

**Supervised Consumption Services – Community Liaison Committee
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 Minutes**

Present:

Staff: Allison Alexiou (Program Manager, keepSIX), Sarah Greig (Director, SUMH), Seff Pinch (Researcher), Gabriella Skubincan (Director, Community Engagement and Communications)

Community Members and Organizations: Jennifer Wilkie (Community Member & Chair), Ben Vozzolo (Community Member), Kim O’Toole (Toronto Police Service), Christiane Tetrault (Leslieville BIA), Hailee Morrison (Fontbonne Ministries/Mustard Seed), Andrea Nickel (Community Resident), Patricia Melville (Community Rep), Blair Scorgie (Community Member), Cathy Quinton (Leslieville BIA), Naureen Chaudhry (WoodGreen).

Guest: MP Toronto-Danforth Julie Drabusin

Regrets:

Mike Hayles (Toronto Police Service), Dorothy Quon (WoodGreen & Michael Garron Hospital), 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.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jennifer Wilkie as acting Chair in Ben Vozzolo’s absence (until 7:00 pm).

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

Members, in reference to Terms of Reference (ToR), discussed historically co-chair assignments. B. Vozzolo was asked to co-chair with J. Altenberg by former SRCHC supervisor Jill Campbell. B. Vozzolo defaulted to chair when J. Altenberg left his position with SRCHC. Additionally, regarding ToR and CLC membership, members requested further discussion of the parameters for membership, specifically criteria and attendance. CLC members requested the opportunity to review and have a vote regarding new membership and changes to committee structure. J. Wilke suggested adding ‘action items’ to the meeting minutes’ format which is reflected below.

Additionally, a question was tabled regarding the original CLC workplan developed over the summer: Is it still relevant given the August 20th announcement of CTS closures, including SRCHC's keepSix? Members confirmed a review of the work plan was included on the existing agenda, specifically in the context of presenting the community engagement survey findings/themes. The conclusion of the discussion was that the findings would be helpful in aligning an updated CLC work plan with the mandated keepSix wind down plan, due for submission November 15.

Draft agenda approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE DRAFT AGENDA

1) C. TETRAULT 2) B. SCORGIE CARRIED

5. Approval of September 24th 2024 Minutes

There was a request to amend the minutes from last meeting to include [a link to the Health Canada website](#) to track the federal exemption application process for all SCS exemption renewals. SRCHC confirmed that the federal exemption renewal process is only an extension to March 31st, 2025. If the extension isn't approved keepSix will be required to close November 30th. After this discussion, members agreed to approve the minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING MINUTES

1) P. MELVILLE 2) B. SCORGIE CARRIED

6. General Updates & Discussion

a. CLC Membership

Members expressed concern that there has not been a local business representative present at any CLC meetings this year, other than C. Tetrault and C. Quinlon from Leslieville BIA. There were also concerns about general attendance and other seats that were not filled. SRCHC explained service-users from the Client Advisory Board were previously approached to attend meetings but ultimately were not comfortable with the idea of being involved with the CLC.

Action item: SRCHC to work with Leslieville BIA (C. Tetrault) to encourage representation from one more local business owner.

Members to provide suggestions at next meeting on how to increase attendance and enhance membership, recognizing that SRCHC and CLC focus is currently on the wind down of services at keepSIX, specifically on how best to ensure the community is aware of and engaged in the process.

Action item: SRCHC to review who has not attended 70% of meetings this year and plan to remove from membership. Findings to be brought to next meeting for discussion and vote.

7. Overview of Community Engagement Survey Findings

The community engagement survey received 213 respondents and was disseminated to over 200 individuals via email from the SRCHC growing stakeholder list. G. Skubincan hand-delivered 250 postcards with QR codes around the neighbourhood. The survey was also promoted on social media and distributed to CLC members, who were encouraged to share it with their networks. Additionally, it was shared with community partners and other healthcare organizations. The purpose of the survey was to gauge perceptions around SRCHC's keepSix CTS services and to request the community's concerns and feedback regarding the impact on both service-users and local residents following the August 20th provincial government announcement resulting in the mandate to close 10 CTS sites, including keepSix.

CLC members shared feedback from neighbours close to SRCHC that they did not receive a copy of the survey. G. Skubincan confirmed that she personally delivered 250 postcards in the immediate neighbourhoods and A. Nickel offered to assist in their dissemination, specifically on Heward Avenue, including printed versions of the survey. Neighbours, including those living in condos/apartments that had their lobby doors locked or had 'no junk mail/flyers signs' or were already on the stakeholder list, did not receive a post card. However, community members did have multiple ways of accessing the survey electronically. A. Nickel mentioned the survey was also posted to the Leslieville community's WhatsApp group.

SRCHC reinforced that the request for transparency and effective communication should go both ways between SRCHC and non-SRCHC CLC members. If CLC members receive concerns or questions, the request was made to share with the rest of the committee, specifically to G. Skubincan who will ensure these concerns are submitted into the established feedback process – the results of which are aggregated and presented to the Board of Directors. SRCHC welcomes input and advice from the community and CLC members. A significant part of the CLC mandate is to work through these items together. It was suggested a review of community feedback could be a CLC standing agenda item.

G. Skubincan presented the preliminary community engagement survey findings and reminded the committee that these were very early findings of an informal survey. No external vendors were involved. The consensus was that many survey respondents do not understand all of the work that SRCHC does aside from the CTS services. S. Pinch suggested a similar survey be implemented after the closure of keepSix in the late spring/early summer to assess the implementation of change efforts. For more information on the findings, members were encouraged to contact G. Skubincan who also confirmed high level survey results will be shared more broadly through the SRCHC newsletter.

8. Review of CLC Work Plan

a. Workstream Break Out Groups

CLC members agreed helpful findings resulted from the community engagement survey, including the requests for more clear information through multiple channels, such as newsletters, more active social media and email blasts, more engagement opportunities like Open Houses and Common Grounds sessions, both in person and virtual, and more surveys, after addressing concerns about reach.

CLC members agreed disseminating the Toronto Police Service resource 'Make the Right Call' with a letter from SRCHC providing context surrounding the closure of keepSix and its wind down should remain a CLC work plan priority and should be brought forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

Action item: SRCHC committed to bringing a draft outline of a communications and engagement plan to support keepSix's wind down, focusing on the community as a key audience. CLC members felt it would be easier to react to a concrete proposal than participate in a brainstorm session or engage in Break Out groups – therefore these activities will be taken off the agenda moving forward.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN OCTOBER 22, 2024 MEETING

1) C. TETRAULT

2) P. MELVILLE

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.