

ROEHAMPTON RESIDENCE CLC MEETING – FEBURARY 11TH, 2021

Purpose of the meeting: To identify ways in which the CLC and the Roehampton Residence can work together on initiatives and share general updates of the Roehampton program.

Agenda

1. Roll call, purpose and Agenda Review – Ertha Downey

Members present

Names	Designations
Nicole Williams	Manager – Expansion Sites
Ertha Downey	Shelter Liaison Officer – Roehampton Shelter
Acire Julius Labeja	Shift Leader – Roehampton Shelter
Adam Saunders	Mid-Town Safety Group
Jane Auster	South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association
Bernard Tam	The Livingroom Church
Rev. Joseph	Manor Road United Church
Judi Denison	Lytton Park Residents' Organization
Lancelyn Ray	Eglinton Park Residents' Association
Renee Desjardins	Midtowners Toronto
Rev. Stephen Milton	Lawrence Park Community Church
Wilmar Kortleer	School Board Trustee
Laura Inglis	900 Mount Pleasant Road
Philiz Goh	Mid Town Community Care Group

2. General Community and Shelter updates – Nicole Williams

COVID outbreak

- The outbreak should have ended on Feb 3rd but was delayed for two weeks due to a positive case of a contracted service worker.
- We continue to observe all Toronto Public Health guidelines on the variants of concern, enhanced cleaning, additional staffing
- The vaccine rollout started well but the website crashed when a few of our staff had started receiving the vaccines. We continue to wait for updates

Enhanced internal services

- We have continue to improve and established committees on various aspects of the program. Example, the Harm Reduction Committee, among others
- We continue to support client engagements while in isolation. Thanks to the community for the generous contributions and donations. We are setting up the virtual office for clients to access services online

- We are celebrating and recognising the Valentines Day, Black History Month and the Lunar New Year celebrations. Clients and staff are excited to for the activities; of cause while being mindful of the COVID-19 protocols
- 4 clients got housed in the month
- We continue to work with 15 clients who are actively employed. Even when the Employment Specialist was on break, we are resuming full operations
- Our medical services (ICHA) saw 60 clients in January to February and a total of 260 appointments
- We have resumed doing intakes for new clients in the program following the cancellation of the COVID-19 outbreak in the shelter. Our numbers grew from 98 to 115 today.
- With the donations of electronics, games and arts from the community, we are exploring the implementation of physically distanced engagements by clients. Thanks for the community for such generous contributions.

Schools meeting updates – Wilmar Kortleer

- Cameras for schools are going to be installed
- Schools are reopening next week, February 16th
- CST should be going back to check schools regularly; Eglinton Junior will particularly have CST assigned due to the Day Care
- All schools will be supported based on their respective schools' plans
- With respect to the Bio-Waste, CST saw the individual but could not identify them
- Eglinton Junior will have cameras installed around the school with support from the city
- The school will improve on the lighting situation around the school
- Meetings will continue on a bi-weekly basis

Facilitated Discussion: (What can the CLC and the shelter do in terms of the discussed updates, events, and incidents to ensure the shelter is a good neighbour and a valuable community asset? Community Updates, Events, observations, incidences related to the shelter

Rev. Stephen M: What updates are there for the overdose prevention at the shelter?

- Set up a Harm Reduction Committee within the shelter to support clients' needs
- Peer witness/ support program is still being explored
- Designation is off the table for now but enhanced supports and engagements are on-going. This is due to resource constraints
- We have nurses on site serving clients on Monday to Friday. We can explore how they could expand medical supports to persons who use drugs

Are virtual services such as meditations/ classes possible for clients? How do we set it up?

- Yes, it is possible! You are most welcome to do it
- All you need is to share with us the date and timelines involved so we can plan, organize, advertise and provide information to clients about the services
- We can also have staff support the process.

Lancelyn Ray: What percentage of clients are getting help with employment?

- 155 clients
- All clients have access to the services as long as it is part of your case plans
- It is important to note that, not all clients are employment ready or may choose to be employed due to different challenges. The service is needs based and client centered

We are meeting monthly on this committee but it feels like we are doing nothing

- All members of the CLC have done a lot and continue to do so much and we are grateful. It may feel as though not a lot is being done but the feedback and advice from you all are invaluable. From the donations, contributions, encouragement, compassion and working together for the homeless community in our area is great and it is much appreciated.
- **Renee Desjardins:** the CLC news letters have triggered questions from the community which means there is an acknowledgment of the efforts by CLC.

Jane Auster: What happens when our mandate ends? Do we still get together to help? COVID-19 held us back from doing a lot but while the Roehampton Shelter continues, we do not, what happens?

- The group can decide what happens to it. Others have evolved to other groups with similar objectives but there may be value to extend the existence of the group beyond the mandated period
- There is also a lot that can be done post-vaccination. We have been able to keep together and work together in the midst of COVID-19. The success of our program comes from that.

Philiz: what is the update on the Charity Number of the shelter?

- We can only receive supports under “COVID RELIEF” and not a CHARITABLE entity. Any donations would be receipted as that until we transition from a COVID-19 program to another program budget line. I will get back to the committee after consulting with finance.

What became of the Condominium break in?

- The CST will be talking to the Condo guards about that and inform corporate security.

Adam: Why are we hearing more about Harm Reduction and less about Rehabs? Harm Reduction takes the front seat all the time and leave out Rehab for clients. We want to advocate for more Rehab services.

- Mental health and addiction treatment centers or services are indeed required and treatment and rehabilitations are part of Harm Reduction principles. We refer clients to

detox services or external service providers as part of our Harm Reduction responses in addition to an array of different supports and services that we offer in-house.

What are the demographics of the clients at the Roehampton Shelter?

- We will provide demographics in the next meeting; we however have approximately 15 originals in the program. Due to the transient nature of our clients, we don't have uniform numbers
- Send an email to Ertha requesting for stats on demographics
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Any information on the NOVOTEL

- Due to the Encampment crisis is partnering with different agencies to provide shelters for homeless persons. The Novotel is run and managed by Homes first Society.

Renee Desjardins

- On sending letters – Because most members are representatives of different communities, they need to consult them, hence decisions may vary or be delayed.
- Social activities – virtual trivia and karaoke. Clients would love the idea; let us explore it more with less restrictions and vaccinations

Lancelyn: can we give donations in kind if we can not give cash now? I have a tablet that I want to donate.

- Yes, you can donate and you will be issued the COVID-19 Relief receipt

Who does laundry in the hotel?

- There are laundry machines for clients to launder their clothes.
- The hotel management does laundry for towels, bed linens
- Linens are changed on a weekly basis

Closure – Ertha

- Special dinners are the Black History Month, Lunar New Year
- Donations of pet food can be dropped at the shelter at anytime
- Meeting adjourned to March 10th, 2021.
- Thank you everyone for attending