

Supervised Consumption Services – Community Liaison Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 26 2024

Present:

CTS Supervisor: Dr. Jill Campbell

Staff: Allison Alexiou (Program Manager, keepSIX), Jason Altenberg (CEO and Co-Chair), Sarah Greig (Director, Substance Use & Mental Health)

Community Members and Organizations: Naureen Choudhry (Wood Green), Hailee Morrison (Fontbonne Ministries/Mustard Seed), Patricia Melville (Community Resident), Andrea Nickel (Community Resident), Kim O’Toole (Toronto Police Service), Dorothy Quon (Wood Green & Michael Garron Hospital), Christiane Tetrault (Leslieville Business Improvement Area), Ben Vozzolo (Co-Chair and Community Resident), Jennifer Wilkie (Community Resident).

Regrets:

Simitri Bhattarai (New Hope Shelter/Salvation Army), Leslieville Harm Reduction Coalition, Kathleen Dinely (Michael Garron Hospital), Mike Hayles (Toronto Police Service), Anne Kennedy (Queen St E Presbyterian Church), Cathy Quinton (Leslieville BIA), Anne Simard (Community Member), Morse Street Public School, Toronto Public Health.

1. Land Acknowledgement

The CEO presented a Land Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees made brief introductions.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared

4. New Agenda Items/Motion to approve the draft agenda

Members identified that the second bullet points under agenda item 7 was the same as agenda item 8 and could be removed. The draft agenda was approved by a show of hands and none

were opposed.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA:

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Approval of February 13th 2024 Minutes

(1) N. CHOUDHRY (2) P. MELVILLE CARRIED

6. Updates to TOR

Attendees discussed that final updates need to be made and the TOR will be sent out again.

Concerns from Community Members were raised about SRCHC's accountability to the Board of Directors and if decisions could be overturned by them. It was clarified that Jason reports to the Board monthly and the Committee will report quarterly. Attendees then discussed removing the "Accountability" portion of the TOR, which states "*The CLC reports to the SRCHC Board of Directors*". Attendees felt this language implies that the Board is the final decision-maker. All agreed to remove this line, and that the statement under "*Quarterly Reporting*" is sufficient.

Attendees also discussed accessibility for people with lived and living experience as members of the Committee. There is a need for a multi-faceted approach in order to include them and have them liaise, as many service users expressed interested in the Committee but might struggle with the meeting structure.

7. Standing Agenda Items

Updates on keepSIX: In February 2024, keepSIX saw 75 unique individuals with 324 visits for consumption and 2 overdoses. Staff continue to see the effects of new drugs containing veterinary tranquilizers and heavy sedatives, which result in atypical overdoses and adverse health effects including very low heart rates.

Starting April 1, 2024, keepSIX will operate extended hours weekly from 8am to 8pm on

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

CTS staff have been having open, ongoing conversations with service users about respecting the neighbourhood and being a good neighbour. These will be ongoing conversations as they continue to work together.

8. Community Issues/Concerns

A Member relayed an incident where a business owner found someone using drugs behind their building. When they went out, the building door closed behind her, preventing her from re-entering. She became worried and did not know what to do in that situation, and was concerned for her safety. TPS Community Resource Officer John Little would be able to meet with the business owner to do a safety assessment and potentially install motion lighting. There were reports of numerous instances of theft and vandalism in the neighbourhood recently, specifically reports of bikes and garages being broken into on Heward Ave and Pape Ave. There is some camera footage of the incidents and TPS are conducting a full investigation.

A recent overdose behind Culture Athletics was described by a Member. This occurred in the afternoon when children were leaving school and/or going to after school care. Some children witnessed the individual and children were worried that the person had died. A concern was reported regarding a drug dealer seen on Queen East near SRCHC. There is concern about how we can separate a client of SRCHC from someone who might be a drug dealer. This stems from the appearance that these dealers are seen to operate within the perimeter of SRCHC and are sometimes seen going in and out of the building. In addition, concerns were also raised about One Community Solutions staff, hired by SRCHC to patrol the exterior of the building, not paying sufficient attention to the surroundings. Members discussed how we can potentially address this as the warmer weather approaches with more people outdoors, as resident members report there is still a lot of drug use seen within close proximity of SRCHC and in the

neighbourhood.

It was noted that there was recently a break and enter on Boston Ave and the individual has since been arrested. Members were encouraged to communicate to neighbours to continue reporting incidents any incidents that occur through the 55 Division Crime Reporting Portal and use the email for 55 Division Community Neighbourhood Officers so that can be properly followed up with by TPS. There is also potential for TPS to host an event in the summer for the community to have their bikes registered.

TPS Neighbourhood Officers are still conducting patrols in the neighbourhood, and it is a very large area to cover given that 55 and 54 Division are combined. The upcoming summer months tend to be even busier with both planned and unplanned community events. They are currently experience staffing constraints and shortages, but have 8 Community Neighbourhood Officers officers assigned to 55 Division and additional officers assigned and this will be reassessed in July 2024 based on the need and crime in the neighbourhood. Members identified an undertone of increased community fear amongst community members and worries related to the upcoming Spring and Summer months of increased activity in the neighbourhood. The CLC will discuss how its members can help address this and alleviate community concerns.

9. Priority Setting Exercise

This was an interactive exercise where Members walked around the room to different posters, identifying which priorities were of the most value to them. SRCHC had one representative identifying priorities. The group was not able to complete the entire exercise and will be continued during the next in-person meeting.

10. Membership Discussion

Deferred to a subsequent meeting.

11. Date for April CLC

To be determined.

12. Motion to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM by a show of hands. No one was opposed.