
*For the **Regular Meeting of Community and Emergency Services**
To be held **Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.**
In the Council Chamber or Via Electronic Participation
Tom Davies Square*

Addendum

(Two-thirds Majority Required to Deal with the Addendum)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Manager's Report

ADD-1 Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements Update 2 - 5

This report provides a further update to the Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements Plan originally presented to Committee on September 9th, 2024.

Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements Update

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	October 15, 2024
Type:	Managers' Reports
Prepared by:	Gail Spencer Children and Social Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

Report Summary

This report provides a further update to the Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements Plan originally presented to Committee on September 9th, 2024.

Resolutions

Resolution 1:

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves an amount of \$508,770 for the operation of the overnight warming center at Energy Court, to be awarded to the successful proponent of the Request for Proposal process, as outlined in the report entitled "Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements" from the General Manager of Community Development presented at the Community and Emergency Services Committee meeting on September 9, 2024.

Resolution 2:

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves an amount of \$110,445 to the Canadian Mental Health Association - Sudbury/Manitoulin to provide extended hours at the Off the Street Emergency Shelter from November 1st, 2024, to April 30th, 2025.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

The report supports the Council's Strategic Plan around Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous Youth, Mental Health, Housing and Healthy Streets by providing additional services for individuals who are homeless in the community. This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan

Financial Implications

If approved, the total 2024 costs of \$206,405 are not currently budgeted and would form part of the year-end position.

This amount includes \$36,815 to extend operating hours at the CMHA Off the Street Shelter and \$169,590 for operation of the overnight warming centre at Energy Court.

The total 2025 costs are \$412,810 and would be added to the 2025 base budget.

Costs for additional capacity at Elizabeth Fry Safe Harbour House would be funded through existing unallocated Federal Reaching Home funds.

Additional funding for enhanced encampment services is expected to be announced by the Federal government this fall which may offset these costs. However, staff have not received any official program documents from the Federal government regarding the potential funding at this time.

Background

At the September 9th, 2024, Community and Emergency Services meeting, Council received and approved a Report entitled "Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements" from the General Manager of Community Development. This report sought approval for plans to enhance homelessness services for Winter 2024-2025. This report provides an update following the September 9th report and outlines next steps for these service enhancements.

Energy Court Warming Centre

Council approved the re-purposing of the trailer located at 24 Energy Court, previously used for the Supervised Consumption Site, to operate an overnight warming center for up to 50 people from November 1, 2024, to April 30th, 2025, with anticipated 2024 capital costs to re-purpose the trailer of \$50,000. The capital repairs are underway including removal of interior walls to accommodate 1060 square feet of open space and the addition of a third washroom. Repairs are expected to be completed by October 28th, 2024.

A Request for Proposal for an operator of the warming centre at 24 Energy Court was posted and closed on October 2nd, 2024. One proposal was received and has met purchasing compliance. The total bid to operate the overnight warming centre with set up/staff training from October 21st until October 31st, 2024, and operation from November 1st, 2024, to April 30th, 2025, was \$508,769.07.

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Sudbury/Manitoulin – Off the Street Emergency Shelter

The report provided September 9th detailed that a budget to increase operating hours at the CMHA Off the Street Shelter would be forthcoming. The Off the Street Shelter currently operates 365 days per year, from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. with capacity for 35 individuals. Over the past 12 months, the shelter has operated at a 96% occupancy rate.

CMHA has submitted a proposal to extend winter program hours at the Off the Street Shelter for an additional four hours per evening, opening 1 hour earlier at 9:00 p.m. and closing 3 hours later at 11:00 a.m. The proposed budget for this enhancement is \$110,445. The additional hours anticipate greater connection to shelter users, as well as increased access to washrooms, showers, and housing planning. The target start date would be November 1st, 2024, however CMHA is currently working through a few logistical items that may delay the start date to this change.

The extension of hours at Off the Street Shelter aligns with recommendations outlined in the Roadmap to End Homelessness to extend emergency shelter operating hours to increase engagement with individuals accessing these programs to provide housing-related services.

Elizabeth Fry Society - Safe Harbour House Emergency Shelter Program

The Elizabeth Fry Society Safe Harbour House Emergency Shelter operates 365 days per year from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., providing 10 low-barrier shelter beds for adult women and those who identify as non-

binary. Safe Harbour House was implemented in 2022 as a response to the shelter capacity pressure during the COVID- 19 pandemic. The program has been meeting an important need in increasing the number of shelter beds in the community and enhancing the shelter bed options for women who require low barrier services. Over the past 12 months, the shelter has operated at a 91% occupancy rate. They currently operate out of a ten-bed home leased from CMHA.

On September 17th, 2024, Council approved the purchase of 307 Cedar Street for use as an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. Since the purchase was approved, the operator indicated that they would be willing to increase capacity at the site with an increase to staff ratios. In order to increase occupancy, a review of the maximum occupancy level was completed by Third Line Studio and determined that a total of 30 people could be in the building at one time, including space for 26 beds and four staff.

The Federal Reaching Home funding received by the City of Greater Sudbury is administered through recommendations from the Community Advisory Board (CAB). There remains an amount of \$348,000 unallocated for the 2024/25 fiscal year as it was previously earmarked for youth shelter programming. The CAB has recommended allocating a portion of the remaining funding to the Elizabeth Fry Society to create additional shelter beds for female and non-binary youth aged 16 to 21 years in the lower floor of 307 Cedar Street. The funding would be used for setup, furniture, and additional staffing. Staff are awaiting a detailed budget from Elizabeth Fry for winter operations.

Increasing capacity at Elizabeth Fry Safe Harbour House aligns with recommendations outlined in the Roadmap to End Homelessness to provide transitional housing programming for women and youth. Staff will work closely the Elizabeth Fry Society to seek funding opportunities to transition a portion of emergency shelter beds to transitional housing as opportunities becomes available.

Samaritan Centre Drop In Centre

As approved in the September 9th report, New Hope Outreach extended drop-in operating hours from October 1, 2024, to April 30th, 2025, with an aim to have 24-hour operational supports for an additional cost of \$488,897. New Hope Outreach has funding to operate an afternoon drop-in centre from Monday to Friday from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm until December 31st, 2024, at the Samaritan Center located at 344 Elgin Street.

The increased hours as of October 1, 2024, are:

Weekdays 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

Saturday and Sunday 11:30 am to 4:30 pm

Nightly 7:00 pm to 8:00 am

Weekdays (January 1, 2024, to April 30, 2024) 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

This program provides access to a safe space, washrooms, computers, internet, and support staff for up to 25 persons at a time. This drop in is co-located with services provided by the Elgin Street Mission and Blue Door Soup Kitchen including access to free meals, washrooms, showers, laundry, community paramedics, and hairdresser services.

The program started the increased hours on October 1st and have reported an average of 44 different people using the overnight warming centre on the first week.

Next Steps

With Council approval, staff will enter into a service provider agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin to extend operating hours at the Off the Street Shelter

Staff will support the Elizabeth Fry Society to transition emergency shelter programming from its current location to 307 Cedar St following minor renovations and increase operating capacity. Staff will also enter into a service provider agreement with the successful proponent of the RFP to operate an overnight warming centre at Energy Court beginning November 1st, 2024.

Resources Cited

Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=54689>

Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53564>