

# COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING: The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey

## MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEETING:** Community Safety & Well-Being Planning, Advisory Committee

**DATE:** September 15, 2023

**TIME:** 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Virtual, Grey County MS Teams

**CO-CHAIRS:** Members of the Steering Committee

Alexis Cook (Coordinator)

Shelley Schoonderwoerd (Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth)

Anne Marie Shaw (Community Services, Grey County)

Tina Metcalfe (Human Services, Bruce County)

Keegan Wilson (Inspector, South Bruce OPP)

Jason Wepler (Grey Bruce Health Unit)

**RECORDER:** Patti McNabb (Grey County)

**ATTENDEES:** Jason Wepler, Keegan Wilcox, Shelley Schoonderwoerd, Tina Metcalfe, Beth Blackwell, Carly Craig, Cathy Addison, Cathy Clarke, Chad Zimmerman, Craig Ambrose, Dana Soucie, Dave Zago, Diane Giroux, Francesca Dobbyn, Jane Hartley, Jeremy Mighton, Jill Umbach, Jon Farmer, Josh Gibson, Kelly Lush, Kevin Cornell, Lindsay Johnston, Lori Cunningham, Lorie Fioze, Lynn Silverton, Marilyn Rosner, Michelle Bloomfield, Pam Coulter, Patti McNabb, Rob Atkinson, Robert Martin, Sarah Cowley, Susan Sakal, Tracy Collins,

### ITEM

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions, Land Acknowledgement

- Jason Wepler (Health Unit & Steering Committee Member)

- Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Jason welcomed Shelley Schoonderwoerd as Victim Services rep on both the Steering and Advisory Committees.
- Diane Giroux provided land acknowledgements.

#### 2. Provincial & Local Updates

- Steering Committee Members

#### *Upstream Supports for Children and Families*

- To support the need for more Registered Early Childhood Educators, Bruce County has partnered with Fanshawe College to offer a part-time accelerated ECE program, offered locally in Port Elgin. Additionally, the ministry of education has provided funding over the next 5 years to support the expansion of affordable licensed child care spaces through the new CWELCC program.

- Bruce County's Child Activity Assistance Program (CAAP) is a fund available for families with a gross income of less than \$50,000. The fund assists families with the cost of activities such as school trips, school nutrition programs and extra-curricular activities.
- <https://www.brucecounty.on.ca/services/human-services/child-activity-assistance-program>
- A reminder that both counties offered EarlyON programs for young children and families and these are an excellent way to support parents in supporting their child's development. Partnerships are in place with Health Services, Indigenous Educators, Resource Consultants, and others – you can check out either county's EarlyON Facebook sites for more information.

### ***Affordable Housing for Households with Low-Income***

- Bruce County, as Service Manager is required to develop an updated Housing and Homelessness Plan this is underway. An updated demographic study, which is foundational to setting the stage for this plan has now been completed. We look forward to gathering further input from stakeholders in developing our updated plan.
- The county has recently been exploring the potential for a Seniors Home Share Program, given that one-third of the housing units within the County are owned by seniors and that these housing units have the capacity for a higher occupancy. Bruce County contracted Hub Solutions – a social enterprise embedded within the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness– to conduct research to explore options and opportunities for senior home-sharing programs in the County.
- Based on the findings from the literature review, data review, model scan, and discussions with stakeholders, Hub Solutions developed a holistic operational framework and a next step the County will look for potential partnership and explore funding opportunities to pilot the initiative. [Exploring Options & Opportunities for Home-Sharing in Bruce County - Human Services Committee - September 07, 2023 \(escribemeetings.com\)](#)

### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:**

- There were no questions or comments

### **3. Coordinator Updates**

- Alexis Cook (Coordinator)

- Alexis advised project and priority setting by way of meetings and feedback from steering and advisory committee members on top priority areas, challenges, project suggestions, implementation strategies, successes, and partner opportunities.
- There was discussion regarding identified themes.
- Alexis also conducted Indigenous Community outreach for thoughtful and meaningful engagement and participation on both the Advisory Committee and at STAR.

### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:**

- There were no questions or comments

### **4. STAR Update / STAR Report**

- Alexis Cook

- Link shared to poll preferred preference for data sharing – quarterly.
- 21 Situations to date for 2023 – currently on track to surpass number of situations in 2022.
- 17 of the 21 met the criteria for STAR interaction.
- 12 of the 17 have been closed; 5 remain open.
- Of the 12 that have been closed, 10 had risks lowered, 2 still in AER criteria as services were refused.

- Age trends were noted (12-17, 25-29, 30-39).
- Top risks identified included mental health, criminal involvement, basic needs.
- STAR Survey was designed to further understand what successful and potential areas for improvements from partners' perspectives and applicable results. Alexis summarized the survey results and noted that next steps for a full review of the results at the STAR table to draft an actionable plan.

#### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:**

- There was a question regarding tracking of successes resulting from STAR – it was noted that at minimum there are “successes” in all circumstances even if the individual(s) opted out of services as all participating service agencies had the opportunity to “get on the same page” around supports offered along with identification of existing complications / further opportunities.
- If there is any specific data you'd like to see, please reach out to Alexis.

## **5. Action Table Updates**

Josh Gibson & Jill Umbach

- Presentations were made by the following guests

### **Housing Action Group (Josh Gibson)**

- Grey County is gearing up for an overnight warming centre that will be run by Safe n Sound. Staffing positions have been posted and once developed, policies and procedures will be shared (i.e., police services when motel is full / referrals).
- Intention is to provide a safe, warm space for anyone experiencing homelessness. It is hopeful staffing will be adequately provided. Space capacity is approximately 18 for residents with no other option for those who experience homelessness in the middle of the night.
- 148 people on the By Names List (BNL) actively listed; 95 chronically homeless; 19 are families; average age of person is 38 years old.
- Report on what current short-term shelter looks like and other initiatives being considered.

### **Poverty Task Force (Jill Umbach)**

#### **Income Tax Clinic Initiative**

- Stats Canada confirms that 12% of people across Grey Bruce live with low income.
- There were 39,130 individuals in Grey Bruce and Huron Counties were eligible to access free income tax clinics in 2022.
- 3,050 individuals were assisted with filing 3,550 tax returns.
- Stats on number of returns filed and applicable refunds and benefits entitlements were provided (for two service agencies).

### **Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

- No update provided.

### **Mental Health Action Table**

- Alexis noted that discussions have begun with CMHA, GBHS, BGCFS and upcoming with Keystone with regard to building off of an existing Mental Health Table or creating new table to achieve outcomes.
- An update will be provided at the next meeting.

### **Crime Prevention**

- Opportunity for collaboration and action was presented to a recent Police Chief meeting.
- An update will be provided at the next meeting.

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- Those experiencing homeless – are they Grey County residents or have they migrated to the area? Josh advised that over 70% initially from Grey or Bruce County. If someone arrives from

out of area (and funding services not currently supported), transportation is provided to return them to their home community.

- Any consideration to use the old Markdale Hospital as a housing solution? Josh advised that this has not been considered to date. Staffing would be cost prohibitive for a congregate type setting (hospital / LTC)
- Referral process confirmation – first call is to 211 to identify if need can be met; if there are no restrictions in place, referrals then made to the motel program.
- There was an inquiry about Lighthouse Program – more research would be necessary. Security would be expensive for this type of option.
- It was confirmed that Planning staff are always looking for additional residential units.
- There is an income crisis – people need additional funding supports in order to afford local rents.
- There is an “affordable housing continuum of practice” meeting being coordinated by Grey County staff.
- Josh advised that no update has been provided regarding funding proposal that was locally supported by provision of letters of support (for staffing) for the 14<sup>th</sup> Street transitional housing building.

## 6. Communications

- Alexis Cook, Coordinator

### ***Website Launch***

- Alexis advised that the new website launched on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There have been 142 visitors to the site with inquiries for partnership and involvement.
- Please send suggestions to Alexis.

### ***Elevator Pitch***

- A generic message is being developed and shared at the next meeting to assist with promotion of the CSWBP.

### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:**

- There were no questions or comments

## 7. Identified Priorities

- Alexis Cook

- Members were asked to re-rate the top 5 priorities previously identified; mental health remained the top identified priority.
- There was discussion regarding rationale for individual ratings.

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- Alexis will pull the municipal reps for additional feedback.

## 8. Wrap Up

- Steering Committee Members

- Alexis was acknowledged for the work done since July.
- Advisory committee members were thanked for the ongoing commitment and engagement.

### **QUESTIONS / COMMENTS**

- There were no additional comments or questions.

## 9. New Business

- There was no new business.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM**

**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](mailto:annemarie.shaw@grey.ca)
- Tina Metcalfe [tmetcalfe@brucecounty.on.ca](mailto:tmetcalfe@brucecounty.on.ca)
- Shelley Schoonderwoerd [sschoonderwoerd@victim-services.com](mailto:sschoonderwoerd@victim-services.com)
- Keegan Wilcox [Keegan.Wilcox@opp.ca](mailto:Keegan.Wilcox@opp.ca)
- Jason Wepler [J.Wepler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](mailto:J.Wepler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

***Next Meeting: Friday, December 8, 2023 @1:00PM***

**VIRTUAL – Grey County Microsoft Teams (details to follow)**