Chapman

A presentation was shared with Task Force Members from last the January 24, 2022 City Council meeting given by Durham Region's Senior Leadership Task Force for Downtown Oshawa. Chair Chapman noted some of the information relates to unsheltered initiatives and clarified there are unsheltered individuals who refuse to enter shelters.

Chair Chapman overviewed the unsheltered rates in Durham Region, noting that Cornerstone will be partnering with the City's Corporate Security in assisting individuals find appropriate resources and that the Region is investigating Lakeridge Health day programs for unsheltered individuals. (*Action Item: #6)

Chair Chapman indicated that he looks forward to the success of the pilot program at Mission United as it addresses the addiction and/or mental health issues Oshawa is experiencing with unsheltered individuals.

Chair Chapman provided an update on the status of the 10 unit transitional Micro-Houses that are being built in Oshawa indicating final touches are being installed and is hopeful to have the first five occupants in by mid-February, weather permitting. The 10 occupants have already been identified and will be connected with appropriate resources and case managers.

Chair Chapman noted that different initiatives are taking place throughout the Region, including housing and continued relevant support programs.

Stephanie Skopyk, Mission United/CMHA Durham

Stephanie Skopyk overviewed a recently launched pilot program, which allows for a continuum of care involving initial stabilization, pre-treatment, sober living and aftercare with facilitated housing support through all stages. A new approach has been adopted referred to as "Macro-Dosing". Partnerships are in place with treatment facilities that allow for admission supported by the team at Mission United. Two patients are currently in the program with another six lined up for treatment.

Mayor Carter

Mayor Carter provided an update on various initiatives including:

- The partnering of City Municipal Law Enforcement and Corporate Security officers who continue to work in the downtown core with the hope of connecting individuals to the right service of care, as well as addressing unlawful behaviour issues (Action Items #28 and #29)
- Mayor Carter stated that he has appeared several times before the Police Services Board to ensure they are aware of issues the City faces and that he continues to advocate for a strong downtown police presence. He will continue to advocate to the Police Services Board, Social Services and the Region of Durham to ensure appropriate services are in place. (Action Items #20, 21, 22, 23, 24)
- The Downtown Cleanup Program continues whereby the City Operations team has increased the daily maintenance in the downtown by providing increased sidewalk and road cleaning and trail patrol to address used needles, garbage, and graffiti. (Action Items: 15, 18)
- Mayor Carter is meeting with the Downtown Oshawa Business Association, the Commissioner of Social Services and Housing Representatives on February 8.

4. Update on City's actions

Kevin Alexander, City of Oshawa

Provided a quick update on collaborative efforts between DRPS and City MLE/Security teams including continued regular meetings; assigned additional resources to downtown; and update on number of incidents (Action Items: 28, 29).

Emergency beacons with cameras have been added to each parking level at the Mary St Garage and will be operational in February. Additional emergency beacons will be added throughout the downtown parking garages.

Haik Belgarov, City of Oshawa

Outlined additional safety measures that will be added to the downtown core in 2022.

Chair Bob Chapman

Noted that shelters do not turn individuals away during cold weather alerts and will provide transport to shelters with availability. Chair Chapman indicated that there are lots of resources for individuals who want it.

The Region is working with the City in getting an outreach worker to attend some of the City MLE and Corporate Security Team patrols. (Action Item: 5)

Brenda Jeffs, City of Oshawa

A training and collaboration session between MLE, Corporate Security and various downtown agencies happened earlier this week, which proved to be very helpful. A review of illegal lodging houses operating in the downtown has also been undertaken and officials are working with owners to bring them into compliance. Registered lodging houses are now listed on the City's website and noted that Cornerstone will now only refer individuals to registered houses. (Action Item: 30).

5. Other business as brought up by Task Force Members

Fred Eismont, Resident

Indicated that he is pleased with positive momentum. It is refreshing to see the good news as a result of the Task Force and we need to make sure it is publicized and shared it with the community

Kelly Brown, Region of Durham - Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP)

PCOP is collaborating with Mission United in an effort to support individuals across Durham Region find shelter and obtain required medical support. Kelly Brown is very appreciative of the ongoing collaboration between support services and believes it provides a better service to individuals. (Action Item: #5)

Noel Coppins, RE/MAX Jazz

Shared some issues that her business is facing with unsheltered individuals and is very appreciative of efforts put forth on the housing initiatives given the current market activity.

Sandra Black, OSCC55+

Agrees that the addition of downtown foot patrols has had a positive effect on the downtown core and is hearing from multiple sources that people feel the addition of foot patrols is a deterrent to illegal activity, which makes them feel safer. Sandra Black noted that although the fence that was erected behind the RMG has made an improvement, it has shifted illegal activity behind the school at Centre and John St.

Stephanie Skopyk, Mission United/CMHA Durham

Stressed the importance of navigation and noted there needs to be a place to navigate individuals to and that is what the focus is at Mission United. Improvements are being made to access psychiatry and addiction supports including: communication improvements with the hospitals to facilitate care plans; supporting compliance with centralized housing list and new shelter standards; collaborating with the DRPS mental health unit; working with the local Justice System to sync with services offered at Mission United; coordinating with service providers on accessible service; and, investigating an opportunity for a pretreatment facility.

Steve Conaby, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

Highlighted topics discussed at a recent Board meeting indicating: a positive momentum is being observed with the creation of the Task Force and seeing it work in conjunction with multiple organizations but recognizes change takes time. He also noted the positive impact additional downtown foot patrol is having on community members.

Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place

Gave a brief report on a recent Downtown Oshawa Business Alliance survey which identified various challenges and priorities local business/property owners' face. Some feedback received leans heavily on law enforcement and increased cameras placed in the downtown area. A recent Board of Directors meeting revealed there is frustration among business owners who are observing food line ups. Cindy Malachowski stressed the need for communication and education for community business owners.

Chair Chapman

A coordinated approach is the focus of the City and the Region with various support organizations who work together. Provincial funding is something that must kept in mind with a goal to make sure we can achieve set goals with funds that are in place.

Inspector Dave Saliba, Durham Regional Police Services

Is very proud of the efforts provided by DRPS last year and shared some stats on those efforts. Inspector Saliba indicated that preliminary planning has started for this year's project plan based on last year's successes and lessons learned.

Kiersten Allore-Engel, Region of Durham

Gave an update on the Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan including:

- The partnership of DRPS in the development of the Plan and continued support in the implementation of the Plan;
- There is an information hub that supports the Plan at www.durham.ca/cswp which includes a catalogue designed to promote, support and raise awareness around existing work developed by the Region and plans to grow inventory;
- A core action item identified through the Plan was a GTHA Safety and Well-being Symposium which is being planned for this Spring with a focus on collaboration and shared priorities across the areas; and
- A presentation to Durham Region's Anti-Racism Task Force was made to seek guidance on experiences of racism.

Mayor Dan Carter

Thanked all Task Force members for their feedback as it will assist City Corporate Security and MLE Teams with downtown foot patrols.

Mayor Carter shared his discussions with Premier Ford and Minister Clark at last week's Housing Summit housing indicating there is no fast solution to current housing issues for a number of reasons, including a lack of housing. Houses need to be built in Ontario at a rate double what it is now and due to COVID-19 there is a shortage of labour. Mayor Carter has asked the Regional Chair to encourage other Durham municipalities to find land and communicate with developers.

Mayor Carter and Chair Chapman continue to request that the Region: 1) audit Oshawa Shelters; 2) redevelop aged housing sites.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022.

*Note: Community Safety, Security and Well-Being in Oshawa's Downtown Area Action Plan