

Report to Council



Date: September 11, 2017
File: 0615-20-02
To: City Manager
From: S. Wheeler, Social Development Manager
Subject: Journey Home Task Force Terms of Reference Amendment and Recommendations for Membership Appointments

Report Prepared by: G. Cooper

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Social Development Manager dated September 11, 2017, with respect to the Journey Home Task Force;

AND THAT Council approves the amended Journey Home Task Force Terms of Reference to increase the membership from 15 to 21 members in the form attached as Appendix A to the Report from the Social Development Manager dated September 11, 2017;

AND THAT Council appoint as members BC Housing, Central Okanagan Foundation, Interior Health Authority, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and the RCMP, through their representatives, to the Journey Home Task Force;

AND FURTHER THAT Council appoint Theresa Arsenault, Gaelene Askeland, Tom Dyas, Diane Entwistle, Mike Gawliuk, David Krysko, Scott Lanigan, Carrie McDonald, Lisa McHaffie, Pam Moore, Brenda Plitt, Kelly Taverner and Shane Worman as members of the Journey Home Task Force.

Purpose:

To obtain Council's approval of the Journey Home Task Force membership appointments and the amendment to the Journey Home Task Force Terms of Reference.

Background:

At the regular meeting on June 26, 2017, Council endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Journey Home Task Force. The objective of the Task Force is to develop a Journey Home Strategy for Council's consideration for adoption. The strategy will:

- be based on a Homeless-Serving Systems Planning approach;

- be driven by local and lived experience in the application of best practice principles to ensure a community-wide collaborative process; and
- become a guide for local decision-making on addressing affordable housing and homelessness issues.

Following approval of the Terms of Reference and Co-Chair selection, the selection committee proceeded with next steps to select remaining task force members for Council's consideration. The opportunity was promoted through news releases, social media, and contact was made with housing providers and members of the housing homeless serving community and their networks.

The Selection Committee was comprised of the Mayor of Kelowna, the City Manager, Divisional Director Active Living & Culture and the Journey Home Task Force Co-Chairs.

Selection Process:

Through discussion with the Selection Committee, six organization representatives were invited to the committee given the importance of their role in the development and implementation of the strategy. These organizations include: Central Okanagan Foundation, BC Housing, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction, Interior Health, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and RCMP. In addition, a total of twenty-nine applications were received. Applicants represented a wide variety of sectors and knowledge areas, such as first hand knowledge of service navigation, service and housing providers, housing developers, and funders.

As per the approved Terms of Reference, the Selection Committee evaluated applicants based on their skills, knowledge, experience, and strong interest in homelessness prevention and the provision of affordable housing. The Selection Committee considered how the applicants' professional, volunteer and personal experience in these areas will best serve the Task Force's objectives and applied a skills representation matrix to ensure that each identified priority sector was represented: Private/Funding; Social Services; Health; Housing; Public Systems; and, Cultural/Community.

In the process of evaluating applications, the Selection Committee determined that, in order to ensure the broad spectrum of knowledge, experience, sector and community representation is achieved, the total numbers need to be expanded. As such, staff recommend that the Journey Home Task Force Terms of Reference to be amended to expand the number of members from 15 to 21 members (see Appendix A).

Recommended Task Force Members

After thorough consideration by the Selection Committee, in addition to the Co-Chairpersons appointed in June, the recommended appointment of 19 members to the Journey Home Task Force (* represent the six appointed organizations) are:

1. Ann Howard on behalf of BC Housing *
2. Cheryl Miller on behalf of Central Okanagan Foundation *
3. John Yarshenko on behalf of Interior Health Authority *
4. Harleen Price on behalf of Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction *
5. Sheila Lewis on behalf of Okanagan Nation Alliance *
6. Brent Mundle on behalf of RCMP *
7. Theresa Arsenault
8. Gaelene Askeland
9. Tom Dyas
10. Diane Entwistle

11. Mike Gawliuk
12. David Krysko
13. Scott Lanigan
14. Carrie McDonald
15. Lisa McHaffie
16. Pam Moore
17. Brenda Plitt
18. Kelly Taverner
19. Shane Worman

Conclusion

The proposed Journey Home Task Force membership was selected using a skills and knowledge inventory matrix to ensure a diversity of perspectives that will strengthen the development of a collective Strategy. This innovative and collaborative approach will assist in transforming Kelowna's housing and homelessness services into an integrated, people-centered, performance-focused service system. The goal of the Strategy will be to assist residents to achieve housing stability and improve their well-being, and the overall safety, health, and sustainability of the community.

Next Steps

The Journey Home Task Force will convene and commence their work in late September.

Internal Circulation:

J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
K. Needham, Deputy City Clerk
J. Foster, Communications Manager
A. Lamberti, Communications Advisor

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
External Agency/Public Comments
Communications Comments
Alternate Recommendation
Financial/Budgetary Considerations
Personnel Implications

Submitted by:

S. Wheeler, Social Development Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

cc: Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Divisional Director, Community Planning & Real Estate

Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services