



Homeless Coalition

Date: December 18, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

Facilitator: Diane Arsenijevic/Barry Fellingner

Recorder: Recorded through Zoom – Scribed by Sara Knight

Regrets: Sara K., Troy C., Stephanie S, Lin M

Present: Delany L. Kelsey M., Nick W., Andy K., Barry F., Joe R., Tracy G., Doug B., Trish C., Mary Jo T., David J., Taraesa T., Jim P.

	Item Description	Action		
			Who	Due Date
1.	Welcome and Introductions			
2.	Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Provincial and Federal Involvementb) Presentation to Dutton Dunwich Councilc) United Way Meetingd) Pearce Williams Board Meeting	<p>a) David- We will be making attempts to access Provincial and Federal funding and have received interest from both MP and MPP’s office. There is a Zoom meeting with the Committee scheduled January 6th at 10AM with Karen Vecchio’s office. We are fortunate to have Delany from Jeff Yurek’s office is currently in attendance at today’s meeting. 3.4 million dollars in COVID-19 relief funds have been allocated to St Thomas and Elgin County and we’ve suggested based on population that we received %10 of funding to support our relief efforts.</p> <p>Diane- Danielle Neilson from the City of St Thomas has agreed to support in attending these meetings and possible assist with accessing funding.</p> <p>Delany- Ensure we are clear with why we would not just send people to St Thomas where there is a permanent shelter system? We need to make a case as to why keeping individuals in their own community is important. East Elgin pushed back- there was no affordable housing and an absence of development, West Elgin can do this as well. Include a request to spread the</p>		Zoom meeting with Karen Vecchio’s office Jan 6 th 10AM

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		<p>resources instead of adding to St Thomas waitlists</p> <p>b) Diane- Dutton/Dunwich Council has appointed Councilor Drouillard and Corneil to attend Coalition meetings.</p> <p>c) Andy- Doug reached out to WECHC to see how they could support, followed by a Zoom meeting with Andy, Diane, Doug, Sara Middleton and Barry Dec 18th AM. Doug decided to join Coalition and United Way has decided to provide \$8,000 in from Emergency Canada Fund to support folks at risk or experiencing homelessness. Using the funds by March 31st.</p> <p>d) Joe- In early January Pearce Williams will have 5 migrant workers coming to quarantine and SWPH has stated that once they are doing quarantine, they are unable to do anything else in the facility at the same time. They would be better suited as a short-term, two month stay versus a drop in warming center as they are so far out of the way. At this point, they are unable to do both quarantine and short-term stay, however, are not opposed to a discussion in the future.</p>		Expense United Way funds by March 31 st
3.	Committee Structure	<p>e) Diane and Barry are Co-chairs</p> <p>f) Sara is Recorder</p> <p>g) 25 committee members</p> <p>h) Barry- We need to get this going as soon as we can to meet immediate needs, looking at the structure of our work plan, short term shelter, to transitional/supportive housing to long term, permanent housing.</p> <p>i) Diane- Timelines; first priority would be an emergency shelter, working until the end of March when warm weather begins again and then focusing on transitional and long-term solution. Prioritizing emergency shelter. Suggested Task Teams. Is there anybody opposed to having sub-committees that flow into one big coalition? No objection</p> <p>j) Barry- is there individuals that have expertise and want to lead any of the sub-committees? This could involve research.</p>		Diane to send out email for sub-committees- Jan 2021

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		k) Diane- this would include creating agendas, leading committee meetings and keeping in touch with sub-committees. Planned to send out an email to touch base for feedback and recruit leaders for sub-committees.		
4.	Homeless Tracking Sheet	<p>Diane- 11 individuals are homeless or at risk of homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 year old sleeping rough in tent • Individual couch surfing in an unsafe environment with substance abuse • Parent and child living in motel with potential short-term accommodations next month • 90 year old individual at risk of homelessness June 2021 when rental home is undergoing renovations • 30 year old individual with complex needs who is couch surfing • 70 year old individual living in an abusive situation at risk of homelessness • 50 year old individual whose father has passed away resulting in home being sold • Single parent with two children risking homelessness as of March 1st when rental home is being sold • Currently two individuals have been able to secure permanent housing, one through a rental property in West Elgin, the other relocated to RGI housing in London. <p>Barry- Sara and Stephanie are working with folks experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness to provide Systems Navigation.</p>	Diane	
5.	Work plan a)Emergency Shelter	David- There is a Grace Church congregational Zoom meeting to discuss using	David	a)Timeline present-March 31

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		Joe- Pearce Williams received a grant from The United Church of Canada Foundation for affordable seniors housing with an end goal of multiple 600 square ft. units. United Church of Canada Foundation has started a United Property Resource Association with a goal to build 4,500 affordable units over the next 15 years, focusing on underused properties they own to build on.		
6.	Publicity a) Press releases b)Community Engaged Learning	a) David- Press release in Chronicle prompted some community reach out was also released on social media with a great response. Trish- Precedent Letter for service clubs. Taraesa- Press release upon any movement to keep building awareness Diane- Do we publicize the United Way grant? Andy- Eventually we need to recognize United Way. Jim- Kiwanis did not know much about the homelessness situation, they just wanted to help ASAP, a more detailed letter may generate additional funds	David Sara/Barry	Trish to write Precedent Letter for Service Clubs/Agencies Jan 2021
7.	Funding- Grants and Funding raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations-precedent letter for service clubs; West Elgin Municipality delegation for motion to advocate for dollars in West end of county • Elgin Social Services Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative • Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025) • Tracy- Christmas Eve offering will be going towards this initiative and will continue to speak at Ministerial Meetings. • United Way has decided to provide \$8,000 in from Emergency Canada Fund to support folks at risk or experiencing homelessness. Using the funds by March 31st. 	All	
8.	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trish on Dutton/Dunwich Council Affordable Housing: Re-doing official plan and more affordable housing has been identified as a priority moving forward. The Lions are working on Caledonia 3, coming to Council with locations. This is nothing immediate, and for seniors. There are some subdivisions underway in Dutton, with different types of units, however, not transitional and likely unaffordable for the demographics we are working with. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Victorian Manor vacancies or contact number?• Taraesa- explained to council which demographics are experiencing homelessness and how they can support in a 40 minute discussion and the Mayors will be potentially writing a letter of support. Still submit a Letter of Support from the committee.		Nick and Amarilis to make inquiries on Victorian Manor Jan 2021
9.	Next Meeting Date Regular meeting dates/times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey to see date/times available via doodle poll		