



Meeting: Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table
Date: March 10, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Location: Webex

Attendees: Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas, Chair
Deb Mountenay, Elgin Workforce Development Network
Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table
Chief Chris Herridge, Public Safety Action Table
Erica Arnett, Southwestern Public Health
Lynn Wardell, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network
Alicia Malcolm, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee
Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer – County of Elgin
Katherine Thompson, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk – County of Elgin
Carolyn Krahn, Acting Manager, Economic Development & Tourism – County of Elgin
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator – County of Elgin
Delany Leitch, Legislative Services Coordinator – County of Elgin

Regrets: Warden Mary French – County of Elgin

Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Chief Chris Herridge

Seconded by: Deb Mountenay

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

- Motion Carried

2. Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey Update – Leith Deacon

Leith Deacon provided the results of the Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey and noted that there were 2247 completed surveys from Elgin County. 23% of respondents were

between the ages of 60-69 which is reflective of StatsCan data. 50% of the respondents were from the City of St. Thomas, with the second highest number of respondents from the Municipality of Central Elgin (16.1%).

L. Deacon provided recommendations based on survey results including the need for an education campaign around mental health, how to access services, and how to make services accessible for residents with different needs. Additionally, the survey results reflected the need for more health care access for residents.

L. Deacon asked for feedback from the group regarding which survey data would be most useful to the group. Mayor Preston requested survey results based on geography/municipality. D. Moutenay requested information from the responses of unemployed respondents. C. Krahn requested data from respondents who have lived in the community for less than three (3) years. L. Deacon noted that 13% of respondents have lived in Elgin/St. Thomas for less than three (3) years, and can provide detailed information on the survey responses for these residents. Chief Herridge asked if there is a way to find out if we have enough mental health and addiction services to support the need in our community and how long current wait times are for residents who wish to access these services. L. Deacon recommended contacting CMHA to discuss pre-pandemic wait times compared to current wait times.

3. CSWB Integration Table Initiatives for 2022 – Carolyn Krahn, Acting Manager Economic Development & Tourism

The Acting Manager, Economic Development and Tourism sought the group's feedback on possible 2022 initiatives including a Mental Health and Well-Being Forum to be held in the late spring, as well as the creation of a video series on Housing and Homelessness in partnership with the Housing and Homelessness Action Table.

4. Roundtable – Action Tables

i. Education and Skills Development – Elgin Workforce Development Network, Deb Moutenay

The Education and Training Table met in February and are working on a plan regarding issues which were raised in the original CSWB document and additional areas identified in the Elgin Workforce Development Network. Currently working on the document framework for finalization. On April 21, there will be an Elgin-St. Thomas Job Fair; and on April 26, the London and Area Works Job Fair will take place. The Employer One Survey wrapped up at the end of January. Results will be revealed on March 23 at 8:30a.m. D. Moutenay sent C.

Krahn an invitation for the results reveal. C. Krahn will send out the invitation to the group following the meeting. Results will be broken down to reflect County of Elgin and City of St. Thomas results. Number of jobs have gone up over 7000 in London and area region. Maple Leaf Foods will be starting their hiring process within the next couple of months. Job opportunities are expected to open at the former Ford plant development.

ii. Housing Security – Housing and Homelessness Action Table, Danielle Neilson

Housing and Homelessness providers continue to work to find solutions for housing stability in our community. The Emergency Shelter (The Inn) has relocated to 10 Princess and is operating 24/7. Currently there are approximately 100 people identified as actively experiencing homelessness. This number can increase or decrease depending on what people are experiencing. D. Neilson noted that of the 100 people, on average 6-8 individuals are moved into housing.

Work continues with Built for Zero Canada and the Term 3 application has been completed. Successes in 2021 include becoming a Built for Zero Community and achieving a quality By-Name List, which means that data is reliable. 2022 goals include achieving a quality Veterans' By-Name List which will allow the group to work towards functional zero on Veterans homelessness.

Working towards reducing chronic homelessness by 10%, and by 50% in 2023.

Two Temporary Emergency Shelters are operation in West Elgin and East Elgin until the end of March. In East Elgin, there have been seven guests requiring support, and no guests so far in West Elgin, however, there is a lot of community support for the shelter.

Additional temporary funding was secured to continue the street outreach program in 2022 and 2023. Work is ongoing to create permanent funding for this program. The Provincial Government provided social services relief funding to support work in housing and homelessness as it relates to the pandemic. This funding is scheduled to end on March 31, 2022; currently working on what the service will look like beyond the funding.

The second phase of the Indwell build on Queen St. is scheduled to be completed in 2023.

The Social Housing waitlist is sitting at approximately 1100 applicants; currently working on information updates for people on the wait list and expect the

numbers to drop by 100. The wait times range from 2 years to 8 years and upwards. Recently, there has been an increase in commitment and investment from the Government for the Canadian Ontario Housing Benefit. This benefit will be a way that we can provide people in stable housing the ability to stay where they are with a rent supplement, which will in turn increase housing stability.

iii. Mental Health and Well-Being – Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network, Lynn Wardell

L. Wardell notified the group that Dan Logie has left the agency and are in the process of recruiting a new director for the region. The network has not met for a couple of months. Working on the Ontario Structured Psychotherapy Application. Looking at green space – a program that all mental health and addiction providers in the County and St. Thomas could be a part of. It looks at measuring mental health treatment outcomes and addiction treatment outcomes with respect to everyone having access to different tools as they work with people.

iv. Public Safety – Public Safety Action Table, Chief Chris Herridge

In Aylmer last week, executed successful drug warrant with Aylmer and OPP. Meeting on April 7 to discuss summer joint initiatives with Aylmer, and OPP. Chief Herridge provided an overview of 2021 public safety statistics: 1853 Criminal Code Charges in 2021. Robberies -10. Assaults on par for last 5 years. 7 drug projects completed – 144 charges in 2021 (23% over 2020). Break and Enters are up slightly. Stolen property thefts up – due to local social issues. Arsons 15 in 2021. Impaired numbers average around 40 charges over the past 5 years. Compliance Checks are down significantly due to people being released from justice system with no conditions (i.e. curfew). Weapons offences on steady increase (20 in 2021; 9 5 years ago). Have seen a reduction in calls in 80% for the individuals housed in Indwell.

Having discussions with Judge Donald to deal with issues in justice system.

Enhanced foot patrol initiative from April to December in downtown.

Youth Crime - only 4 charges in 2021. Thanks to community partners providing youth programming and education.

v. Substance Use and Addiction – Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee, Alicia Malcolm

Completed the general community survey, community partner survey, and a partner interview process. Great collaborative results from surveys. Seeing validation of responses across the board to make it easier to take results to put them into recommendations. Next Phase is peer-led interviews to speak with people who have lived experience with substances to be interviewed by people with lived experiences to determine what's working for them in the community in terms of services and programs, and what is lacking in the community. The consultant group should be able to present a final report at their meeting in May.

5. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday June 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Danielle Neilson

Seconded by: Deb Mountenay

RESOLVED THAT we now adjourn at 11:10 a.m.

- Motion Carried.