



Meeting Notes
Ad-Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness
September 19th, 2018
3:30 PM
Council Chambers, Town Hall
105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior

Present:

Lee Dyck, Chair
Clark Young, Vice Chair
Danielle Raymond
Josie Scott
Liz McLaren
Dana Smith-Hisko
David Reid, Mayor
Jennifer Remus

Also Present:

Maureen Spratt, Clerk
Emily Melanson, Client Services Admin. Assist.

Matt LeMay, Coordinator of the Labour Market Group of
Renfrew and Lanark

Patti Smith, Health Unit, Manager of Family Health
Program

Absent:

Lyn Smith
Amy Scholten
Nathalie Spratt
Debbie Hudson
Renee Coady

Member of the Public:

Andrea Levin, Renfrew County Legal Clinic

1. Call to Order

Lee Dyck, Chair, called the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness Meeting to order at 3:33 PM and welcomed those present.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. ADHOC-019-18

Moved by: David Reid

Seconded by: Liz McLaren

Be It Resolved That the Agenda for the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness Meeting dated Wednesday, September 19th, 2018 be adopted.

Resolution CARRIED

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

Resolution No. ADHOC-020-18

Moved by: David Reid

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Seconded by: Josie Scott

Be It Resolved That the Meeting Notes from the Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness dated Wednesday, August 29th, 2018 be adopted.

Resolution CARRIED

4. **Matters Tabled/Deferred/Unfinished Business**

None

5. **Presentations/Delegations**

a. Labour Market Group of Renfrew and Lanark (Matt LeMay, Coordinator)

Matt LeMay, Coordinator for Labour Market Group of Renfrew, introduced himself. He has 10 years in his field.

Mr. LeMay stated that statistics are important but only one piece of the story. Statistics are vulnerable to human error, etc.

Mr. LeMay discussed key trends, including aging population, and noted that Renfrew County is 4% slower than the rest of the country as a whole in growth, stating that immigration is not selling in our areas.

Mr. LeMay noted that the City of Kingston has more people than all of Renfrew County and Renfrew County is the largest geographical county in the province of Ontario. Issues, such as transportation, have an impact on this issue stating that there are lots of jobs in Renfrew County but people cannot get to work.

Mr. LeMay provided a presentation attached as Appendix A. Questions and discussion ensued with the following being a summary of what was noted:

- Largest employers in Renfrew County are not in Arnprior but up the Valley in places such as Petawawa. All require grade 12 minimum standard.
- 97% of employers in Renfrew County are small businesses.
- Renfrew County growing at 1% - population change.
- Competing with other communities for workers.
- Employers finding difficulty getting workers to come to their area.
- Patti Smith pointed out that Algonquin College in Pembroke does not have training for millwright etc. and similar trades.
- Clark Young asked if employers are starting to adjust their hiring credentials. Mr. LeMay replied that the smart ones and went on to note that post-secondary

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institutions do not have a monopoly on your education. There are free university courses offered online.

- Mayor David Reid mentioned Shopify as a type of employer who uses a different matrix for employability – mindset has to change.
- Mr. LeMay advises small businesses to look at the interests category on resume and tap into that skillset. Big institutions will struggle because of minimum requirements.
- Patti Smith asked Mr. LeMay if he has any ideas for thinking differently.
- Mr. LeMay said that culture, leadership and influences have a great impact and evidence based discussions on issues are essential. The question of how to support people in need as a community was posed. Mr. LeMay stated that change starts effectively at the bottom but essentially with leadership.
- Mayor David Reid touched on mobility issue – needs to be worked on.

b. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (Liz McLaren and Patti Smith)

Liz McLaren and Patti Smith provided a presentation attached as Appendix B. Questions and discussion ensued with the following being a summary of what was noted:

- Health Unit provides online programs. Patti Smith noted that reaching people prenatally builds relationships that last until school years.
- Health Unit is available through telephone, website and in person.
- They offer a variety of programs. For example, they have a nutrition program which is federally funded (offers vitamins, food, cooking skills).
- Another program, Nobody's Perfect, federally based. Works with groups to look at needs of individuals, two facilitators, transportation available, snacks, child care provided. Have trained staff and community members to help vulnerable families.
- Offer workshops on topics of interest – e.g. “baby cue” workshops.
- Program ‘Kids have stress too’. Public school board came to them. Program highlights include building resilience. Promotes resiliency, looks at home and school environment, provides supportive environment. New program and is still on take-off stage.
- Dental screenings offered to schools.
- Liz McLaren stated that Health Unit staff really help clients navigate programs i.e. fill out applications, meet with parents.
- Vision screening programs offered as well, promoting getting eyes checked. This also helps to identify children that may have problems.
- Patti Smith showed committee the Health Unit's website. There is a form to refer families to Health Unit on their website under Healthy Living section.

6. New Business

a. Round Table Discussion

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- i. New Community Resources / Opportunities
- ii. Planning for the future of this Committee

Chair, Lee Dyck, noted that we need to take time to compile all research. We will address this in November meeting more fully.

7. **Correspondence**

(a) Statistics regarding homelessness in Renfrew County

Citizen Member, Josie Scott, noted that information provided under 7(a) of September 19, 2018 Agenda Package is to be amended to clarify that the statistics relate to mental health clients specifically. The recording secretary noted that they would make this amendment.

8. **Adjournment**

Resolution No. ADHOC-021-18

Moved by: Liz McLaren

Seconded by: Dana Smith-Hisko

That the Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness be adjourned at 5:11 PM.

Resolution CARRIED

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness will be held on Wednesday, October 17th, 2018 at 3:30 PM in Council Chambers (Town Hall) located at 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8.