

Supervised Consumption Services - Community Liaison Committee
Thursday, May 30th 2024 Minutes

Present:

Staff: Allison Alexiou (Program Manager keepSIX), Jason Altenberg (CEO and Co-Chair), Julie Grgar (Recorder), Sarah Grieg (Dir. SUMH), Zoha Malik (Executive Assistant)

Community Members and Organizations: Naureen Choudhry (WoodGreen), Jennifer Wilkie (Community Member), Andrea Nickel (Community Resident), Cathy Quinton (Leslieville Business Improvement Area), Dorothy Quon (WoodGreen & Michael Garron Hospital), Ben Vozzolo (Co-Chair and Community Member), Kim O’Toole (Toronto Police Services), Hailee Morrison (Fontbonne Ministries/Mustard Seed), Patricia Melville (Community Rep), Smitri Bhattarai (New Hope Shelter/Salvation Army)

Guests: Paula Fletcher (City Councilor Toronto), Emily Hill (SRCHC Board Chair), Nisha Hariharan (SRCHC Board Director), Rebecca Ho (SRCHC Board Director)

Regrets:

Leslieville Harm Reduction Coalition, Kathleen Dinely (Michael Garron Hospital), Anne Kennedy (Queen St E Presbyterian Church), Morse Street Public School, Toronto Public, Health, Christiane Tetrault (Leslieville BIA), Anne Simard (Community Member), Mike Hayles (Toronto Police Services),

1. Welcome & Introductions

Committee Members and Guests introduced themselves.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Cathy Quinton read a land acknowledgement.

3. Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts to declare.

4. Approval of March 26th 2024 Minutes & April 17 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 26TH 2024 MEETING MINUTES

1) H. MORRISON 2) A. NICKEL CARRIED

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 17TH 2024 MEETING MINUETS

1) A. NICKEL 2) C. QUINTON CARRIED

5. Summary of work to date:

J. Altenberg and B. Vozzolo provided an overview of the committee work to date. The committee has participated in 2 priority setting work sessions, co-led by A. Nickel and J. Wilkie. On a monthly basis, concerns from the community have been shared with the committee, as they are being reported to the centre or a community representative on the committee. The committee expressed appreciation for the work put in by centre.

P. Fletcher inquired about the final reports completed and submitted by Jill Campbell and Unity Health. The SRCHC Board Chair and CEO have both made inquiries about these reports, however, SRCHC has not received a copy of either report and will continue to follow-up with the ministry. The committee discussed the importance of having access to these reports not only for the centre, but so that the CLC may be able to align its workplan with the recommendations emerging from them.

6. KeepSIX Updates:

KeepSIX has been operating at extended hours for the past 2 months. As a result, clients and community members have expressed an increased sense of safety. Staff are screening service users for readiness before they enter the space. Two new people have been onboarded to the onsite addictions officer, and 1 person was helped to find housing. The men's group did a community cleanup and canvassed the alley ways which was overall a very positive effort, and would like to continue supporting these efforts. The committee members appreciated these efforts and thanked staff.

SRCHC in collaboration with Ralph Thorton and CAMH recently had its earth day cleanup. Staff, with the help of service users, engaged 40 community members about safe sharps disposal, and disposed off 9 used needles.

SRCHC has had 2 partnership meetings with Toronto Police Services, and did an orientation yesterday for 21 new recruits. Staff have gone out with police to engage community members.

The Community Advisory Board has expressed interest in being involved in the Pride celebration. Advisory members have reported feelings of being harassed and monitored by neighbours. Clients and staff have reported feelings of being stalked and harassed. There have been instances of clients and staff being photographed, and those photographs widely circulated. We have observed 3 deaths due to overdose, and 3 staff have resigned due to feeling harassed.

One client has been told they cannot access services at this site. In this instance, staff work on a re-entry plan, centered on shared accountability. Some times people access multiple services, that is worked with on a person to person basis.

7. Community Issues & Concerns:

The committee discussed highlighting channels for reporting community concerns to the centre. The committee will be sent a reminder of how to access SRCHC's feedback portal.

Committee members shared varying concerns about activity, one member reported observing more activity this summer whereas others reported seeing a decrease in activity around the centre.

S. Greig has been communicating with OCS, providing feedback, doing more checks around the perimeter and going a bit further. There have been efforts for clients, community members, OCS staff and TPS to engage with one another and become familiarized, in order to help facilitate community interactions.

K. O' Toole provided an update regarding reports being made to TPS. TPS has noticed a significant decrease in activity around the centre. Community members are advised send in reports themselves so TPS can respond accordingly. Neighbourhood officers are best to contact for local drug related complaints. K. O' Toole reviewed the various avenues of reporting to emergency services, based on priority.

SRCHC will continue to coordinate with TPS in sharing data.

8. CLC Workplan (deferred to next meeting)

9. Meeting Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

1) P. MELVILLE

2) J. WILKIE

CARRIED