

# Minutes

## Community Services Committee

November 14, 2023

Present: Councillor Dane Nielsen, Councillor Barbara Dobreen, Councillor Ross Kentner, Councillor Scott Mackey, Warden Brian Milne

Regrets: Councillor Warren Dickert, Councillor Andrea Matrosovs

Staff Present: Kim Wingrove, CAO, Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO, Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services, Josh Gibson, Manager Housing Programs, Tara Cockerill, Manager of Early Learning and Child Care, Sharon Irwin, Manager Community Housing, Melissa McCulloch, Manager Social Assistance, Robert Hatten, Manager of Communications, Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk

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### Call to Order

The Community Services Committee met at the Sydenham Campus on the above date. The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. with all members present except Councillors Dickert and Matrosovs.

### Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### Delegations

#### Heather Sheldrick, Women's Centre Grey Bruce - Request for Funding Support

Heather Sheldrick presented to the Committee regarding the Women's Centre for Grey Bruce. The presenter shared the organization's background and statistics, which included 116 women who received transitional housing support in 2022 and 2023. The presenter reviewed the organization's request that Grey County Council consider funding support as part of the 2024 budget process.

Lindsay Brown further spoke about the Anti-Human Trafficking Program for Youth, including the program's services and funding. The presenter shared the history of the AHT Youth House, the renovations required to meet ministry requirements, and how the

program will utilize the space to provide a trauma-informed approach to accommodation and access victim services or navigate related systems in support of complex trauma recovery and the successful transition out of the youth system.

In response to questions from the Committee, the presenters discussed factors that make Grey and Bruce Counties appealing to traffickers, the demographics of trafficked youth, and youth lured into and away from the region. Further, the presenters explained programs and services for victims and provincial funding limitations.

County staff shared comments recognizing the important work of the Women's Centre for Grey Bruce for the community and in partnership with County services, such as the Supportive Outreach Services (SOS) program and the work of Community Services.

## **Dr. Sabrina Saunders, Grey Bruce Hospice Inc - Request for Funding Support**

Dr. Sabrina Saunders presented to the Committee regarding Grey Bruce Hospice Inc., commonly known as Chapman House. The presenter reviewed the organization's background and celebrated the stories of support to its residents, including 138 from Grey County in 2022. The presenter noted the increase in relatively young adults post-pandemic and the need for more hospice beds and services to support an ageing population. Further, Dr. Sabrina Saunders explained the limitations of provincial funding, efforts to increase funding, and ongoing work to establish a foundation to support the organization. The presenter requested \$10,000 annually for three years to support a hospice social worker program to assist with assessment and case management.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Sabrina Saunders discussed funding levels from the province, efforts to move to an accreditation model to support requests for increased provincial funding, the provincewide need for additional hospice beds, and the benefits of early support from a specialized social worker in the hospice process.

Members of the Committee and staff noted the positive community benefit of the work of Grey Bruce Hospice Inc.

## **Scott McKay, CMHAGB - Canadian Mental Health Association Grey-Bruce**

Scott McKay presented to the Committee regarding the Canadian Mental Health Association Grey-Bruce (CMHAGB). The presenter spoke about the organization's background, leadership, a refresh to the Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy (CDAS) with support from Grey Bruce Public Health, the 14th Street Housing project, and plans to support lower acuity individuals while awaiting provincial funding for the 24/7, high-acuity program model. Further, the presenter noted the Mobile Mental Health and Addictions Resource Team (MMHART) and Peer Support programs supported by CMHAGB.

In response to questions from the Committee, Scott McKay discussed the 14th Street Housing project's focus on a harm-reduction rather than abstinence-based model and considerations for By Names List participants. The presenter explained the resources

available from CMHAGB and MMHART to local police forces, the Ontario Provincial Police, and local hospitals and the challenge of providing mental health support in such a large geographical area.

## Items For Direction or Discussion

### Early Learning Hub Sydenham - Verbal Update

The Committee toured the Early Learning Hub, and staff spoke about the resources and services offered to locally licensed childcare programs to build relationships and support the sector.

### Requests for Funding Support

Anne Marie Shaw reported that provincial Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) funds could be used to support a nonprofit organization's capital project. The Committee discussed the requests, the important work provided by the organizations, the County's healthcare funding policy, and considerations for funding support.

CS27-23

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

Seconded by: Warden Milne

**That staff be directed to include funding support of \$26,000 to the Women's Centre Grey Bruce for infrastructure capital projects from Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) funds for consideration of Grey County Council as part of the 2024 budget process.**

Carried

CS28-23

Moved by: Councillor Mackey

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

**That staff be directed to include funding support for \$10,000 annually for three years for Grey Bruce Hospice Inc. for consideration of Grey County Council as part of the 2024 budget process.**

Carried

### Safe N Sound Warming Centre Opening - Verbal Update

Josh Gibson presented to the Committee regarding the Safe N Sound program launch in Owen Sound. The presenter explained that roughly 20 to 25 people utilize the program between midnight and 8:00 a.m. The presenter noted the positive community response, the incidents supported by staff thus far, and the process adjustments made

or challenges to be addressed before winter arrives, including storage for a recent large donation of kits.

Councillor Kentner left the meeting at this time.

## CSR-CSC-24-23 - Grey County Housing Initiatives

Sharon Irwin presented to the Committee regarding Grey County Housing Initiatives. The presenter shared the work undertaken to build strong social connections with tenants to foster a sense of connection and pride in where they live by investing in social capital and the structures maintained by Grey County to support healthy communities. The presenter further described efforts to address food insecurity and energy conservation programs.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff discussed access to energy conservation resources for residents and homeowners, tracking and monitoring initiatives to report the impact of reduction measures, and programs to support a holistic approach to looking after the tenants and their buildings.

CS29-23

Moved by: Councillor Mackey

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

**That report CSR-CS-24-23 regarding an overview of Grey County housing initiatives be received for information.**

Carried

## CSR-CS-23-23 - Short Term Shelter Program Funding Options 2023

Josh Gibson presented to the Committee regarding the Short Term Shelter Program. The presenter reviewed last winter's program, the demographics, the program's pressure points, the deficit breakdown, and the gap in funding. The presenter explained that for the winter season ahead, focus would be given to unsheltered people, with others supported in connecting with alternative forms of housing or diverted to the Safe N Sound program.

CS30-23

Moved by: Warden Milne

Seconded by: Councillor Mackey

**That report CSR-CS-23-23 be received; and**

**That the shortfall in funding for the Short Term Shelter Program be funded from anticipated 2023 surplus from the Housing budget and the remainder from housing reserves and one time funding.**

Carried

## **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Next Meeting Date**

To Be Determined.

## **Adjournment**

On motion of Warden Milne and Councillor Dobreen, the Community Services Committee adjourned at 4:23 p.m. to the call of the Chair.