



Mayor's Task Force on Community Safety, Security & Wellbeing November 19, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

- Attendees:** Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Bob Chapman, Fred Eismont, Dr. Peter Stoett, Cindy Malachowski, Todd Wilson, Noel Coppins, Kelly Brown, Leisa Davie, Heather Thompson, Paul Degroot
- Guests:** Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, Region of Durham, Allison Burgess, Manager, Corporate Initiatives, Region of Durham,
- Staff:** Paul Ralph, Tracy Adams, Brenda Jeffs, Kevin Alexander, Haik Beglarov, Shannon McFadyen,
- Regrets:** Sandra Black, Dave Saliba, Stephanie Skopyk, Matt Bowles, Steve Conaby
- 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 October 22, 2021 were reviewed and no changes were made.

3. Update on Downtown Oshawa: What's Strong Over What's Wrong

Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place

Provided background on the "What's Strong Over What's Wrong" community session that applies an Asset Based Community Development ("ABCD") approach. The approach looks at community strengths rather than deficiencies that could be explored in unique ways to be leveraged for success by bringing various community partners together and building networks to enhance the overall community. An initial workshop was held to give an overview of the ABCD approach, which included asset mapping which would allow the identification of areas of opportunity that could be explored as well as communication enhancement between community partners.

Peter Stoett, Ontario Tech University

Expressed that there is community partner interest in the ABCD approach and is hoping to have more high level research done with hopes to move forward with this initiative in conjunction with the City of Oshawa and the Region of Durham. All results and feedback from workshop surveys will be shared with Task Force Members. He also hopes to see students focus their research on the downtown area, specifically, on some issues addressed by this Task Force.

4. Update on Region's actions

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Region of Durham

Presented Task Force Members with an update on the Region of Durham's actions on Community Safety and Well-Being in downtown Oshawa. Key highlights of the presentation included an overview of the Region's Senior Leadership Taskforce Members which includes Social Services and other Regional Departments, as well as City of Oshawa staff, Lakeridge Health and Durham Regional Police Services ("DRPS"):

- Advised that a consolidated action item list has been developed to address challenges, including 37 action items that have been endorsed by Oshawa City Council;
- Action #1: Investigate the support service model to ensure the model is coordinated and effective – and that services are available equitably across the Region of Durham. Action #2: Review support services offered by the Region and community partners to identify service gaps and duplication of services and ensure activities support the Region's goal of ending homelessness by 2024.
 - Engaged Org Code for System Planning for Coordinated Services. The launch is planned for November 22 with wide participation from the homelessness sector including executive leads, management, frontline staff and people with lived experience.
- Action #3: Investigate a registration and/or regulation of community partners to ensure that they are providing services that supports the Region's goal of ending homelessness. Action #4: Develop a Community Values and Conduct Agreement for recipients of support services.
 - Newly formed Org Code System Planning Committee will prioritize consistent approaches for housing first outcomes supporting the Region's goal of ending homelessness.
 - The Community Values Agreement is being led by the GAP Committee. A working group has been established to include Backdoor Mission staff and local businesses. Its' aim is for a consistent approach that will assess and respond to unwanted behaviour across service agencies.
- Action #39: Convened community agencies and directing move from low-barrier service to housing first or members only model
 - A Community Leaders group has been formed represented by members of the Region's Senior Leadership Taskforce along with Executive Leaders of our local community agencies.

- The purpose is to inform agencies of the challenges faced in downtown Oshawa, and ensure prioritizing efforts of outreach and housing services.
- Action #40: Respond to businesses with targeted interventions. Action 41: Strengthening outreach services for targeted intensive case management.
 - The Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) is active across Durham Region and is prioritizing efforts in downtown Oshawa and responding to local businesses looking for help. To date, the PCOP has responded to six businesses.
 - A newly developed Street Outreach Strategy will help to ensure targeted interventions of those needing supports and housing.
 - Carea and Cornerstone are now partnering for intensive outreach services: weekly case conferencing with targets to ByName List and some of the most vulnerable.
- Action #6: Create a day program with supports for mental health and addictions.
 - Regional staff from Social Services, Public Health and Lakeridge Health are developing day programs to be located at 200 John Street which will begin in 2022.
- Actions #23 and #24: Investigate high-level response from DRPS and DRPS Mental Health Unit.
 - Regional Council approved budget allocation for five nurses to travel with DRPS officers as part of specialized Mental Health Units. They respond to crisis calls across the Region and are not specific to downtown Oshawa.
- Action #38: Resume Public Health services in downtown.
 - Public Health convened the Opioid Task Force with 47 participants to develop strategies and actions for the updated opioid response plan.

Allison Burgess, Region of Durham

Updated Task Force Members on the Region of Durham's additional actions:

- Action #15: Increase waste collection service levels.
 - Daily waste collection is occurring by Oshawa operations team.
 - The Region is working on a cost-sharing MOU with Oshawa.
- Action #43: Collaborative initiatives by Oshawa and Region Economic Development.
 - Ongoing development of the site and coverage of downtown Oshawa on the Downtowns of Durham blog site
 - Vinyl artwork for the vacant downtown windows to promote downtown opportunities.
- Action #7: Advocate for support from upper levels of government.
 - Regional Chair has sent letters and held subsequent meetings with Durham MPs and MPPs about the challenges in downtown Oshawa.
- Action #47: Develop and implement a Government Relations Strategy.
 - Additional tactics including building broader municipal support are underway.

- Action #48: Downtown Oshawa Support webpage.
 - [Durham.ca/SupportsForDowntownOshawa](https://durham.ca/SupportsForDowntownOshawa)
- Action #49: Ongoing information sharing with downtown businesses and residents.
 - A comprehensive communication plan and content calendar is being developed by Oshawa and Region Economic Development teams to enhance information sharing and coordinated promotion.

Mayor Carter

Suggested working with landlords on the day program initiative to ensure they have input and address any concerns. Mayor Carter also asked that the Region take into consideration other areas in Durham that could be investigated to expand day programs stressing that Oshawa does not have capacity.

Kelly Brown, Region of Durham - Primary Care Outreach Program

Provided an update on the number of individuals and their status and that PCOP are working with individuals in other municipalities.

Shannon McFadyen, City of Oshawa

Advised that Region and the City are meeting to develop a content calendar to support the promotion of the downtown businesses.

Staff Sergeant, Todd Wilson, Durham Regional Police Services

Shared that five Durham Region nurses have been deployed to work with D.R.P.S. to assist with mental health crisis calls. All five nurses are actively in the field and respond to calls throughout Durham Region.

Chair Chapman

Stressed the importance of dealing with individuals who are repeat offenders and are released by D.R.P.S. He also would like to see a different approach regarding the deployment of the nurses and the mental health response unit.

5. Update on City's actions

Tracy Adams, City of Oshawa

Provided an update on the Community Safety, Security and Well-Being Downtown Area Action Plan that was approved by Oshawa City Council in September, 2021, including changes made to reflect better alignment with the Region's Action Plan. The update highlighted some of the collaborations between the City, Durham Region, D.R.P.S. and Lakeridge Health demonstrating a link between the City's Action Plan and the Region's Action Plan presented earlier.

Mayor Carter

Updated Task Force Members on Project Exchange, which is the harm reduction kits that are being distributed by social service agencies. He also provided an update on his meeting with the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Michael Tibollo.

Mayor Carter also indicated that he has meetings slated with the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Premier, the Prime Minister and has requested a meeting with the Federal Minister of Health as a continuum of care approach is required to be successful in the long-term. Mayor Carter also requested a meeting with Minister Clark to discuss supporting local business needs.

Mayor Carter also stressed the importance of meeting with various government officials and having them visit the downtown area so that they will commit to providing funding as well as identifying solutions.

6. Other business as brought up by Task Force Members

Cindy Malachowski, Lord Simcoe Place

Shared comments on behalf of local businesses relating to plants and planters that have been placed throughout the Downtown area and provided positive feedback on winter greenery that has been put up. She also had questions on future zoning and planning issues that impact safety in the downtown.

Chair Chapman

Advised that there are various laws and appeal processes in place that limit City Council and staff when development applications come forward.

Provided an update on the Micro Home pilot project located on Olive Avenue indicating 10 Micro Homes will serve as transitional housing.

Noel Coppins, ReMax Jazz

Explained day-to-day experiences that she is seeing. She also expressed her appreciation for the work being done by this Task Force and is hopeful to see the results of that work as a business community member.

Heather Thompson, Region of Durham

Introduced herself as Audrey Andrews replacement. She provided an update on the Region's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan noting it will go to Council on November 24 for approval. She also indicated that the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Information Hub has been launched and can be found at durham.ca.

Kelly Brown, Region of Durham - Primary Care Outreach Program

Expressed the importance for the need of continuum of care that Mayor Carter discussed earlier for Mental Health and Addiction patients that are finished with treatment centres indicating that this gap must be filled.

Mayor Carter

Shared information on new businesses that opened in the downtown: Ultima Health Services which is part of the University Health Network and is a rehabilitation and health facility; a Dance Academy opened at 44 Simcoe Street South; and the Urban Market. Mayor Carter advised that he participated in the Code of Conduct and our Community Respect discussions led by the Region.

He also acknowledged the recent changes made to parking facilities.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022.