

Community Team Approach to Social Issues

December 9, 2020

11:00 a.m.

St. Thomas Police Service – Boardroom (ZOOM)

Present:

Name	Organization
Pam Hill	Addition Services Thames Valley (ADSTV)
Heather Stillitano	Central Community Health Centre (CCHC)
Judith Wiley	Central Community Health Centre (CCHC)
Wendell Graves	City of St. Thomas
Joe Preston	City of St. Thomas – Mayor
Danielle Neilson	City of St. Thomas – Social Services
Heather Sheridan	City of St. Thomas – Social Services
Dan Logie	CMHA Elgin
Cherisse Swarath	Inn Out of the Cold
Lori Fitzgerald	Inn Out of the Cold
Amber Alpaugh-Bishop	LHIN
Julie A Moore	LHIN
Mary Stewart	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Ryan Fawcett	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Bob Davidson	St. Thomas Fire
Kim Destun	St. Thomas Fire Department (STFD)
Chief Chris Herridge	St. Thomas Police Service
Tiffany Terpstra	St. Thomas Police Service

Chief Herridge welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked partners for their continued work in supporting the community of St. Thomas.

Chief Herridge provided an update that the MOST team has been granted permanent funding for a second CMHA mental health worker. Chief Herridge noted that STPS hopes to have a person in this position in the new year. This funding will allow for more afternoon/late night coverage. Chief Herridge thanked the LHIN for their help in supporting the MOST team through this funding.

Judith Wiley provided the following update:

- Work continues in the area of street outreach.
- Primary care outreach is underway on a weekly basis.
- Writing a grant application for mental health and homeless funding.
 - Notification has been sent to MPP Jeff Yurek informing him that the application is being completed and will be sent to him for advocacy.
 - Once this work is implemented, CCHC will be working with other services to coordinate the approach of outreach work.
 - Staffing for 3-5 members will be requested and will include a housing focus. A nursing position will be part of the request.

- The main goal is to have the people currently living on the street moved to a safe place and successful housing.

Lori Fitzgerald provided the following update:

- Numbers are significantly increasing at the Inn Out of the Cold (last night 32 people, 31, the night before and high 20's the week before that).
- Discussions will need to occur to plan for continued increase in numbers.
- **Action Item: Continued discussion re: capacity at Inn Out of the Cold.**

Dan Logie provided the following update re: PSNE

- Challenges re: staffing as staff are volunteer. Hours are varied at this point.
- Continued work with Inn Out of the Cold to ensure that PSNE is an effective alternative to the shelter.
- Discussion re: security has been addressed. People attending PSNE are not allowed to come and go. They are accompanied by a volunteer if they go outside, etc.
- Chief Herridge noted that STPS is seeing an increase in complaints re: homeless people resting in ATM vestibules. Chief Herridge noted that it is important that police will continue to encourage them to go to Inn Out of the Cold for shelter.

Mary Stewart provided the following update:

- There are a population of individuals that are at risk. Staff are trying to deal with them through a coordinated care plan. The individuals need to consent to participate in this process.
- STEGH has participated in an application for supportive housing for high needs related to mental health.

Chief Herridge noted that STEGH and STPH will be meeting on December 11, 2020 to discuss how they can enhance mental health apprehensions. Discussions will include the use of body worn cameras. Further discussion around privacy needs to occur re: implications.

Chief Herridge commended STEGH for having one of the lowest wait times for mental health support (from initial interaction to hospital is approximately 60 minutes).

Julie Moore provided the following update:

- The LHIN was very excited to support mobile crisis support in Southwestern Ontario specifically the MOST team. Julie noted it will be important to have a coordinated approach between St. Thomas, Aylmer and OPP to ensure optimal results and to ensure there is no competition in the future when it comes to funding.
- The LHIN recognizes there is room for growth and further support related to mobile outreach and they will keep this on their radar for future funding opportunities.
- The LHIN asked that partners on the call keep the LHIN informed especially in relation to the idea of homelessness and the use of leveraging hotel spaces. This is a model other areas are using.
- The LHIN noted that they will continue to champion the needs of this group.
- **Action Item: Julie to provide Heather Sheridan with approximate timeframes/length of stay that hotels are being used.**