

**Supervised Consumption Services – Community Liaison Committee  
Thursday, July 11, 2024 Minutes**

Present:

Staff: Allison Alexiou (Program Manager, keepSIX), Sarah Greig (Director, SUMH), Jason Altenberg (CEO and Co-Chair), Seff Pinch (Researcher), Gabriella Skubincan (Director, Community Engagement and Communications)

Community Members and Organizations: Eunice Mamic (WoodGreen), Andrea Nickel (Community Member), Patricia Melville (Community Member), Ben Vozzolo (Co-Chair and Community Member), Blair Scorgie (Community Member), Cathy Quinton (Leslieville BIA), Dorothy Quon (WoodGreen & Michael Garron Hospital), Kim O’Toole (Toronto Police Service), Mike Hayles (Toronto Police Service), Hailee Morrison (Fontbonne Ministries/Mustard Seed), Jennifer Wilkie (Community Member), Christiane Tetrault (Leslieville BIA).

Regrets:

Smitri Bhattarai (New Hope Shelter/Salvation Army), 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)

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Attendees made brief introductions. B. Vozzolo and J. Altenberg confirmed that Jennifer Bowman will be the interim CEO as of July 31, 2024.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Seff Pinch read a land acknowledgement.

**3. Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest to declare.

**4. New Agenda Items/Motion to approve the draft agenda**

Draft agenda approved.

**MOTION TO APPROVE DRAFT AGENDA**

**1) J. WILKIE**

**2) B. SCORGIE**

**CARRIED**

**5. Approval of June 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting Minutes**

## **MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

**1) K. O'TOOLE**

**2) B. SCORGIE**

**CARRIED**

### **6. Discussion of membership/attendance**

B. Vozzolo shared that the committee will be reviewing membership in the coming meetings as a few members had not attended in some time. A. Nickel reminded attendees that in the Terms of Reference, there is a requirement for members to attend 70% of meetings.

### **7. Discussion of SRCHC Annual Report**

Some language in the SRCHC annual report was perceived as not well received by community members. J. Altenberg addressed the use of “hostile voices” in the Chair and CEO message. He acknowledged that the SRCHC needs to help the CLC understand the staff and client experience better and communicate with community partners and members consistently and proactively. When asked why the comment was included, J. Altenberg explained that the purpose of the Annual Report is to reflect historically on the year and to set a framework for the year moving forward – it was necessary to reflect the experience of the organization.

Other committee members felt that continuing to share more about the staff and client experiences would be beneficial to their understanding as they want to continue to support and advocate where possible. B. Scorgie shared the first Common Grounds session was very well received by all participants and acknowledged a genuine and meaningful conversation with SRCHC.

J. Altenberg reinforced that SRCHC welcomes critical feedback, and it is necessary and important to be able to work together and implement positive change. G. Skubincan added that working collectively sets a good standard and strong foundation for moving forward. The focus should be on improvements that have already happened because of the helpful feedback over the last year, and that SRCHC is committed to positive change ongoing.

### **8. Report back on community engagement.**

The first Common Grounds session was held informally on June 27, with several CLC members in attendance, for a total of 18 people, including staff.

A. Nickel conducted a google survey following the session to gauge how it was received by participants. She received 3 responses and the feedback was overall very positive. It was noted that the timing of the session made it difficult for some to attend, but that the location was good. Participants enjoyed the open-ended engagement, but would have also liked some structure to guide the conversation. The next sessions are on July 18 at 6pm and July 24 at 1:30pm, at SRCHC.

## **9. Workplan Updates**

S. Pinch presented the current tasks outlined in the workplan and discussed with the CLC how they would be divided and assigned based on RASCI framework: Responsible, Accountable, Supportive, Consulted and Informed. The CLC, SRCHC, BIA, TPS and TPH were all assigned responsibilities for tasks, and action items will be discussed in the following meetings.

There was feedback from the parents' group that they welcomed having an SRCHC staff member come to a parent council meeting or provide education sessions on different topics, i.e. how to safely pick up needles or how to speak with their children if they find something in the schoolyard. They felt these would be beneficial ways to have positive engagement and support within the community. H. Morrison suggested hosting a type of speaker series as a way to understand the other side of these conversations from people with lived experience. The committee will discuss how this can be incorporated into the workplan.

## **10. Standing Agenda Items:**

- a. Community issues/concerns – updates from attendees/emails

SRCHC did not receive any requests to pick up discarded needles since the last meeting. After reviewing recent data, it showed that SRCHC is actually collecting more used equipment than what is being distributed.

There were some concerns from members about specific security staff not paying attention while patrolling the area. Community members are required to send an email to SRCHC with the times and description of event so that it can be addressed appropriately. S. Greig noted that security staff use their cell phones to document their patrol notes, and that they will often take their breaks in their cars or nearby in the community. The committee agreed that feedback should be given to security staff to remove their vests if they are on their break.

- b. Updates on keepSIX

Visits in keepSIX remain steady, with 70 unique clients using the service during the month of June. Staff continue to engage with service users and ask for feedback on what programming and services they would like to see offered within the CTS.

## **11. Business arising from previous meeting**

None.

## **12. Motion to adjourn**

B. Vozzolo acknowledged that this was J. Altenberg's final CLC meeting prior to his departure from SRCHC. He extended his thanks for his leadership and commitment over the last several years. K. O'Toole and M. Hayles, on behalf of 55 Division, thanked Jason for many years of

positive communication through many changes, and acknowledged his commitment to safety and improvement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**1) J. WILKIE**

**2) K. O'TOOLE**

**CARRIED**