

The Regional Municipality of Durham
Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness

COVID-19 Homelessness Response Network

May 4th, 2020

In Attendance:

Councillor Bob Chapman	City of Oshawa
Mayor Dan Carter	City of Oshawa
Erin Valant	Region of Durham
Alyx Riddell	Region of Durham
Alan Robins	Region of Durham
Audrey Andrews	Region of Durham
Beverly Kueper	Region of Durham
Kathleen Conway	Region of Durham
Kelly O'Brien	Region of Durham
Megan Hueser-Shields	Region of Durham
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou	Region of Durham
Adrianna Vanderneut	Durham Youth Services
Alan Perron	Gate 3:16
Alanna Burke	Pinewood
Alyssa Skan	Cornerstone
Hermia Corbette	CDCD
Jessica Robinson	Community Living Durham North
Kerrie Wriker	CMHA Durham
Lindsay Allward	City of Oshawa
Maureen Bandola	John Howard Society
Mona Emond	North House
Rev. David Moore	Simcoe St. United Church
Robert Adams	Durham Mental Health Services
Ryan Rayner	DRPS
Sam Kwan	VHA Home Healthcare
Vanessa Bilenduke-Guppy	CDCD

COVID-19 Emergency Shelter Response

Shelter operator updates

- <https://www.durham.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?page=2&newsId=dd6dc5c7-0612-4eb0-97a5-5d9fdead28a5>
- Please see the above news released regarding increased COVID-19 testing in Durham's shelters.
- Surveillance testing was completed at Cornerstone on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. All of Cornerstone's clients volunteered to be tested.
- This is an important step to help flatten the curve.

Hotel isolation updates/DRIP (Durham Region Isolation Program)

- The Durham Region Isolation and Recovery Program (DRIP) is now in Phase 2. There is a centralized intake process, onsite PSW and nursing support and virtual case management for clients in the program.
- To date there have been >10 clients go through the program and all have tested negative. Most clients are in the program for 3-5 days pending test results.
- Clients are required to sign a consent as it is a voluntary program, this also allows us to receive updates on when clients are able to exit the program.

Camp Samac facility update/I.O.T.C. (In and Out of the Crisis)

- The First Light Foundation of Hope (FLFOH) and Christian Faith Outreach Centre (CFOC) are operating the IOTC Program using the Camp Samac facility.
- Photos of the setup of the program were shared with DACH.
- For now, up to 25 individuals can be accommodated at one time in this program. This is to ensure that the program is operating effectively, and physical distancing can be maintained before opening up additional spaces.
- As of this morning 13 clients have taken advantage of this program. Clients indicated that they were happy to have a place to stay during this pandemic as well as a real bed.
- There is a coordinated and centralized intake and referral process through the two hubs (Mission United Hub at the Backdoor Mission in Oshawa and the Ajax Community Center Hub). Clients are provided with direct transportation from the Hub to the program so that a warm handoff can happen for the client to complete their admission.
- The sleeping quarters are in Kitchie Lodge and bunk beds have been arranged for physical distancing.
- The staff to client ratio is high, and security is on-site 24/7 to support the program.
- Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS) will have two staff onsite four days a week to provide mental health supports for clients.
- Both North House and Brain Injury Association Durham have also volunteered to provide onsite workshops and activities for clients.

COVID-19 Unsheltered Response

Oshawa: Mission United Project at the Backdoor Mission

- Last week Mission United screened 104 individuals.
- The Oshawa Hub offers:
 - Clinic and operational psychiatrists
 - Safe sleep
 - Crisis resources through DMHS
 - Harm reduction – all kits are available with counselling
 - They are working to have footcare available on-site

- Addictions resources are provided through Pinewood
- Clinicians are on-site have been working with Lakeridge Health to streamline the process for swabs for COVID-19.

Ajax Community Hub

- Ajax has had 10-15 clients and are having success with repeat clients.
- They were able to provide a referral to Cornerstone for an unsheltered resident. This client was successful in securing housing including being set up with housewares and some non-perishable food items.
- The donation campaign for toiletries and clothing was successful.
- The hub is no longer accepting donations of clothing.

Pickering

- The Pickering Hub has washroom and shower access but has not had any attendees to date.
- Signage including full instructions on how to get to the Ajax and Oshawa Hubs is posted.

Whitby

- The Whitby Hub is equipped with port-a-potties.
- Signage including full instructions on how to get to the Ajax and Oshawa Hubs is posted.

COVID-19 Relief Response

Temporary Housing Retention Assistance Program - Discussion

- This program is meant for low income clients that may face evictions or utility cut-offs as a result of COVID-19. Priority will be given to those facing eviction.
 - This is temporary assistance and each household would be required to pay 70% of their household income towards their housing costs.
 - The eligibility period is 3 months at which time if assistance is still required, clients would then have to reapply.
 - DACH reviewed the program design and discussed.
 - The finalized program design will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Funding

COVID-19 Community Response Fund

- Approximately 8 applications have been received.
- Six volunteers are required for the Evaluation Committee within the next 24 hours, currently we have 4. If you are interested in being a volunteer or would like to provide feedback on the process send an email.

- A preliminary evaluation will be completed by the Evaluation Committee then a virtual meeting will be held with the proponent.
- We are looking for an agency to volunteer to administer PPE (personal protective equipment), there would be cost reimbursement for this.

Agency Updates

- Thank you to Durham Mental Health Services, North House and Brain Injury Association Durham that have volunteered at the I.O.T.C. Program
- Agencies are asked to complete the survey that was emailed (Naloxone Kits and Training) and forward their results for submission to Service Canada tomorrow.

Thinking Beyond the Crisis

- We want and need to be housing-focused. The best health outcome is when people are housed. There is a need for more supportive housing.
- Discussion on possible locations that would be appropriate for the development of a modular housing system with supports built in on site.
- Supportive personnel would be required 24/7 on site for these communities.
- We envision a supportive housing site with a Hub onsite.
- Discussion on the effectiveness of the hub model and how to ensure these models continue when the current crisis ends.

Additional Resources

- Various webinars are being offered by CAEH. Link was provided in the agenda.

Next Meeting

- Meetings will be scheduled every Monday from 1:00pm-3:00pm
- Send any agenda items and/ or Good News Stories to Alyxandra.Riddell@durham.ca by end of day Thursday to be added to the following Monday's agenda