



Agenda

Men's Homelessness Committee

Thursday, August 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Electronic Participation

NOTICE

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 the Men's Homelessness Committee will be meeting electronically until further notice.

Prior to the meeting, written comments may be sent to the Secretary of the Men's Homelessness Committee by email to ashaw@orangeville.ca. Such written comments will become part of the public record. Members of the public may access the meeting on the above noted date and time by telephone at **+1-437-703-4638** (Toronto, Canada), **Conference ID: 971 708 666#**. Please note that your full name and comments will be part of the public records and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Accessibility Accommodations

If you require access to information in an alternate format, please contact the Clerk's department by phone at 519-941-0440 x 2256 or via email at clerksdept@orangeville.ca

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest**
3. **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Recommendations:
That the minutes of the following meeting are approved:
4. **Presentations**
 - 4.1. **University of Guelph Research Team**
Meghan Wrathall and Karen Nelson from the University of Guelph Research Team. Drafted Community Survey and Service Provider survey are enclosed for the committee's review.
 - 4.2. **Delegation - Sylvia Bradley**
 - 4.3. **Delegation - Randy Narine, Chair of Choices Shelter**
5. **Items for Discussion and Reports**

5.1. Mission Statement, Vision and Values

A drafted Committee mission and values statement is attached for the committee's review and input. As well as the Council approved committee's terms of reference, mandate and goals for reference.

Recommendations:

That the Committee Mission Statement and Values be adopted by the Men's Homelessness Committee.

5.2. Electronic Committee Sharing Site

6. Correspondence

None Received.

7. New Business

8. Date of Next Meeting

Proposing bi-weekly meetings, every other Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15

Recommendations:

That the Men's Homelessness Committee meetings are scheduled bi-weekly, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. commencing August 25, 2021.

9. Adjournment



Minutes of the Men's Homelessness Committee

July 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Electronic Participation

Members Present: Mayor Sandy Brown
Councillor Debbie Sherwood
Councillor Joe Andrews
Anthony Carnovale
Christopher Sheehan
James Jackson
Louis Sapi
Margo Young
Michael Demczur
Nolan Bentley
Terrance Carter

Staff Present: Andrea Shaw

1. Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair

That the Mayor Sandy Brown be appointed Committee Chair.

And that Councillor Debbie Sherwood be appointed Committee Vice Chair.

Recommendation: 01

Moved by James Jackson

Carried

2. Committee Training

Committee training was provided to the members by Tracy MacDonald, Clerks Division.

3. Member Introductions

Each committee member provided a brief introduction and personal background.

4. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest

None Stated.

5. Mayors Welcome and Background Committee Introduction

Mayor Brown provided some background information, the need for men's shelters within our community and the focus and hopes of the newly formed committee. The members are encouraged to view The Lighthouse project in Orillia as they completed a large housing needs project recently. There is a requirement to find men's shelter and housing solutions within our community.

6. Items for Discussion and Reports

6.1 University of Guelph Needs Assessment Survey and Report

Mayor Brown and member Louis Sapi provided some information and background on the University of Guelph Needs Assessment. Students at the University have begun to produce surveys, data and research but are awaiting on the committee to continue their research. A representative from the University research shop will be invited to attend the August meeting to explain their background and research on the housing needs assessment study.

6.2 Services and Housing in the Province (S.H.I.P.) at 236 First St.

Mayor Brown advised that Services and Housing in the Province (S.H.I.P) has purchased the old motel at 236 First Street. S.H.I.P is seeking to create this motel into a shelter. A representative from S.H.I.P. will be invited to attend a future committee meeting.

6.3 Potential Guest Delegation Invitations

Delegation requests have been received from former Councillor, Sylvia Bradley, the John Howard Society, Sara Clark and advocate for the Orangeville Food Bank, and Board members from the Orangeville Food Bank. Invitations will be sent for upcoming future committee meetings.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Orangeville Food Bank Housing Challenges Postcards

The committee has received a sample of the Orangeville Food Bank Housing Challenges postcard. Staff advised the committee that approximately 100 cards have been received and continue to be tracked. A member from the Orangeville Food Bank is being invited to the committee to delegate and inform the members further on the Housing Challenges Postcard campaign.

8. New Business

8.1 Mission Statement / Goals

The committee discussed the concept of a mission statement to assist in focusing their goals, objectives, and plans for the committee. Mayor Brown, assisted by Committee staff, will begin initial drafts and circulate them to the members for feedback and sharing of ideas. The mission statement will then be added to the August agenda for approval.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021.

And committee meetings shall be scheduled for the first Thursday of the month unless otherwise called upon by the Chair.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourn.

Recommendation: 02

Moved by Michael Demczur

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carried

Dufferin County – Men’s Homelessness Service Providers Survey

Informed Consent

You are invited to take part in an online survey (approx. 20 mins [will time this once survey is finalized]) being conducted by the Research Shop, part of the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at the University of Guelph. The purpose of this survey is to collect information from Dufferin County residents regarding their understanding of homelessness as it affects men in this area. This project is being completed at the request of, and in partnership with, the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce.

Community members are also being surveyed, which can be shared and accessed here.

Feedback from the survey will:

- a) Capture community perspectives and understandings of men’s homelessness
- B) Identify strengths and opportunities for growth in service provision
- b) Help inform local strategies to address men’s homelessness

There are no expected risks or benefits to participating in the survey. Some people may find this topic challenging to engage with; some people may appreciate the opportunity to share their perspectives.

Your participation in the survey is completely voluntary. You may skip any questions that you are not comfortable answering or stop the survey at any time. All submitted responses are anonymous and will be kept confidential. Only the research team will have access to the individual survey responses. E-surveys are kept in a password protected software program. Direct quotes may be included. That is, we may use the exact words from your written surveys to answer our research questions, in the written and final version of our findings.

The overall research findings will be shared with the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce. You can access these finding through the Dufferin County Homeless Taskforce. It will also be available on CESI’s website www.cesinstitute.ca.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Karen Nelson, Research Shop Coordinator, at knelson@uoguelph.ca.

☐ I have read the above and consent to participate in this research project.

Dufferin County – Men's Homelessness Service Providers Survey

Our definition of men encompasses cisgender men, transgender men, genderqueer men, and two-spirit, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people who are man-aligned.

In this project, homelessness is defined as being (1) unsheltered, (2) emergency sheltered, (3) provisionally accommodated, and (4) at risk of homelessness (Kauppi et al. 2017).

- Unsheltered: No access to shelter or living in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., in vehicles, in garages, attics, buildings, or other spaces not designed as housing, in makeshift shelters, RVs and trailers, or tents).
- Emergency sheltered: Living in housing following crisis such as abuse, natural disaster, or damage to current home (e.g., domestic violence, fire, floods)
- Provisionally accommodated: Insecure housing supports offered by an individual's network for a limited period of time (e.g., couch surfers, night-to-night motel or hostel rentals, in or transitioning out of institutional care such as release from prison, residential treatment, group home).
- At risk of homelessness: Precarious living situations that may end at any time (e.g., life crises, inappropriate or substandard housing, other risk factors)

1. Where is your program located? Check all that apply.

- a. Amaranth
- b. East Garafraxa
- c. Grand Valley
- d. Melancthon
- e. Mono
- f. Mulmur
- g. Orangeville
- h. Shelburne
- i. Other: (please list)

2. Indicate the types of services you/your agency provides to people experiencing homelessness (Check all that apply to a matrix of not offered, sometimes offered, offered regularly, don't know)

- a. Food bank
- b. Soup kitchen or meal distribution
- c. Clothing bank
- d. Drop-in centre
- e. Outreach services
- f. Emergency warmth/cooling services
- g. Emergency shelter
- h. Transitional housing
- i. Permanent social housing
- j. Housing search services
- k. Rent supplements

- l. Assistance with utility arrears
 - m. Assistance with rent/mortgage
 - n. Repair or replacement services
 - o. Employment services
 - p. Legal/court assistance
 - q. Addiction & Substance Use Program
 - r. Mental health care services
 - s. Physical health care services
 - t. Recreation
 - u. Life skills education
 - v. Other
 - i. Please list... *(Open text)*
3. How are people with lived experiences involved in shaping services and supports in your agency? *(Open text box)*
 4. Does your service or agency have a specific mandate for supporting **men** experiencing homelessness? *(Select one)*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't know
 5. Do you keep data on men experiencing homelessness who access your services? *(Check one)*
 - a. Yes, only Dufferin County's by-name list
 - b. Yes, other
 - i. Please list current strategies... *(Open text box)*
 - c. No
 - d. Don't know
 6. In the past 12 months, approximately how many men have you interacted with through your services who are currently experiencing homelessness? *(Enter number)*
 7. Is this a typical number, based on your knowledge and experience? *(Check one)*
 - a. Yes, this rate is consistent
 - b. No, this rate is typically much lower
 - c. No, this rate is typically a bit lower
 - d. No, this rate is typically much higher
 - e. No, this rate is typically a bit higher
 - f. This rate varies higher and lower considerably
 - g. Don't know
 8. From your perspective, what are the main causes for men's homelessness in your community? *(Rank order)*
 - a. Housing is unaffordable
 - b. Housing is inaccessible
 - c. Unemployment and underemployment
 - d. Lack of resources to support men's needs
 - e. Mental health and addiction
 - f. Exposure to trauma/adversity
 - g. Social exclusion

- h. Other
 - i. Please list... *(Open text)*
- 9. Based on your experience, how vulnerable to homelessness are the following groups? *(Matrix from no risk, low risk, moderate risk, high risk, don't know)*
 - a. Men with substance abuse issues
 - b. Men (18+) without children
 - c. Single fathers
 - d. Indigenous men
 - e. Senior (60+) men
 - f. Men who identify with LGBTQIA2S+
 - g. Immigrants
 - h. Refugees
 - i. Visible minorities
 - j. People with military service/veterans
 - k. Men with history in the foster care system
 - l. Men with a disability
 - m. Other
 - i. Please list... *(Open text box)*
- 10. Are you aware of any other local services or agencies that have a specific mandate for supporting **men** experiencing homelessness? *(Select one)*
 - a. Yes
 - i. Please list... *(Open box)*
 - b. No
 - c. Don't know
- 11. How well served are unhoused men in each of the following locations? *(Slider for each option from 'no access to services' to 'comprehensive access to services')*
 - a. Amaranth
 - b. East Garafraxa
 - c. Grand Valley
 - d. Melancthon
 - e. Mono
 - f. Mulmur
 - g. Orangeville
 - h. Shelburne
- 12. What successes and challenges have you found when referring to or accessing these services? *(Open text box)*
- 13. What are some potential benefits and challenges with specializing services for men only? *(Open text box)*
- 14. What gaps remain in service provision? *(Open text box)*
- 15. Does your service agency have capacity to address any of the required services that you identified?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Don't Know

16. What would your agency require to provide additional services? Check all that apply.
- a. No need to increase services
 - b. Increased funding
 - c. Shifted funding structures
 - d. Increased staff
 - e. Shifted staff roles
 - f. Greater collaboration between agencies
 - g. Space
 - h. Equipment
 - i. Volunteers
 - j. Change in policy
 - k. Change in organizational approach
 - l. Change in community perspectives
 - m. Greater understanding from those with lived experiences
 - n. Don't know
 - o. Other
17. How effective is Dufferin County in each of the following ways of addressing men's homelessness (*Sliding scale from very well to not well at all; don't know*)
- a. Preventing men's homelessness
 - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
 - b. Reducing men's homelessness
 - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
 - c. Eliminating men's homelessness
 - i. Explain (*Open text box*)
18. How well is a 'housing first' approach implemented in Dufferin County? A 'housing first' approach prioritizes connecting people with stable housing and then once they are housed, continues to build on their strengths and goals to engage with other supportive services. (*Sliding scale from very well to not well at all; don't know*)
19. Are there circumstances unique to Dufferin County that need to be considered in understanding the context of men's access to housing? (*Select one*)
- a. Yes
 - i. If yes, please explain... (*Open text*)
 - b. No
 - i. Don't Know
20. Is there anything else you would like to share on how homeless men can be better served in Dufferin County. (*Open text*)

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3. Provisionally accommodated: Insecure housing supports offered by an individual’s network for a limited period of time (e.g., couch surfers, night-to-night motel or hostel rentals, in or transitioning out of institutional care such as release from prison, residential treatment, group home).
4. At risk of homelessness: Precarious living situations that may end at any time (e.g., life crises, inappropriate or substandard housing, other risk factors)

1. What municipality do you live in? (*Select one*)
 - a. Amaranth
 - b. East Garafraxa
 - c. Grand Valley
 - d. Melancthon
 - e. Mono
 - f. Mulmur
 - g. Orangeville
 - h. Shelburne
 - i. Other (please list)
2. In which areas of Dufferin County do you believe that men’s homelessness is an issue? (*Slider bar from ‘not at all an issue’ to ‘a significant issue’*)
 - a. Amaranth
 - b. East Garafraxa
 - c. Grand Valley
 - d. Melancthon
 - e. Mono
 - f. Mulmur
 - g. Orangeville
 - h. Shelburne
3. In which areas of Dufferin County do you believe that men’s homelessness is a **visible** issue? (*Slider bar from ‘not at all visible’ to ‘very visible’*)
 - a. Amaranth
 - b. East Garafraxa
 - c. Grand Valley

- d. Melancthon
 - e. Mono
 - f. Mulmur
 - g. Orangeville
 - h. Shelburne
4. From your perspective, what are **three** main causes for men's homelessness in your community?
(Choose all the apply)
- a. Housing is unaffordable
 - b. Housing is inaccessible
 - c. Unemployment and underemployment
 - d. Lack of resources to support men's needs
 - e. Mental health and addiction
 - f. Exposure to trauma/adversity
 - g. Social exclusion
 - h. Other
 - i. Please list... (Open text)
5. Are there circumstances unique to Dufferin County that need to be considered in understanding the context of men's access to housing? (Select one)
- a. Yes
 - i. If yes, please explain... (Open text)
 - b. No
 - c. Don't Know
6. Are you aware of services (formal or informal) in Dufferin County that support men who are experiencing homelessness?
- a. Yes
 - i. If so, please list... (Open text)
 - b. No
 - c. Don't Know
7. Is there anything you would like to share about strengths and challenges in accessing, availability, maintaining, services for supporting men's homelessness in Dufferin County? (Open text)
8. How could the community benefit from addressing the issue of men's homelessness? (Open text)
9. Is there anything else you would like to share in relation to men's homelessness in Dufferin County? (Open text)

Drafted Mission and Values for the Men's Homelessness Committee

Men's Homelessness Committee Mission Statement:

The Men's Homelessness Committee's mission is to provide a safe men's shelter, and to offer programs and services in support of the hopes and needs of people dealing with life issues.

Men's Homelessness Committee Values:

- We believe all people deserve to feel safe.
- We believe all people are deserving of accessible and welcoming service.
- We encourage, assist and support individuals to realize their self-worth and potential.
- We respect the dignity and value of all people, and their right to confidentiality.
- We strive to provide an environment where people and property are respected.
- We value community participation, partnerships and working cooperatively with others.
- We believe in utilizing resources effectively.



Appendix A: Terms of Reference Template

Men's Homelessness Terms of Reference

Date Approved by Council: **May 31, 2021**

Sunset Date: Will dissolve upon final reporting to Council

Mandate:

To advise and explore options and approach various stakeholders to research the issue homelessness with the goal of resolving any men's emergency shelter issue in Orangeville.

Goals/Objectives:

The goals and objectives are to:

Phase I

- Review needs assessment currently underway through University of Guelph
- Meet with County Staff to review current status of men's homelessness in Orangeville and Dufferin County

Phase II

- Evaluate completed needs assessment and formulate recommendations regarding next steps
- Report to Council on the results of the needs assessment and recommendations regarding next steps including any funding requirements

The Committee may also invite representatives from social service agencies and other organizations that have subject matter expertise to share information about resources, identify service needs and provide feedback to the Committee.

Reporting to Council:

The Committee will report to Council through the distribution of minutes as well as the submission of report(s) which will identify any funding requirements to support the completion of its objectives.

Enabling Legislation, By-Law or Staff Report:

Council passed resolution 2021-167 to establish a committee to explore options and approach various stakeholders on Men's Homelessness and the establishment of Men's Emergency Shelter in Orangeville.

Committee Composition:

The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members comprised of:

- 3 Members of Council including the Mayor
- 6 citizens who reside in, work or volunteer in the Town of Orangeville

Skills Requested

Individuals with service sector experience in housing and outreach, emergency shelter, drop-ins, mental health, addictions, legal and youth or who experience/have experienced homelessness or are directly impacted by homelessness.

Administration Section

Department Linkage: CAO's Office

Staff Support: Executive Assistant to the Mayor and CAO

Meeting Frequency: Monthly or at the call of the Chair