

Roehampton Residence

Community Liaison Committee Meeting #10

VIA WEBEX: June 9, 2021, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

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

Land Acknowledgement and Reflection: I acknowledge the land I am standing on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississauga's of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. I also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississauga's of the Credit and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississauga's and Chippewa bands

Meeting Minutes – June, 2021

1. Roll Call, Purpose & Agenda Review: Ertha Downey

- *Nicole Williams: Manager – Expansion Sites
- *Ertha Downey Shelter Liaison Officer – Roehampton
- * Sonya Van Kruistum: Site Leader – Roehampton
- *Jane Auster: South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association
- * Rev. Joseph: Manor Road United Church
- * Rev. Milton: Lawrence Park Community Church
- *Replace the name as per schedule:
Wilmar Kortleer: School Board Trustee
- * Laura Inglis: 900 Mount Pleasant Road
- * Philiz Goh: Mid Town Community Care Group
- *Deb Whalen-Blaize: Church of the Transfiguration
- *Frank White: Eglinton Place Condo Corp
- *Carolina Vecchiarelli: Offices of Councilor Matlow
- *Adam Saunders Mid-town Safety Group
- *Diane Golding: Northern Secondary School
- *Lancelyn – Eglinton Park Residents Association
- *Rev Alexander: Leaside Presbyterian

2. General Community and Shelter Updates: (Nicole Williams)

Major Incident: Client suspected of trying to take his life. Staff were able to successfully bring the man to safety. Both staff and police worked together to secure the man's safety, the man was in danger for about 20 minutes. The man is receiving needed assistance. A debrief was held for all staff.

Forum involving TPH and SSHA re overdoses: The event occurred and the report should be available tomorrow. The forum was open to the community, and there were some inquiries regarding peer support. In response, there is a plan to have an organization come on site to provide these services. Overdose reporting information will also be made available to the general public related to all non-fatal overdoses. Fatal overdoses will not be reported in order to respect privacy, in particular so that the person may not be identified. The number of responses to overdoses has recently decreased, with December 2020 being the highest. The data will be released starting tomorrow. There also will be other reports being made available.

Demographics: There are no changes in demographics 30 women of 100 clients currently at Roehampton

Outbreaks

- There are currently cases but no Outbreaks recorded in the shelters
- We are currently at 70% vaccination rate for clients, and there are on-site clinics that are available twice per week
- The City created a strategy where teams will help with infection prevention and control, including paramedics, and fire.
- There also was a consultant hired to investigate the practices at the larger hotels
- It is hoped that this will prevent the feared variants rumored to be coming from spreading
- **Thank you:**
- To the Community Care Team: There are flowers coming and there are clients that are volunteering to care for the plants that are currently planning. There was some plastic furniture that was also donated for the third-floor deck.

Activities for residents:

- Virtual recreation has not worked well with our residents. We pivoted to provide on site drop-in art time. There are art stations that are set up for clients to use, with future plans being made for t-shirt making
- Today was the first day that the programs were running and there were eight participants.

Schools:

- **Eglington Junior:** Continues to provide cleaning biowaste. There is an industrial cleaner that has been ordered and cameras have been installed
- The CST Team reports are now being sent directly to the schools, if not daily as soon as is possible, and the principals are receiving the email directly from the company

Report from Councilor Matlow's Office (Carolina Vecchiarelli): Motions brought forward last evening by Councilor Matlow included: encampments, discussions regarding use of washrooms. Counselor Matlow made some recommendations that are available on his site, some of which were defeated.

Mid-town Safety Group (Adam Saunders): It was reported that in early May there was increase in drug paraphernalia but that it has been improving lately. The Mid-town Safety Group is looking at ways to make sure that the communication between the various groups is effective.

3. Facilitated Discussion: (All)

Frank: The CLC has been reported to be in place for a year, then what? Should we have a discussion regarding if it should continue and what should it look like? Should we invite new members? The committee has moved from a reactive group to the shelter's presence to working together. As part of this discussion, we can also discuss what has happened with other CLC's and how they have developed over time. **As per Nicole:** This is to be added to next agenda.

How many full-time staff does Roehampton have? **As per Nicole:** There are 130 staff with a large portion of them being part times. Roehampton has eight frontline staff on 24/7. There is always one supervisor, there 3 senior managers, Counselors (7 will be full team), a medical team, a cleaning team, and a housekeeping team. There are 24 full time frontline staff currently at Roehampton.

Lancelyn (Can we get some pictures of the terrace, to show the people that have contributed?) There are some that were sent to Sarah, but Nicole will take some more pictures and send them. As per Nicole: There are some more donations that are coming to improve the deck as well.

Are there more calls to EMS? **As per Nicole:** Not on average

Are there people still moving into housing? **As per Nicole:** It can be a lengthy process if items such as ID are needed and building trust is also important.

What makes someone ready for housing? **As per Nicole:** We do not follow a housing ready approach, but we do look at the support that they need. Bigger issues included, tax returns, as a person may not have filed for a number of years and there are persons that may be waiting on lists that can take years. There are interim measures in place to subsidize private market rent. There are some persons that do not want to rent to someone who has experienced poverty, and at times residents may face discrimination in housing.

They said Roe would be there for one year? **As per Nicole.** There was a two-year lease with an option to extend. There is however is no stated limit to lease, and the direction from Toronto Public Health will guide this.

What about a safe consumption site? **As per Nicole:** At the last meeting we had said that persons could send a letter of support. City staff as leasers are not able to write letters of support. There also is the need to evaluate the sites that are currently operating, and this will be occurring in July.

Should we decide to do this as a group?

- **Frank:** I think that this is a community response. We are planning to get in contact with the landlord, but not all in the group may agree. **As per Nicole:** She will check with Gord Tanner to see if she is able to pass this information along. Debate is whether to write the letter. There are a number of groups including churches that have said that they are interested and I will connect with them
- **Adam:** There is a clear decrease in the reports of needles. Why do you think this is? **As per Nicole:** Good neighbor policy, CST possibly but nothing definite. **Adam:** none the less good news. I was not aware that there was an option of anything beyond the 2-year lease. **As per Nicole:** The original meeting identified with as two years with an option for a third.
- Some of the language in the presentation raised questions like, "Does the distribution of harm reduction supplies cause harm?" The presenters clearly answered that is prevents harm rather.

Jane: Will the person that attempted suicide be allowed back, how was this dealt with for the other clients? **As per Nicole:** There is no discussion as of yet re his return. There is a general increase in suicide amongst persons in general. There have been a number of conversations with clients one on one re the event. They have had multiple of resources to speak with and to seek support from.

Can we have another townhall to let people know how far we have come?

As per Nicole: If we were to have a town hall again it would need to look different. We would need to develop this as a group but we would be happy to support.

Have clients from Roehampton returned to encampments?

There are some people that have decided to sleep out of doors, a couple only. Streets to Homes has reported that, at this point there has not been a return to encampment form Roehampton.

Rev Stephen: As pandemic winds down, what will happen to the shelter system. Are they going to keep the capacity of system? What will open and close? **As per Nicole:** Some of the question that are being asked include whether some of the hotels become housing. Are there physical environmental changes that should be maintained across the shelter system is also an important question that is being asked. All of this will be evaluated over time, including what is recommended by Toronto Public Health. While infections control standards have been in place to mitigate infections for years, there is new knowledge and methods that need to be broadly applied. This is part of what has be termed, “The Shelter Recovery Plan”.

Is there a sense by staff that there are advantages to the hotel model? **As per Nicole:** There is sense of protecting re infection but overdoses and isolation are problematic areas that are being addressed. The good thing about some of the older hotels is that there are some larger spaces that can be used to prevent isolation and to provide programming, while also providing space to ensure proper physical distancing.

What is SHOPP (Shelter Hotel Operators Peer Program)? **As per Nicole:** These are persons that have lived experience that will come in and provide assistance including talking about a range of things, be present when using, can augment harm reduction work, based on their lived-expertise. There is a differing type of trust that can be developed with a peer, and it provides another type of relationship to choose form. We do not know the hours that they will be working, yet.

Do they need any help from us? **As per Nicole:** Nicole will ask and bring this back to the group

4. Wrap-up & Next Steps.....Nicole Williams / Ertha Downey

1. Next CLC meeting date – July 07, 2021, 5:30pm-7:00pm, **note change of date**
2. Process next steps – meeting notes to be shared with participants for review in draft, participants have 1 week to review before meeting notes are finalized and posted on the project website at www.toronto.ca/physicaldistancingshelters (Roehampton Residence / CLC)