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9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Community Services Standing Committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Item 6.1 Housing Hub Consultation and Architectural Feasibility Study Update – Ward 3

a) Anna Angelidis, Executive Director, Housing Information Services, submitting the ***attached*** letter dated July 29, 2022 as a written submission.

Item 7.3 Report No. 14 of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee – Barriers faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in finding housing and housing services

a) Joyce Zuk, Family Services Windsor-Essex, submitting the ***attached*** letter dated July 29, 2022 as a written submission
b) Marina Clemens, Chair-Housing and homelessness Advisory Committee submitting the ***attached*** letter as a written submission

DELEGATIONS:

Item 7.2 Report No. 130 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee – Accessibility remediation of 18,000 pages for the City of Windsor website

a) Gayle Jones, Diversity & Accessibility Officer, City of Windsor, available for questions

August 3, 2022
Community Services Standing Committee
Item 6.1 – Written Submission

H4 Letter of Support

Presented to:

The Standing Committee of City Council

Council Report: C 112/2022

Subject: Housing Hub Consultation and Architectural Feasibility Study Update

Presented by:

HOUSING INFORMATION SERVICES

Date submitted:

July 29, 2022

Mayor Drew Dilkens, and Members of City Council,

It is a privilege to address the recommendations put forward by the Housing and Children's Services Division with respect to a permanent location for the H4 program.

Over the past year and a half, Housing Information Services (HIS) has had a unique opportunity to assist in the development of the H4 hub model. We have seen the growth, successes and the unique challenges that have occurred since opening in 2020.

The success of H4 is a result of a true partnership between the city of Windsor and the many community agencies currently present on site. H4 is truly a hub that provides a welcoming, safe and non-judgemental place for persons experiencing homelessness to access services.

Since its inception, H4 has seen a steady increase in the number of individuals accessing its services. H4, in collaboration with our community partners and the City of Windsor, has supported over 2,200 unique participants, with 59,654 visits. On a daily basis, H4 supports between 110-150 unique individuals in improving access to housing, improving financial stability, providing access to mental health supports and medication, navigating the legal system, building life skills and coping mechanisms,

obtaining employment, and providing access to basic need items such as food, primary care, hygiene products and clothing,

Participant success stories demonstrate evidence of how, when given access to resources and person centered supports, participants can overcome obstacles and make strides towards health, safety and housing stability.

It is without question that the hub model is effective, with the potential for long-term success, as we all come together to tackle the issue along with the City of Windsor with the end goal of ending homelessness in our community by the year 2028.

A year ago, HIS supported the recommendations presented by Administration for a Holistic Housing Hub Model.

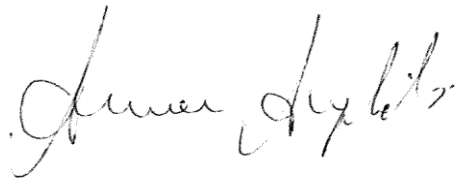
Today, HIS is in full support of the recommendations put forward by administration, to move forward with the search for feasible site acquisition that meets minimum requirements and encompasses critical elements as identified by Glos Arch + Eng's Architectural community-informed feasibility study.

The vision of a New, fully operational Housing Hub building on successes and best practices for those experiencing homelessness as well as those

who may be at risk of homelessness and streamlining connections between sectors, will ensure the City of Windsor remains a leader and innovator in ending homelessness.

HIS remains dedicated and eager to continue meeting the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and to working collaboratively alongside the Service Manager and community partners towards the united goal of ending chronic homelessness in Windsor-Essex.

Sincerely,



Anna Angelidis,
Executive Director

familyservices WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNSELLING & ADVOCACY CENTRE

services à la famille WINDSOR-ESSEX CENTRE DE COUNSELING ET D'INTERVENTION

July 29, 2022

August 3, 2022
Community Services Standing Committee
Item 7.3 – Written Submission

RE: Item 7.3 Report No. 14 of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee

Windsor Essex Housing Connections is a partnership of agencies who work together to help people end the cycle of homelessness. Family Services Windsor-Essex leads this partnership in collaboration with Housing Information Services and the CAN-AM Indian Friendship Centre. Through programming at Family Services Windsor-Essex we support people who have been chronically homeless and have significant mental health and/or addictions concerns through the Housing First and Homeless Outreach programs.

Family Services Windsor-Essex has been an active partner at the H4 site since its launch. Our Outreach team supports individuals with access to a variety of community resources. This current model of collaboration with service agencies is crucial for individuals to access the services they need.

The Housing Hub proposal aims to offer an increased range of supports through stronger community collaboration. This increase will allow service providers to better support the needs of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. The provision of onsite laundry and shower facilities will fill a much-needed gap within our community. These services will address basic needs to support improved physical health outcomes. The vision to add affordable housing units and enhanced resources onsite will be a key component to ending homelessness in our community.

Family Services Windsor-Essex fully supports the recommendations of the report.

Sincerely,

Joyce Zuk

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August 3, 2022
Community Services Standing Committee
Item 7.3 - Written Submission

July 28, 2022

TO: Members of the Community Services Standing Committee

From: Marina Clemens, Chair of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee

RE: Motion from HHAC regarding a presentation from the Trans Wellness Centre

At our June 21st meeting in 2022, we had a presentation from the Trans Wellness Centre via Sydney Coyle who gave us an overview of the organization and the barriers they face in trying to find appropriate housing both within the Shelter system and the private and non-profit housing companies within Windsor Essex County. Sydney identified the lack of training for shelter staff and other agencies that provide support. Jennifer Tanner, the Manager of Homelessness and Housing Support, stated that the city would be pleased to support and work with the Trans Wellness centre to assist in facilitating training within the shelter system. J Diamond Francis from the county advises HHAC that County council has approved a Homelessness Hub in Leamington which will be up and running in the fall of 2022 and they would certainly approve the training for the staff within that HUB.

Councillor K McKenzie put forth a motion that is before you today. It was seconded and approved by HHAC members. I do want to point out that HHAC members were not aware that the Trans Wellness centre had in fact been part of the consultation of the 10 year "Home Together. Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master plan" approved by both the city and county councils in 2019. They were also consulted as a stakeholder and comments from them are within the 10yrhhmp Consultation report as per the report before you from Kirk Whittal, Executive Director, Housing & Children's Services.

I did confirm the above with Kirk Whittal, Executive Director, Housing and Children's Services and he assured me that they are supportive of Trans Wellness Centre training request to assist other agencies understand the challenges and obstacles faced by this population. He told me they have set up a meeting in early August to discuss a training initiative. Kirk will report back to HHAC at our September meeting.

As the chair of HHAC I am pleased that the Trans Wellness Centre appeared before HHAC on June 21st as it brought to light many barriers that this group faces when it comes to finding affordable and safe housing within the city and county. I know that our housing department will work diligently with this group to make sure those who are working with the Trans Wellness people will receive the training needed to overcome the barriers as articulated by Sydney Coyle.

I am sorry that I am not available to be present for the Standing committee meeting to be held August 3rd at 9am. Our incoming new CEO for WECHC will be in town and the Board Executive have set up meetings all day with her.

Best regards,

Marina Clemens,
Chair of HHAC