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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

A meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:05 PM.

Present: R. Atkinson, Whitby  
D. Campbell, Whitby  
D. Hume-McKenna, DMHS  
M. Roche, Oshawa  
M. Sutherland, Oshawa, Chair

Absent: S. Barrie, Clarington  
C. Boose, Ajax  
Councillor J. Drumm  
K. Galloway, Oshawa  
S. Sones, Whitby, Vice-Chair

#### **Staff**

Present: J. Traer, Accessibility Coordinator, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
Jocelyn Siciliano, Supervisor, Income & Employment Support, Social Services Department  
Janine Stolarek, Senior Caseworker, Income & Employment Support, Social Services Department  
Ginny Tacij, Maintenance Operator, Plant Operations, Works Department

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes**

This item was not considered due to a lack of quorum.

#### **3. Presentations**

A) Durham Regional Police Service Mental Health Support Unit – Police Constable Luke Zebrak

Police Constable Luke Zebrak and Registered Nurse Brenda O'Neill provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Durham Regional Police and Lakeridge Health Mental Support Unit.

L. Zebrak stated that the Mental Health Support Unit is a secondary response unit that helps to address the large volume of mental health calls received. He stated that the team consists of 2 Durham Regional Police Officers, 2 Lakeridge Health Registered Nurses, 1 Administrative Officer, and is supported by over 200 Mental Health Response Officers. He advised that the Unit partners a registered nurse with an officer who both have specialized training and extensive experience in mental health, and that the officers respond in plain clothes and in unmarked police cruisers. L. Zebrak advised that the Unit reviews and follows up with mental health assessments; completed, attempted, threatened suicide reports; and reports flagged "mental health related".

L. Zebrak reviewed the role of the unit as follows:

- to provide crisis intervention for persons who are involved with mental health related issues;
- to offer an on site mental health assessment by a mental health professional;
- linking individuals with appropriate services such as medical, psychiatric, housing, counseling, treatment options;
- decrease likelihood of apprehension and/or arrest of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis by providing earlier and more comprehensive support;
- advice on alternatives to apprehension;
- liaise with community resources to alleviate police involvement in a case where their services are better suited;
- to assist families and significant others in cases viewed to have a mental health component; and
- to follow up on mental health related reports submitted by others.

L. Zebrak advised of the forms issued in cases of mental health and stated that a Form 1 is issued by a family doctor in response to an application for a psychiatric assessment while a Form 2 is issued by a Justice of the Peace and can be applied for by attending 150 Bond Street East in Oshawa, filling out the required paperwork and meeting with the Justice.

L. Zebrak advised that the officers' powers of apprehension fall under section 17 of The Mental Health Act.

L. Zebrak advised that officers often present their cases to the Durham Connect table for assistance in connecting people to the services they need. He advised that Durham Connect offers responsive and timely help to those in need and is an invaluable service.

L. Zebrak also provided an overview of the Mental Health Adult Pre-Charge Diversion Program. He advised that when a person with mental health issues has committed a minor crime, the Program helps move them away from the justice system and into the healthcare system. He stated that the program has been very successful in reducing the number of individuals charged with minor offences and linking them with the care they need.

L. Zebrak and B. O'Neill responded to questions of the Committee.

**4. Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

**5. Information Items**

A) Education Sub-Committee Update

Due to a lack of quorum, Item 5. A) was not dealt with.

B) Update on the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)

Due to a lack of quorum, Item 5. B) was not dealt with.

C) Update from the Accessibility Coordinator

Due to a lack of quorum, Item 5. C) was not dealt with.

**6. Discussion Items**

A) Roundtable Discussion regarding Travelling Experiences in and around Durham Region

Due to a lack of quorum, Item 6. A) was not dealt with.

**7. Reports**

There were no Reports to consider.

**8. Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 1:00 PM.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM

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M. Sutherland, Chair  
Accessibility Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk