Homeless Coalition

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

Facilitator: Diane Arsenijevic/Barry Fellinger

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 a) Provincial and Federal Involvement b) Presentation to Dutton Dunwich Council c) United Way Meeting d) Pearce Williams Board Meeting 	 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. Diane- Danielle Neilson from the City of St Thomas has agreed to support in attending these meetings and possible assist with accessing funding. 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 		Zoom meeting with Karen Vecchio's office Jan 6 th 10AM

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		resources instead of adding to St Thomas waitlists		
		 b) Diane- Dutton/Dunwich Council has appointed Councilor Drouillard and Corneil to attend Coalition meetings. 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. 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 have a factor of the same time. 		Expense United Way funds by March 31 st
		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.		
3.	Committee Structure	 e) Diane and Barry are Co-chairs f) Sara is Recorder g) 25 committee members 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. 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 ano big peopletion? No existing 		Diane to send out email for sub- committees- Jan 2021
		into one big coalition? No objectionj) Barry- is there individuals that have expertise and want to lead any of the sub- committees? This could involve research.		

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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	 Diane- 11 individuals are homeless or at risk of homelessness 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. Barry- Sara and Stephanie are working with folks experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness to provide Systems Navigation. 	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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b)Transitional Housing	the church hall as a space to hold the Resting Space. The potential barrier is		b)Timeline April –Sept		
c)Affordable (GIC) housing	insurance coverage to support an operational shelter, email sent to see if	Sara	c)Timeline Sept-December		
	current insurance policy will cover this. They are in the midst of changing	David			
	insurance companies, and have requested information on coverage.				
	Diane- Ken Brooks, lawyer with experience in setting up shelters has offered				
	support.				
	Andy- WECHC is prepared to do what's needed to support movement, WECHC				
	has no problem with funds being flowed through us, however, hope that we				
	have broader community support.				
	Jim- Worked in rural communities identifying needs and has recognized				
	multiple buildings in West Elgin that could be repurposed to affordable				
	housing. Presbyterian church will sell for 20k and the building next to Sam's		Taraesa/Trish to reach out to		
	diner could be a potential.		Fire Chief for status of cots		
	Joe- Pearce Williams can offer supplies on lend; mattresses, dishes, tables,				
	chairs				
	Taraesa- Reach out to Fire Chief to see use of cots				
	a) Locations;				
	Taraesa- United Church is going up for sale in April.				
	b) Locations;		Sara to get information on		
	Indwell, number of units		statistics of folks needing		
	David- Requesting a needs assessment, what does the community need in		housing in WE- Jan 2021		
	terms of numbers?				
	Doug- Can we create a By Names List through Co-ordinated access?				
	Nick- Is a barrier that folks from other communities will try to access GIC				
	housing in West Elgin?		Taraesa to report findings on		
	Delany- if somebody is applying for GIC housing through the City of St Thomas,		Habitat for Humanity Jan 2021		
	they would be eligible to access housing in West Elgin.				
	Taraesa- Working on collection information in regards to Habitat for Humanity				
	and will report back in New Year.				

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6.	Publicity a) Press releases b)Community Engaged Learning	 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. 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. 	David Sara/Barry	Trish to write Precedent Letter for Service Clubs/Agencies Jan 2021
7.	Funding- Grants and Funding raising	 Jim- Kiwanis did not know much about the homelessness situation, they just wanted to help ASAP, a more detailed letter may generate additional funds 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	 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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		 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	 Survey to see date/times available via doodle poll 		