

## For Information Only

### Managed Alcohol Day Program Pilot Project

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Oct 05, 2015
Report Date	Wednesday, Sep 16, 2015
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

### Recommendation

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### Finance Implications

The lease revenue of approximately \$55,000 will be used to offset any additional operating costs associated with this program.

## Health Impact Assessment

This program addresses barriers and is intended to enhance services to persons who are chronically homeless. Service data will be collected to monitor the results of program usage.

## Background

The need to enhance services for persons who are chronically homeless and have active addictions has been identified within our community. The North East Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN) report that this population are the highest repeat users of Emergency Department services at Health Sciences North. The Greater Sudbury Police report that since 2010 they have responded to over 4,000 incidents of intoxicated persons in the Greater Sudbury Area with 44% occurring in downtown.

In the City of Greater Sudbury's Housing and Homelessness Plan the following priority was identified:

- There is a need to strengthen approaches to preventing homelessness, increase the diversity of emergency shelter options and support individuals with multiple barriers in obtaining and maintaining their housing

Over the past two years the NELHIN, CMHA, hospital, community partners and City staff have been working

### Signed By

#### Report Prepared By

Gail Spencer  
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness  
*Digitally Signed Sep 16, 15*

#### Health Impact Review

Gail Spencer  
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness  
*Digitally Signed Sep 23, 15*

#### Division Review

Luisa Valle  
Director of Social Services  
*Digitally Signed Sep 17, 15*

#### Recommended by the Department

Tim P. Beadman  
General Manager of Health, Social and Emergency Services  
*Digitally Signed Sep 23, 15*

#### Recommended by the C.A.O.

Bob Johnston  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed Sep 23, 15*

together to explore community resources and best practices from other communities for meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.

The NELHIN conducted Value Stream Mapping and Kaizan events (March and May 2014) with over 17 partner agencies. From this a harm reduction initiative was developed that comprised of three priorities:

1. Establishing an emergency shelter that allows for persons who are under the influence and provides a safe place for all.
2. Developing a managed alcohol program (MAP). MAP's are residential services that follow a harm reduction approach, including supportive counseling, housing, social and clinical health services for persons who are chronically homeless with an active alcohol addiction.
3. Providing intensive case management and housing support to support transition to permanent housing.

There is potential for collaboration between the NELHIN and City of Greater Sudbury Homelessness Initiatives to meet these priorities. As a result work on addressing the three priorities has moved ahead as follows:

1. The City of Greater Sudbury funded an "Out of the Cold" emergency shelter program (OTC), operated by the Salvation Army, to provide 30 additional cots for persons who were homeless, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or otherwise disconnected from mainstream shelter services. The program was operated from December 1st, 2014 until April 15th, 2015 at 200 Larch Street, and has been approved to operate again from November 1st, 2015 to April 15th, 2016 under Council resolution CC2015-250.
2. The NELHIN has announced committed annual funding of \$1M for the operation of a Managed Alcohol Program in the City of Greater Sudbury. The CMHA has been identified as the service provider to develop and operate the program.
3. The City of Greater Sudbury is developing an Intensive Case Management Housing First program in accordance with direction from the federal government for use of the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding.

## **Co- Location Plan**

It has been recognized that the co-location of the MAP, emergency shelter programs, and a primary health care clinic will be of significant benefit to increased collaboration and efficiencies between operation of services, as well as seamless provision of service to clients.

The CMHA has partnered with the Salvation Army and Centre de Sante Communautaire de Sudbury to develop a co-location plan for a residential MAP, Men's Emergency Shelter Program, Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter program and Corner clinic/ Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre services. Staff from the CMHA is currently looking at options for a suitable permanent facility within the downtown core.

## **Managed Alcohol Day Program Pilot Project**

In order to start the development of a MAP, connect with potential service users, and take advantage of the existing funding commitment from the NELHIN, the Canadian Mental Health Association has planned to start a MAP Day Program as a Pilot Project. The Pilot Project will run from November 1st, 2015 to April 15th 2016 and will operate from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Pilot will provide components of a full Managed Alcohol Program such as health supports, life skills, social interaction and managed alcohol; however it will not be a residential program. The participants of the Pilot Project will be connected to alternative supports for overnight such as existing shelter services or supportive housing.

The Pilot Project will provide staff an opportunity develop relationships with the service user group and start providing some necessary supports to persons who are chronically homeless with active addictions. Once the residential MAP is planned for opening, a transition plan to will be developed for clients involved in the day program Pilot.

## **Co-location with the Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter Program**

The City of Greater Sudbury has previously approved the operation of the Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter program by the Salvation Army, from November 1st, 2015 to April 15th, 2016 on the main floor of 200 Larch Street Sudbury. This program operates overnight from 8:00 pm until 7:00 am and provides up to 30 cots for persons who are homeless and may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or otherwise disconnected from mainstream shelter services.

The City will enter into a facility use permit with CMHA to utilize approximately 615 square feet on the main floor at a rate of \$20 per square foot gross. Utilizing some of the space on the main floor of 200 Larch Street for the Managed Alcohol Day Program Pilot Project will be a good fit for both programs. Some clients who utilize the services of the OTC shelter may participate in the MAP Pilot project during the day. The location is downtown, accessible and familiar to this client group. The CMHA and Salvation Army are in agreement with sharing this City owned space for the two programs which operate at different hours.