

# Community Team Approach to Social Issues

March 30, 2021

1:15 p.m.

St. Thomas Police Service – Boardroom (ZOOM)

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## Present:

Name	Organization
Alexandria Houston	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Bob Davidson	St. Thomas Fire
Chief Chris Herridge	St. Thomas Police Service
Dan Logie	CMHA Elgin
Danielle Neilson	City of St. Thomas – Social Services
Earl Taylor	Downtown Development Board
Heather Sheridan	City of St. Thomas – Social Services
Heather Stillitano	Central Community Health Centre (CCHC)
Joe Preston	City of St. Thomas – Mayor
Julie A Moore	LHIN
Kim Destun	St. Thomas Fire Department (STFD)
Lori Fitzgerald	Inn Out of the Cold
Mary Stewart	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Pam Hill	Addition Services Thames Valley (ADSTV)
Paul Jenkins	St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce
Steve Bogart	St. Thomas Police Service
Tiffany Terpstra	St. Thomas Police Service
Wendell Graves	City of St. Thomas – City Manager

Chief Herridge welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **MOST 2021-2022 Grant Application Submission & Hiring 2<sup>nd</sup> MH Most Clinician**

- Chief Herridge provided an update on the following:
  - A second Mental Health Clinician has been hired through CMHA to assist the St. Thomas Police Service (STPS).
  - Chief thanked Dan Logie and Julie Moore for building a team that now services to County and the Town of Aylmer.
  - Chief is currently waiting to hear back on the grant application submission requesting a third Mental Health Clinician and is hopeful to hear in the coming days.
  - Chief noted that the MOST Office located at STPS has received approval to create a larger space for the MOST team and noted that a vehicle will also be purchased for this team all through the request for reallocation through this provincial program funding.

## **Street Outreach Support Team**

- Dan Logie noted that a grant application was submitted in December 2020 in partnership with CCHC, Social Services and CMHA for a Street Outreach Support Team which will include Mental Health and Addiction Workers and Primary Health Care Workers. While waiting for response of approval, this initiative has received temporary funding for implementation of the program through the City of St. Thomas.

- Heather Sheridan noted that \$200,000 has been allocated to assist with starting the outreach program which will allow for the recruitment process to begin and allow the initiative to move forward.
- Recruitment for this team should be in place within the next month (2 – 1 year full time contracts)
- The group discussed the recruitment of a third CMHA worker once STPS is approved including the need for the worker to have a background in mental health and addictions.
- Further conversation occurred related to those in need being accepting of treatment and their level of engagement.
- Chief noted that it will be important at some point for all outreach teams to sit down together to coordinate response to obtain further reach and coverage including coverage of larger timeframes.
- Pam noted that there is currently no waiting list for the detox center in London (281 Wellington Street), however encouraged those assisting a person requiring service to call ahead.

#### **Development of 10 Princess Avenue**

- Wendell Graves provided an update on the development of 10 Princess Avenue noting that they are currently tweaking design elements and are hopeful to have quotes shortly for the work required. Wendell is hopeful that this center will be operational at the end of August 2021 or early September 2021.
- Lori Fitzgerald noted that she hopes that once 10 Princess Avenue is open that guests will have a place 24/7 and will become a hub of services which will assist in smooth transitions for these services including:
  - Medical Care
  - Social Rehab Team – CMHA
  - Literacy Programs
  - Harm Reduction

#### **Needle Clean-Up Discussion with SWPH**

- Mayor Joe Preston noted that conversations continue with SWPH in relation to needle clean up and what that looks like. This is a community health responsibility.

#### **CCTV Phase 2 Project Moving Ahead (Talbot West)**

- Inspector Bogart provided an update on the CCTV program noting three camera systems are currently in place (Moore/Talbot, Ross/Talbot and Hiawatha/Talbot)
- Phase 1 is now complete with a server that has 72 hours retention and is privacy complaint.
- Inspector Bogart noted that there is 1.3 KM of coverage in the downtown core currently.
- Next phase is being implemented (Elgin/Talbot and St. George/Talbot).
- Chief Herridge announced today that an internal lateral posting at STPS has been created to have another Patrol Officer in the downtown. This will be implemented in the next few weeks and will expand into evening and weekend hours.
- Chief noted that we do not currently have a violent downtown but there is a lot of behavioural issues. It is important to address petty crime, property crime, mental health and addictions so that these issues do not lead into violent crimes like they have in other communities.

#### **Drug & Alcohol Strategy Update**

- Heather Stillitano provided an update on the Drug & Alcohol Strategy.

- The working group has been meeting since January 2021 (post COVID) and are currently focusing on many areas including recommendations, activities, timelines and key stakeholders.
- The group is consistently looking for funding opportunities in relation to a Coordinator and Facilitator.
- The group is meeting with Addiction Services to move this initiative forward.

### **Vulnerable Persons Taskforce**

- Heather Sheridan noted that this taskforce was put together at the beginning of COVID to assist the homeless population and shelter services that have been impacted by COVID.
- Heather noted that the City is doing great work to move forward housing in the City of St. Thomas.
  - Additional Housing
  - Request for Funding through the Ministry of Health
  - Project on Queen Street
- Heather noted that housing is not the only issue, some of the people creating issues in the City are currently housed and may be struggling with mental health and addictions. Further conversations need to take place including:
  - How can we engage those in need
  - How can we get those in need the help that the need
- Chief Herridge noted that it will be important to show positive outcomes to keep funding coming. It is also important to obtain indefinite funding.
- Chief thanked Julie Moore for all of the work she has done in the past to assist the City of St. Thomas.
- Wendell encouraged the group to invite Indwell to future meetings to strengthen what is being done at this table and to eliminate duplication.
- **Action Item: Wendell to provide Chief Herridge with the contact from Indwell.**
- **Action Item: Chief Herridge to invite Indwell to future meetings.**

### **Securing ATM Vestibules**

- Mayor Joe Preston and Chief Herridge met with all City Bank Managers over Christmas.
- There has been increased issued with homeless people using ATM vestibules and bank clients being in fear of using the vestibules.
- Chief noted that most banks are locking their vestibules from 11pm to 6am each day.
- Each bank has posted no trespassing signs which gives STPS Officers authority to remove individuals from these spaces.
- Bank managers have provided feedback that they are seeing improvements in these areas.

### **Downtown Issues**

- The group discussed current downtown issue including concerns of downtown merchants.
- This group will continue to discuss what is being seen as areas of concern and work together to reduce issues/concerns.
- This group agreed on the importance of continuing to update MPP Jeff Yurek so he can continue to be a strong advocate for our community.
- **Action Item: Chief Herridge to send a copy of the minutes from this meeting to Minister Jeff Yurek.**
- **Action Item: Chief Herridge to invite SWPH to future meetings.**
- The following contact information was shared with the group for future use:
  - Connexontario.ca
    - 1-866-531-2600 reachout24/7.ca

- 1 866 933 2023 text
- 519-433-2023 webchat available

**Summary of Action Items:**

<b>Lead</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
Chief Herridge	to invite Indwell to future meetings.
Chief Herridge	to send a copy of the minutes from this meeting to Minister Jeff Yurek.
Chief Herridge	to invite SWPH to future meetings.
Wendell Graves	to provide Chief Herridge with the contact from Indwell.

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