



Journey Home Task Force

Minutes

Date:	Wednesday, May 23, 2018
Location:	KARIS Support Society 550 Rowcliffe Avenue, Kelowna, BC
Task Force Members Present:	Co-Chair, Martin Bell, Co-Chair, Dr. Kyleen Myrah, Ann Howard (BC Housing), Cheryl Miller (Central Okanagan Foundation), John Yarshenko (Interior Health), Superintendent Brent Mundle (RCMP), Theresa Arsenault, QC, Gaelene Askeland, Tom Dyas, Mike Gawliuk, David Krysko, Carrie McDonald, Pam Moore, Kelly Taverner, Shane Worman, Tina Larouche (Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society), and Diane Roy (Westbank First Nations)
Task Force Members Absent:	Harleen Price (Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction), Jennifer Houde (Okanagan Nation Alliance), Diane Entwistle, Scott Lanigan, Lisa McHaffie, and Brenda Plitt
Staff Present:	Neighbourhood Development Coordinator, Glenda Cooper, Social Development Manager, Sue Wheeler, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture, Jim Gabriel, and Legislative Coordinator (Confidential), Clint McKenzie
Guests:	Gerard Joyal* (Lived Experience Circle Convener), and Belinda Jackson (A Way Home Kelowna)

(* denotes partial attendance)

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chair, Martin Bell, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Co-Chair, Martin Bell:

- Thanked Michael Buffet, President, Startfresh Project Society's Culinary Arts and Farm Education Program (CAFÉ) Program for providing the meal.
- Thanked the KARIS Support Society for hosting the meeting.

Task Force Member, David Krysko:

- Provided an overview of the KARIS Support Society facility and its services.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Diane Roy/Seconded by Teresa Arsenault

THAT the Minutes of May 10, 2018 Meeting of the Journey Home Task Force be confirmed as circulated.

Carried

Moved by Martin Bell/Seconded by Cheryl Miller

THAT Item 10 on the Agenda be moved and dealt with prior to Item 6.

Carried

3. Lived Experience Circle Update (Gerard Joyal)

Gerard Joyal, Lived Experience Circle Convener:

- Noted that 14 participants will guide the selection process for the Lived Experience Circle and its decision-making process.
- Provided comment that the group is interested in peer programs, creating ongoing awareness of homelessness, and ways to introduce new solutions into the community.
- Noted the Circle would support more design labs and would like to know more about the Task Force and explore ways to continue to keep dialogue open between the two groups.

4. A Way Home Kelowna Update (Belinda Jackson)

Belinda Jackson, Project Coordinator, A Way Home Kelowna:

- Introduced the A Way Home Kelowna Co-Chair – Mike Gawliuk and Committee members Sue Wheeler and Diane Roy.
- Noted that 52 youth have attended the sessions with lived experience or know someone with lived experience.
- Key Issues include:
 - Discrimination, youth housing options, aging out of care, accessing income and supports, access to treatment beds, social connection.
- Solutions identified:
 - Raising awareness to address community stigma and discrimination;
 - Establish a continuum of housing options;
 - Provide accessible and timely supports;
 - Focus on prevention in schools; and
 - Community belonging and social inclusion.
- Discussed how A Way Home Kelowna will be embedded in the Journey Home Strategy and the youth initiatives portion of the funding is included within the Journey Home funding envelope.
- Identified 16 actions that align with the Task Force and focus on youth.
- Provided an overview of current demand estimates as building on existing system capacity will serve 739 youth over the 5 year period of the Strategy implementation.
- A Way Home Kelowna is also planning to have a soft launch drawing attention to the youth components within Journey Home in September 2018.

The Task Force Members discussed the existing number of homeless youth and what kind of housing they identified is lacking. They also discussed the exact number of those who are one step away from being homeless and where they currently turn for help within the existing system.

5. Updated Draft Stakeholder Pledge (Co-Chairs)

Co-Chair, Dr. Kyleen Myrah:

- Provided an overview of the revisions to the draft Stakeholders Pledge and discussed additional revisions.
- Noted that the finalized draft of Stakeholder Pledge will be circulated to the Task Force.
- The Stakeholder Pledge Information session will be held June 4th and Task Force members were asked to assist in promoting the Pledge and to encourage those needing further information to attend this session.

Task Force Member, Shane Worman:

- Reviewed the Urban Development Institute letter of support as an example of a proactive pledge of support.

10. Housing First - Overview (Gaelene Askeland)

Task Force Member, Gaelene Askeland:

- Provided a presentation that reinforced a successful approach to Housing First is not only to focus on housing.
- Identified that the priority to harm reduction is to decrease the negative consequences of lifestyles for individuals and the greater community.
- Provided an overview of the Overdose Prevention and the newly formed Community Action Team.
- Also provided an overview of Housing First philosophies embedded in the Cornerstone program:
 - Open to residents 24/7 with no requirement to leave during the day;
 - The winter shelter is now extended to March 31, 2019;
 - Average of 80 residents per day; and
 - Several overdoses but no deaths.
- Clarification was also provided indicating that the new Hearthstone on Commerce Ave that is in development will provide 46 units of long-term supportive housing based on a harm reduction model. John Howard Society will be the operator supporting Hearthstone and is expecting that they will start to gradually move individuals in to the housing units close to the end of September.

6. Proposed Transition Team/Committee (Co-Chairs/Staff)

Co-Chair, Dr. Kyleen Myrah:

- Outlined the expected tenure of the Transition Team for 2018/2019.
- Reviewed the work involved and the role of Transition Team:
 - Backbone Governance structure body;
 - Structure of the backbone organization;
 - Funding/ advocacy; and
 - Support coordination/collective efforts.

- Co-Chairs indicated they will send out an email to Task Force members asking for their interest in participating on the Transition Team before the next Task Force meeting. The Transition Team will not be a statutory committee of Council.
- Gratitude was expressed from all Task Force members to the Co-Chairs and their leadership. Interest was expressed from the Task Force in having the Co-Chairs continue in their role as joint chairs and both Co-chairs expressed interest in continuing to be involved with the Transition Team.

7. Meeting Break

The meeting recessed at 6:43 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

8. Backbone Organization Structure Discussion (Co-Chairs)

Co-Chairs, Dr. Kyleen Myrah and Martin Bell:

- Announced that a tentative home for the backbone organization has been confirmed at Accelerate Okanagan in the Innovation Centre at 1405 St Paul Street. The lease term would be for two work spaces for up to two years with an option to cancel if a new home was identified.
- Task Force expressed their appreciation and support of this development.

Co-Chair Martin Bell:

- Advised that Urban Systems is committed to funding the two-year term to the Innovation Centre space with a contribution of \$6,000 over the two years. The shared work area with other tenants will provide natural intersections that encourage engagement in an action orientated and collaborative community space.
- Task Force discussion confirmed the direction of setting up a new neutral Backbone Organization that is not connected to the delivery of services within the Homeless-Serving Sector to support the implementation of the Journey Home Strategy including neutrality and a defined structure based on a new organization.
- The Task Force stressed that the Backbone is envisioned as a leader and convener, and will not provide services and nor will it compete for agency funding.

The Task Force broke into small groups and a representative from each group provided feedback regarding key characteristics of a backbone organization.

9. Funding & Contribution Needs Summary - Review (Co-Chairs)

Co-Chair, Martin Bell:

- Requested the Task Force Members take the summary away and review and prepare to discuss at the next meeting. Key questions to review include:
 - Look at revisions that enhance ability to communicate to the public;
 - Consider if any organizations are missing; and
 - Provide insight on how the Task Force can be involved.
- Provided a reminder of the upcoming Taskforce dates:
 - June 4 - Stakeholder Pledge Information Meeting;
 - June 6 - Task Force meeting;
 - June 20 - Task Force meeting; and
 - June 25 - Final strategy presentation to Council.

11. Termination

The meeting was declared terminated at 7:45 p.m.

Martin Bell, Co-Chair

Dr. Kyleen Myrah, Co-Chair

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