

**COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING:
The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey
Advisory Committee**

MINUTES

DATE: March 3, 2023

TIME: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Virtual, Grey County MS Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Members of the Steering Committee

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

Anne Marie Shaw (Community Services, Grey County)

Christine MacDonald (Human Services, Bruce County)

Krista Miller (Inspector, South Bruce OPP)

Jason Wepler (Grey Bruce Health Unit)

RECORDER: Patti McNabb (Grey County)

ATTENDEES: Anne Marie Shaw, Christine MacDonald, Jason Wepler, Krista Miller, Sarah Pelton, Alex van Wieringen, Alison Govier, Bernice Connell, Beth Blackwell, Carly Craig, Cathy Addison, Cathy Clarke, Dana Soucie, Dane Nielson, Dave Zago, Debra Anderson, Francesca Dobbyn, Jennifer White, Julie Lipsett, Jennifer Sells, Jill Umbach, Jon Farmer, Julie Hamilton, Kevin Cornell, Lauren McKay, Lorie Fioze, Lynn Silverton, Michelle Bloomfield, Pam Coulter, Patti McNabb, Robert Martin-Webb, Susan Sakal, Sarah Cowley, Shelley Schoonderwoerd, Tracy Collins, Trish Herrick, Vivian Kennedy

ITEM

1. Welcome and Introductions, Land Acknowledgement

Jason Wepler (Health Unit & Steering Committee Member)

- The meeting was called to order at 1:05PM
- Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting and cited land acknowledgements

2. Provincial & Local Updates

Christine MacDonald (Bruce County & Steering Committee Member)

- Christine advised there is housing benefit available to eligible renters with a family income of \$20,000 (who have filed income tax through CRA)
- Bruce County is working on the next version of its strategic plan – members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback either online or through townhall meeting forums. Additional information is available at [Join the Conversation on Bruce County's Strategic Plan at March Public Engagement Sessions](#)
- Western Ontario Warden's Caucus formed a human services technical group for strategic priority setting. Staff have suggested that Caucus consider CSWBP as a priority within its strategic planning process

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Inquiry regarding any updates on the requirements set out for CSWBP committees – there are operational updates for advocacy but no additional updates or funding options. Future funding opportunities will be considered when available
- Sarah participates on provincial networks overseeing the work of CSWBP committees and Situation table committees and will apprise of any updates
- Steering Committee will draft correspondence to the Solicitor General advising of the committee current activities and request formal updates available.
- Discussion about affordable housing and Bill 23 – is there room for advocacy for updated definition of “affordable”. Affordable ownership and affordable rental definitions are already being used with alignment between Housing and Planning. Detailed regulations are not yet available. Grey and Bruce are both actively involved in regular Housing and Homelessness planning.
- The action tables under CSWBP continues to review supports to individuals. Action Table updates will be provided at the next meeting.

3. Budget & Financing

Christine MacDonald

- Q4 financial statement was presented for information for year ending 2022 – there was a substantial surplus. There was transitional staffing and work allocated for website and other projects was paused while recruitment took place for a new coordinator

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- No comments or questions

4. S.T.A.R. Update

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

- Sarah provided an overview of the Situation Table and its mandate
- This group consisting of 20 agencies continues to meet weekly to address immediate situations and divert crisis responses
- Changes to membership may occur as presentations are made to various groups
- Creating a tool to identify how referrals are made – Sarah is drafting this
- Measuring the impacts of the situation table continues to track specific provincial data collection – new tracking in place going forward to ensure data is appropriately captured to assess vulnerable individuals and identify gaps
- There were 27 situations addressed in 2022 and 3 (to date) in 2023
- In-person training event planned for end of March
- Outreach opportunities are available for interested agencies
- There was the possibility earlier this year of the MARAC response table (specific to those in situations of Intimate Partner Violence) being coordinated by the Women’s Centre. Sarah has been notified that there is no current funding for this project so situations involving IPV will continue to be referred to STAR

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Recommendations within the Renfrew County Inquest report falls under crime prevention – this is an area of priority within Crime prevention and will be discussed and incorporated into the committee’s work

- Governance structure will address how work being done remains cohesive and fluid

5. Action Table Updates

Crime Prevention Action Table

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

- First meeting was held February 2023
- Preliminary areas of focus have been identified
- Renfrew Inquest recommendations will be incorporated into this groups work
- Education and communications strategies/opportunities
- Overall work will leverage work already being done to identify gaps
- Additional membership is welcome
- Next meeting is the end of March

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no additional questions or comments

6. Issue Assessment and Referrals

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

- Sarah highlighted strategies being developed to address referrals, awareness, support, advocacy, and additional research
- Strategic collaborative processes are being developed to avoid duplicity

7. Action Tracking and Community Updates

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

- Sarah provided an overview of steps being taken for action tracking
- Quarterly infographic updates will be provided to share work being done by the committee. Action tables will be highlighted showing context of work being addressed i.e., poverty task force initiatives (free tax clinics for low-income families and individuals and the benefits of filing income tax to increase availability of household incomes)

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- How does the issue assessment process apply to potential action in the prevention and social development rings of the bullseye model? – many levels are taken into consideration when addressing gaps. We are working with municipal representatives on organizational assessment tools to identify if we are attracting or detracting – work continues.
- Beth (Kincardine) – what are the roles and responsibilities for each level of government and/or social service type agencies to address gaps? Does the work include upstream policies for more equitable responses? Christine confirmed that the municipal rep group will take this into consideration (Sarah to follow up). Grey County is working on updating Housing Plan – Pam Coulter advised that the City of Owen Sound is working on a Housing Paper. Pam will share once public.
- Legislative obligation to establish a committee, and to draft and submit a plan has been met – each municipality then has capacity to draft its own policies to advance community safety and well-being locally
- The municipal agreement is a great resource reiterating the goals and work of the larger group while advancing the work locally.
- A meeting will be established for all municipal reps.

8. Communications:**Council Presentations****Governance Model****Website Refresh****1-pager / FAQ**

Sarah Pelton (Coordinator)

- One area that will be shared is data and benefits of the situation table
- Council presentations are planned February – April 2023. Members may be interested to ensure police services boards etc., have the opportunity to receive the updates. Sarah will advise of the applicable dates. Lynn will join the Grey Highlands presentation date.
- Governance model updated to reflect establishment of action tables and process changes
- Website refresh – should be live within the next few weeks
- 1-pager FAQ will also be shared once finalized.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- An asset map is being created to list all resources albeit complex – action tables will allow identification of programming and service availability
- 211 remains a fulsome resource

9. New Business

Steering Committee Members

Next steps include:

- Sarah to share the Municipal Agreement with municipal reps
- Meeting with Municipal representatives to be coordinated
- Steering Committee to draft correspondence to the Solicitor General advising of the committee current activities and request formal update

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

- There were no additional comments or questions

Should you have any questions throughout the course of this project, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members:

- Anne Marie Shaw annemarie.shaw@grey.ca
- Christine MacDonald cmacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca
- Krista Miller Krista.Miller@opp.ca
- Jason Wepler J.Wepler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Next Meeting: Advisory Committee – June 9, 2023, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm
VIRTUAL – Grey County Microsoft Teams or In-Person (TBD)