



SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager Micheal Gorgey, Manager, Health Promotions
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Lambton Public Health Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	October 18, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing, Homelessness and Addictions Summit Outcomes Committee

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on May 3, 2023, County Council supported the following motion:

#17: Bradley/McRoberts: That the County strike an advisory committee of individuals who attended the County's recent Homelessness Summit to work with the County in implementing the recommendations arising from the summit.

Carried.

This report provides an overview and update on the Housing, Homelessness and Addictions Summit Outcomes Committee.

DISCUSSION

In the summer of 2023, the County of Lambton's Communications and Marketing Coordinator sent a notice to all attendees of the summit to advise them that applications were being accepted for the Outcomes Committee.

Responses were received from various community members representing different sectors. The group was shortlisted to ensure a group size conducive to meaningful conversation, collaboration, and engagement, while ensuring every interested sector had at least one representative on the committee.

Membership includes representation from the following: YMCA of Southwestern Ontario, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, Sarnia Missionary

Church, Vision 74 Inc., The Rapids Family Health Team and a Lambton County Council member. The group will be co-chaired by Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager of Homelessness Prevention and Children's Services, and Michael Gorgey, Manager of Health Promotions, Lambton Public Health.

The purpose of this committee is to examine the outcomes from the summit, explore existing gaps, assess what is working well, and provide recommendations for consideration.

The proposed structure:

- Review the Housing, Homelessness and Addictions Summit Summary report, highlighting the five priorities identified by the community.
- Review foundational information related to housing, homelessness, and health including current processes, working groups, and committees.
- Complete a detailed analysis of the five priorities to examine what is working well, where there are gaps, and offer new ideas to address each priority.

The five priorities identified from community conversations during the summit are affordable housing, public education, improved access to services, collaboration, and advocacy.

The first meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2023, and will be hosted in person at the Lambton Shared Services Centre, with the option to participate virtually. Subsequent meeting dates will be determined by the group with the goal of meeting at least every three to four weeks. The results of the summit committee will be reported back to County Council in early 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact on the County Budget as a result of this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with members of the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the General Manager, Social Services, internal Social Services Division staff, and community members interested in participating in the Housing, Homelessness, and Addictions Summit Outcomes Committee.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Housing, Homelessness and Addictions Summit Outcomes Committee support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Advocating in a manner that raises the profile of the County and its needs in order to secure improved government supports, funding, grants, and other resources.
- Developing programs and initiatives that address poverty reduction and promote social belonging.
- Planning for and responding to the ever-changing needs of an aging population, homelessness and retaining young people in the community while supporting their transition to being employed community members and future leaders.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the well-being of the Lambton Community.

CONCLUSION

Housing, homelessness, and addictions are complex societal issues that require ongoing collaboration amongst community partners and all levels of government to find solutions. The Housing, Homelessness and Addictions Summit Outcomes Committee will bring together community partners and advocates to examine the community priorities identified during the Stronger Together Summit - A community conversation about housing, homelessness and addictions in Lambton County. The committee will examine the outcomes from the summit, explore existing gaps, assess what is working well and offer new ideas to address each priority.