



Minutes

Human Services Planning Board

September 15, 2023

Electronic Meeting

- Co-Chairs: Regional Councillor G. Chan, R. Shields
- Members: C. Bisanz, M. Braithwaite, L. Davidson, Regional Councillor N. Davison, L. Duncan, C. Emanuel, A. Fagan, C. Grant, Regional Councillor J. Li, Chief J. MacSween, N. McCullough, C. Roach, I. Maxwell Rodrigues, J. Sarna, G. Skerritt, S. Speirs, Mayor J. Taylor, E. Walsh, A. Wilson
- Staff: L. Alfieri Sladen, M. Bryce, K. Chislett, C. Clark, B. Macgregor, C. Martin, K. Pal, R. Ramos, T. Sergnese, I. Soneji, N. Stramaglia, C. Trotter, C. Raynor
- Other: Dr. Audrey Jamal, Sofira Mavumba, Isaac Oppong
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A. Call to Order

Regional Councillor Godwin Chan, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Regional Councillor Godwin Chan provided the following acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

C. Disclosures of Interest

None

D. Opening Remarks

Human Services Planning Board Co-Chairs Regional Councillor Godwin Chan, City of Richmond Hill and Rebecca Shields, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe provided an overview of procedures and opening remarks.

E. Updates

E.1 Commissioner's Update

Katherine Chislett, Commissioner of Community and Health Services provided updates as follows:

- Final quarterly meeting of the Human Services Planning Board to be held in person on December 8, 2023
- Special Council Meeting regarding the 2023 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors to be held on October 5, 2023 at 9 a.m.
- Special Council Meeting regarding homelessness to be held on November 23, 2023 at 9 a.m.
- The Region's Community Investment Fund has calls for applications open under two funding streams. One is the Mental Well-Being funding stream and applications are due September 20, 2023. The other is the Community Needs funding stream, which supports small capital purchases and specific operational expenses. Community Needs applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis with funding approvals and allocations anticipated in September, October and November 2023.
- The Housing Stability call for applications and the Transportation Assistance Support Program have concluded, and results are being shared with those who applied.
- Prior to the pandemic, the provincial government announced its intention to reduce the provincial portion of Public Health funding, which is normally funded 25% by municipalities and 75% by the province. The provincial government had intended to shift the cost-sharing ratio so that municipalities would eventually pay 40% of the cost. Those cuts were put on hold during the pandemic. The province has now reversed those cuts entirely and Public Health's base funding has been restored to its usual 25% / 75% ratio. The province is also providing a 1% annual increase to account for inflation.

- Community Wealth Building examples:
 - York University's social procurement practices, which show a commitment to the use of purchasing power to benefit local economies
 - United Way's report on Building Inclusive Communities
 - WCG's social value strategy
 - Blue Door's social enterprise, Construct - hiring and training people facing barriers to employment
 - In 2018, HSPB worked with a consultant to help develop a research report on community benefits approaches, along with a framework and a toolkit - United Way was the catalyst to bring that work to HSPB
 - York Region has updated its procurement bylaw with a clause for social procurement and community benefits, and is exploring a supporting procurement policy and framework
 - York Region has piloted several demonstration projects focused on creating training and employment opportunities for historically marginalized groups
- York Region is working with ANCHOR, the AfricanCanadian National Coalition against Hate, Oppression and Racism, and Miracle Arena for All Nations to support the refugee/asylum seekers being hosted at Miracle Arena, a church in Vaughan. The federal and provincial governments are being called upon to assist with this enormous challenge, and many organizations are providing supports.
- York Region is starting a Community Housing Supply Grant pilot program. The program will provide capital funding to non-profit and cooperative housing organizations that are ready to build new community housing units. The call for applications window opened in September 2023, and funding is expected to be awarded to successful applicants by the end of the year.
- The second anniversary celebration of the Community Action Tables – the place-based tables that drive the actions under the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Langstaff Community Centre in Richmond Hill from 9:30am to 1:30pm
- In April 2023, Regional Council approved the Framework for the York Region 2023 to 2026 Newcomer Inclusion Plan. The full Plan will be brought to Regional Council for approval in October 2023.

- Commissioner Chislett announced with sadness, the passing of Prince Sibanda, Community Development Program Specialist for the York Region Local Immigration Partnership.
- York Region Chief Administrative Officer, Bruce Macgregor is leaving the Region after 16 years and Commissioner Chislett thanked him for his leadership and support to Community and Health Services.
- Cecil Roach is retiring from the York Region District School Board and Commissioner Chislett acknowledged his leadership and advocacy for equity and inclusion.
- Mary Boushel is the new Director of Strategies and Partnerships

E.2 Update on Asylum Seekers and Refugee Claimants in York Region

Monica Bryce, Acting Director, Strategies and Partnerships, Community and Health Services provided an update on asylum seekers and refugee claimants at the Miracle Arena site in the City of Vaughan, providing specific information on how York Region is providing supports.

F. Presentations

F.1 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan

The Board received the presentation by Tamara Sergnese, Acting Director, Integrated Children's Services, Community and Health Services and Candice Trotter, Program Manager, Child Care Initiatives, Social Services, Community and Health Services.

The Board recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

F.2 Community Wealth Building: A Systems Changing Approach to Building Local Economies

The Board received the presentation by Dr. Audrey Jamal, Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean, Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics, University of Guelph.

F.3 Member Feature - Blue Door

The Board received the presentation by Michael Braithwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Door.

F.4 Member Feature - York Region Children's Aid Society

The Board received the presentation by Ginelle Skerritt, Executive Director, York Region Children's Aid Society.

G. Deputations

None

G.1 Miracle Arena Shelter

The Board received the delegation by Isaac Oppong, Miracle Arena Shelter.

(See Item E.2)

H. Community Updates

None

I. Communications

None

J. Other Business

None

K. Adjournment

The Human Services Planning Board meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.