



## MINUTES

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters

Thursday, April 4, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Committee Room 3, City Hall  
66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne

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### Attendees:

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges CHC  
Co-Chair Angie Desmarais, Councillor  
Bill Steele, Mayor  
Jay McKnight, Niagara Regional Police  
Christine Clark-Lafleur, Port Cares  
Jeffrey Sinclair, Niagara Region  
Susan Therrien, Director of Library Services  
Neal Schoen, Niagara Community Legal Clinic  
Judy Cassan, Bridges CHC  
Scott Lawson, Deputy Fire Chief  
Joanne Ferraccioli, Acting Health Services Coordinator  
Casey Forgeron, Public Member  
Sherry Hanson, Manager of By-law Services  
Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer

### Regrets:

Tara McKendrick – CAMH

### Minutes:

Nancy Giles, EA to Mayor and CAO

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Co-Chair Angie Desmarais called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by C. Forgeron  
Seconded by S. Hanson

That the agenda for the April 4, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters as amended be approved.  
CARRIED.

### 2. Approval of the February 7, 2019 minutes

Moved by N. Schoen  
Seconded by L. Kleinsmith

That the minutes for the February 7, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters be approved.  
CARRIED.

### 3. Business Arising

**Affordable Housing Report to Council – Motion coming to council Monday night** – brought the motion to council and received unanimous support – stakeholders will be at the table – in the hands of the planning department for a high level look

**By-law for rooming, lodging and boarding houses** – discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> CAO meeting – by-law for unregulated supportive living units – Scott thought the Region would come up with a by-law and enforce it – Region of Niagara is advising the lower tier municipalities to each pass their own by-law so there will be the same rules for all cities/towns – being vetted through legal – Niagara Falls is doing to legal review. Jeff advised that they looked at looking at the Region but business licensing is done at the local level and fees will be set by each municipality and the Region doesn't do those type of licenses. There may be Public Health enforcement as well. Would like to give this committee a chance to see this document before it goes to council and how it will impact our City. Scott gave a high level overview of the areas covered by the by-law. Hopefully the licensing will be done during a slow period and not have a huge impact. It has been five years in the making.

**Housing and Homelessness – Let's Talk Series** – Susan provided a written report of the series – see attached. Susan has signed up her staff for training. Next talk is Human Trafficking on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Susan will look into live-streaming on YouTube. Sponsorship might be needed. Susan will bring it up at the next board meeting.

**Report to Council** – Lori presented the committee's report on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Powerpoint attached.

### 4. New Business

**Report: Shared Prosperity: The Role of Municipal and Regional Government to Reduce Poverty in Niagara and A Guide for Cities Reducing Poverty** - was sent to all candidates in the past election - this could be a document to guide us.

A best practice to take housing and homelessness piece and poverty reduction. Cost of rent percentages – different for people who have to pay hydro and heat in addition to rent. We need to remember this when defining affordable housing.

#### **Next steps for the committee –**

For next meeting – look at social determinants of health

Explore what other municipalities are doing for people who are being displaced for anti-renovation eviction (people being displaced by landlords who want to up rent – Neal said this is covered by Landlord Tenant Act – education might be important) – we need to determine if this is something the municipality can do someone about – see what exists in other municipalities. Find need in Port Colborne. Sherry advised that there are

a handful of residences in Port Colborne, but tenants leave and we can't get access to the units. Jeff has seen an on-line platform for tenants to rate the landlords. He will bring examples for the next meeting.

**Living Wage** - the Niagara living wage is \$17.99 for all municipalities – if there are benefits included that rate can be dropped – Lori is meeting with the Living Wage coordinator and St. Catharines to see what is required for St. Catharines to become a living wage community. Lori could set up for Port Colborne if we wanted. Perhaps we should wait until St. Catharines report. Angie will circulate some of the information she has. Crossing guards are below the living wage in Port Colborne. Niagara Falls is looking at it also. Scott will provide an update at next meeting. There could possibly be some increase for crossing guards as we budget for 20 guards but only have 19.

## 5. Community Updates

**Jeff Sinclair** – Annual update to 10 year housing and homelessness plan is being presented to Regional Council and a housing and homelessness analysis and database is being created with projects to 2041 for housing needs and populations – going to Planning and Development committee April 16 at 2 p.m. and Public Health and Social Services April 17 at 1 p.m.

Lori asked about polling stations for the federal election and ensuring they are accessible. Nancy advised that the election coordinator has already been in touch with the City.

Fire Department – licensing – as soon as you add licensing, the cost of affordable housing goes up; a lot of building stock that aren't open for whatever reason – we have building stock but it's closed down. Sherry advised that if there are incentives and owners apply, if there is an open investigation file, they don't get the incentives. Maybe we need a landlord incentive package. Could this be part of the package with affordable housing. Niagara Regional Housing has support for landlords who want to rent property and make them affordable housing units and also support for landlords dealing with tenants. Sherry has some information on our website for tenants but we could also include for landlords.

Squatters – Warm weather coming – only one person through the winter – Jay will go out to the calls with Port Cares, police can't force them to leave if property owners don't complain. Addiction issues in Port Colborne are massive. Flacka is on the streets in Port Colborne. Scott Luey advised we had a meeting last fall with stakeholders. There is a process in place to contact By-law Enforcement. There are also looking at vandalism. They are looking at cameras at NRPS camera system. To be effective they would have to be monitored. Lori asked about the Housing First – Jeff said Housing First is for those who want to be housed. There is a review for street outreach coming up at the Region. Some people don't like the shelter system – what can NR do with Port Cares to help counsel a person to want housing. Judy – there used to be funding for a hotel room – Jeff we are putting them in

housing and setting them up to fail without supports – how do we work together to prepare them for housing.

Angie spoke of a municipality that set up a field for tents for homeless individuals – Jeff – there are mixed reviews with tent communities, as crime sometimes follows. Hamilton brought in some tiny homes.

Port Colborne is getting Gateway Homes – Home for Good – it has a variety of supports

New Federal Funding – this isn't new funding, this is just a continuation of funding

Housing First from Niagara Region – supports are quite robust; but there are other models that don't have the supports

Angie thanked Neal Schoen for his participation as he is moving from Port Colborne.

## **6. Action Items**

- Living Wages
- Rental Eviction
- Affordable Housing Needs in Port Colborne
- Incentive package for potential landlords

## **7. Next Meeting**

Thursday, June 6, 2019 1 p.m.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.