



## **The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES**

Date: November 9, 2021

Time: 3:30 P.M.

Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: \*Councillor Henderson - Chair, \*Councillor Vassilakos – Chair Presiding, Councillor Burbach, \*Councillor Ritsma

Regrets: Councillor Bunting - Vice Chair

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Kelly Stone - Supervisor of Social Services, Alex Burgess – Manager of Ontario Works

Also present: Ryan Erb and Joelle Lamport-Lewis - United Way, Deborah Wiseman - Vice President of Partnerships and Chief Nursing Executive, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Mike Adair - Chief of the Perth County Paramedic Services

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Bunting provided regrets for this meeting.

### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the November 9, 2021, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

**3. Delegations**

None scheduled.

Councillor Henderson, Chair, requested that in the absence of the Vice-Chair, another member of the Sub-committee chair the remainder of the November 9, 2021, Social Services Sub-committee meeting. Councillor Vassilakos volunteered to act as Chair.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT Councillor Vassilakos be appointed as the Chair for the remainder of the November 9, 2021, Social Services Sub-Committee meeting.**

**Carried**

\*Councillor Vassilakos assumed the role of Chair at 3:04 p.m.

**4. Report of the Director of Social Services**

**4.1 Purchase of Service Agreement with the United Way Perth-Huron (SOC21-014)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the report titled "Purchase of Service Agreement with the United Way Perth-Huron" (SOC21-014) be received for information;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with United Way Perth-Huron.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services introduced Ryan Erb and Joelle Lamport-Lewis from the United Way and provided a high level review of the staff report.

Historically, this service has been looked at through the City's grants program and staff are requesting to transfer it into a purchase of service agreement. The first part of the purchase of service agreement will see the Research and Planning Council complete reports based on the

Community and Safety Wellbeing plan data and assist with its implementation. The second part entails assisting non-profits with governance matters.

\* Councillor Ritsma now present at the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled "Purchase of Service Agreement with the United Way Perth-Huron" (SOC21-014) be received for information;**

**AND THAT the Director of Social Services and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with United Way Perth-Huron.**

Thanks was provided to the United Way for their partnership and it was noted that this agreement formalizes an ongoing collaboration between the City and the United Way.

The Chair called the question the motion.

**Carried**

## **5. Report of the Supervisor of Social Services**

### **5.1 Update on the Homeless Access to Care Program (SOC21-015)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the report titled "Update on the Homeless Access to Care Program" (SOC21-015) be received for information.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Social Services stated that Deborah Wiseman, Vice President of Partnerships and Chief Nursing Executive at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance and Mike Adair, Chief of the Perth County Paramedic Services, were in attendance and would speak to this report.

The Director advised that this partnership evolved out of COVID-19. They have built a team to address issues that arise from a medical perspective for those community members who are precariously housed or homeless. Details on the contract with the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance were provided, including the employment of a part-time nurse practitioner and pharmacist, full time paramedic services and linkages to the Social Services outreach team.

Outcomes to date were reviewed. COVID-19 vaccination clinics have been held at the Social Services Department offices. Services have also been provided at the office by the nurse practitioner and pharmacist as well.

The Supervisor of Social Services stated they have registered 40 individuals with ongoing primary care with the nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner has also facilitated rostering over 100 people with primary care, either by new referrals or re-connections with previous providers. 20 individuals have been supported with prescription management with the pharmacist and 1 individual was supported into long term care.

The outreach team goes out as needed with both paramedics and the nurse practitioner and there is a drop in clinic on Fridays at The Local Community Food Centre. The Director advised staff are hoping to extend and continue the program into 2022 as it is addressing gaps in service delivery for their clients. As COVID-19 restrictions loosen or are lifted, staff are hoping to use this team in community housing building lounges.

Ms. Wiseman thanked Council for this program. It gives vulnerable individuals access to primary care in places where they feel comfortable and is an important initiative. They are seeing great outcomes with the themes of health and safety.

Chief Adair echoed the sentiments about the partnership and stated the feedback from paramedics is that this is making a very significant difference in peoples lives. For those who do not meet the qualifications for this program, they can help refer them to primary care providers and help them navigate the system. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has announced \$5 million for paramedicine in Perth County and it will be mobilized in the community next year.

The importance of meeting people where they are was noted. It can start with healthcare but relationships can be built that help assist with other supports when people are ready.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled "Update on the Homeless Access to Care Program" (SOC21-015) be received for information.**

**Carried**

**6. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

All Sub-committee meetings for the month of December have been cancelled. Meetings will resume in January 2022.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion by Councillor Burbach

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.**

**Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 3:47 P.M.