

Request for Decision

Harm Reduction Program/Managed Alcohol Program Update

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 03, 2017

Report Date: Wednesday, Mar 22, 2017

Type: Presentations

Resolution

WHEREAS the Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) currently occupies a municipally owned space at 200 Larch Street, which does not meet the requirements needed for a residential Managed Alcohol Program; and

WHEREAS the former City Archives Building located at 291 Lourdes Street, which has been declared surplus can be renovated into a suitable site for the Managed Alcohol Program and Low Barrier Emergency Shelter; and

WHEREAS the CMHA has put forward a request that the City transfer the municipal property located at 291 Lourdes Street to CMHA for nominal consideration; and

WHEREAS the CMHA will secure funding from non City sources to cover approximately \$3M in capital renovation costs to occupy the site; and

WHEREAS the CMHA currently receives operating funding for the Harm Reduction Home through the North East Local Health Integrated Network and for the Low Barrier Emergency Shelter program through the City of Greater Sudbury; and

WHEREAS the permanent co-location of the Harm Reduction Home and Low Barrier Emergency Shelter will address the needs of the most vulnerable of the homeless population as identified as a key objective in the City of Greater Sudbury's Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan; and

WHEREAS the proposal fits with the both the Strategic Plan of Council (Quality of Life and Place) and the North East LHIN's Innovative Housing and Health Supports Strategic Plan Recommendations for Northeastern Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Services Committee supports the request to purchase the property at 291 Lourdes Street for a nominal value;

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Gail Spencer
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness
Digitally Signed Mar 22, 17

Health Impact Review

Gail Spencer
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness
Digitally Signed Mar 22, 17

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Mar 22, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Mar 22, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Mar 22, 17

AND THAT this transfer be referred to City Council for approval.

Finance Implications

If approved, the transfer of the property located at 291 Lourdes Street to the Canadian Mental Health - Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) will be referred to City Council for approval. The building has been declared surplus. While there could be a sale of the Lourdes Street building on the open market, the transfer of the building to CMHA enables the currently occupied site at 200 Larch St (Annex) to be put on the open market for sale.

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Harm Reduction Home Program and the Low Barrier Emergency Shelter Program address the barriers faced by persons who have experienced chronic homelessness and have resulted in a direct and positive impact on the health and well-being of participants. Supporting the acquisition of a permanent facility to co-locate the two programs will allow stabilization and continued development of the two programs.

BACKGROUND

The City of Greater Sudbury has provided temporary space at 200 Larch Street since December 2014 for the operation of a Low Barrier Emergency Shelter Program and a Harm Reduction Home Day Program, both currently operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). It has been recognized that the co-location of the Harm Reduction Home and Low Barrier Emergency Shelter Program has resulted in increased collaboration between community partners, created efficiencies in the operation of services, and provided seamless provision of service and supports to clients.

CMHA has been seeking a permanent site to co-locate a residential Harm Reduction Home, and Low Barrier Shelter Program since December 2015. The City owned property located at 291 Lourdes Street has been declared surplus and the CMHA is interested in co-locating the programs at this site.

Low Barrier Emergency Shelter

The City of Greater Sudbury currently has a Funding Agreement with the CMHA to operate a Low Barrier Emergency Shelter. The Low Barrier Emergency Shelter is called "Off The Street" and is in operation every night between November 28th, 2016 and April 15th, 2017. The low barrier shelter started as a pilot project in February 2014 and has operated from November to April for the past three winter seasons.

An update on the program was presented to the Committee in September 2016, a copy of the report can be found here:

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=1&id=1017>

Low barrier refers to a shelter where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to stay there. The aim is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more people to have access to services. Low barrier facilities follow a Harm Reduction philosophy.

The Off The Street Shelter Program is open from 8:00 pm until 7:00 am every evening, and provides temporary cots, nutritious refreshments, and a safe warm place for men and women aged 16 and over. This Low Barrier Program is intended to provide shelter for people who may be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or be otherwise disconnected from mainstream shelter programs. The low barrier shelter provides an additional 30 cots to the existing 64 emergency shelter beds in our Community.

An average of 60 people per night access some type of service at the shelter, with an average of 30 people

per night utilizing a cot for sleeping. Some people use the service in the evening for social interaction, coffee and soup, and support. Additional services offered to the participants include bus tickets, clothing, and personal hygiene products. Many of the shelter users have experienced chronic or episodic homelessness, have mental health issues or addictions, and have multiple barriers to finding and keeping housing. Strong partnerships have been developed with the community outreach teams, CMHA, the Homelessness Network and Ontario Works staff to support people living on the street to access the program, and to support people going to the shelter to connect to supports to get housed.

Harm Reduction Home

In December 2014, the North East Local Health Integration Network (NELHIN) announced committed annual funding of \$1M for the operation of a Managed Alcohol Program in the City of Greater Sudbury. The CMHA was identified as the service provider to develop and operate the program.

CMHA has been seeking a suitable facility to operate a 15 bed residential Managed Alcohol Program (MAP). 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, CMHA opened a Harm Reduction Home Day Program as a pilot project. The day program opened in December 2015 and provides support for up to 8 participants. The pilot provides components of a full Managed Alcohol Program such as health supports, life skills, social interaction, and managed alcohol; however it is not a residential program. The participants of the pilot project have been connected to alternative supports for overnight such as existing shelter services or permanent housing.

A report was presented to the Committee on the Harm Reduction Home Day Program pilot project in October 2015 a copy of which can be found here:

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=834>

Overall the Harm Reduction Home has proven to:

- Reduce emergency department visits, hospitalization, police involvement and EMS use.
- Deliver improvements in the health and well-being of program participants.
- Transition individuals to more stable supportive housing.

Meeting Community Priorities

The need to enhance services for persons who are chronically homeless and are alcohol dependant has been identified within our Community. The NELHIN Report indicates that this population is 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 the downtown area.

The 2013 City of Greater Sudbury Housing and Homelessness Plan identified the following priorities:

- 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;
- There is a need for additional supportive services coupled with permanent housing (both supportive housing and supports in private homes); and
- There is a need to improve co-ordination, collaboration, and partnerships, among a broad range of stakeholders.

The City of Greater Sudbury Housing and Homelessness Plan can be found here:

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=674>

Over the past three years the NELHIN, CMHA, hospital, community partners and the City have been

working 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 three priorities were identified:

- Establishing an emergency shelter that allows for persons who are under the influence and provides a safe place for all.
- 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.
- Providing intensive case management and housing support to support transition to permanent housing.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval from the Committee, final approval of the transfer of 291 Lourdes Street will be requested to Council at the May 30th Council meeting. A report will be brought back to the Community Services Committee considering the implications of a long term agreement versus the existing annual agreements for the operation of the Low Barrier Shelter Program given that the program site would then be owned by the CMHA. The Community Services Committee will be hearing more about the Harm Reduction Home through the population health report, as it was brought forward as a community priority on February 13 at the Community Population Health Forum hosted by the City.



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Sudbury/Manitoulin

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Sudbury/Manitoulin

March 16, 2017

City of Greater Sudbury
PO Box 5000, STN A
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

City of Greater Sudbury:

Re: 291 Lourdes Street Property

Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) would like to formally request that the City of Greater Sudbury transfer ownership of 291 Lourdes Street, Sudbury, Ontario to the Canadian Mental Health Association for a nominal value. The purpose of which would be to co-locate to a permanent location the Off the Street (OTS) Emergency Shelter Program and the Harm Reduction Home (HRH) Program, operated by the CMHA.

We see these Programs as benefitting our Community and fitting in with the City's Strategic Plan. This location would offer close proximity to downtown services and supports and is in a rental/residential area away from the main business community so it will not impact downtown businesses. This space also allows for the creation of a private and safe outdoor space for the participants in both Programs.

We have met with the Councillor for the Ward, a home owner on the street, and the owner of the apartment building and rooming house that is adjacent to the building, and have had no resistance to date. As an organization operating the HRH Program, we have demonstrated success with:

- Reducing emergency department visits and hospitalization;
- Reducing Police and EMS involvement;
- Delivering improvements in the health and well-being of program participants;
- Transitioning individuals to more stable supportive housing.

Should you require more information please contact us. Thank you for taking the time to review our request.

Sincerely,

Marion Quigley CEO

Cc: Patty MacDonald
Catherine Matheson
Gail Spencer
Tyler Campbell
Keith Forrester