

DATE: JANUARY 29, 2014

MEETING NO. 01-2014

TIME: 4:13 P.M.

PLACE: MCNAUGHTON ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL

CHAIR: T. WALTERS

PRESENT: *(by community sectors)*

Mayor K. Hobbs, (Ex-Officio)
T. Walters (**Chair**), *Child Welfare*
Councillor A. Ruberto, *City of Thunder Bay*
Councillor T. Giertuga, *City of Thunder Bay*
L. Bruins, *Citizen*
M. Woods, *Citizen*
E. Coates, *Youth*
L. Turner, *Youth*
R. Fenton, *Aboriginal Political Organizations*
E. Fredrickson, *Education*
S. Garneau, *Education*
Dr. J. DeMille, *Public Health*
Constable J. Tilbury, *Police*
M. Kleynendorst, *Older Adult Services*
L. Leskowski, *Community-Based Justice*
B. Cryderman, *Community-Based Justice*
L. Robinson, *Community-Based Justice*
B. Hamilton, *Business*
Councillor R. Johnson & N. Sponchia, *Addictions*
S.L. Fata, *Victim Services*

REGRETS:

T. Commisso, *City Manager*
Chief G. Morriseau, *Aboriginal Political Organizations*
B.J. Chenier, *Aboriginal Political Organizations*
J. Kakegamic, *Education*
Det. Sgt. J. Reppard, *Police*
Constable C. Carson, *Police*
F. Wesley, *Aboriginal Services*
J. Lible, *Social Services*
R. Richardson, *Child Welfare*
M. Kennedy, L. Skaarup, *Business*
T. Buckler, *Mental Health Services*
M. Klassen, *Community Social Planning*
I. Ferguson, *Thunder Bay District Crime Stoppers*
C. Bruce, *Publisher & General Manager, Chronicle Journal*
S. Nelson, **respect.** *Initiative Intern*
L. Douglas, *Committee Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk*

OFFICIALS:

K. Lewis, *Director of Corporate Communications and Strategic Initiatives*
L. Chevrette, *Acting Coordinator – Crime Prevention Council*
C. Olsen, *Coordinator - Thunder Bay Drug Strategy*
L. Amelia, *Office of the City Clerk*

1.0 **WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. and the Chair welcomed everyone in attendance. N. Sponchia acted as Chair on behalf of T. Walters for the beginning of the meeting.

K. Lewis, Director - Corporate Communications & Strategic Initiatives, introduced Lee-Ann Chevrette, and welcomed her to the role of the CPC Coordinator.

2.0 AGENDA APPROVAL

With regard to the January 29, 2014 meeting of the Crime Prevention Council, it was the consensus of the Committee that the agenda, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 The Counter Point

C. Peters, Residential Services Manager for the John Howard Society (JHS), provided an overview of The Counter Point, a public education series to dispel myths about crime and criminal justice. C. Peters focused her presentation on two of the five Counter Point topics:

#1: Poverty and the Criminal Justice System

- Myth: Everyone has the same opportunities.
- Statistical trends show that some people have a greater risk of entering the criminal justice system. Namely; aboriginal people, minorities, low wage workers and underemployed, youth, and people with mental health issues.

#5: Housing: Why addressing homelessness should matter to you

- Myth: people choose to be homeless.
- Less than 1% of homelessness is by choice.
- Locally, there are about 500 'episodic homeless' youth.
- What factors can lead to homelessness? Unaffordable housing, illness, mental health, family breakdown, lack of support, loss of employment.
- To break the cycle of poverty, adults need to be provided with remodeled parenting skills and offer reintegration skills to keep people off the streets.
- Healthcare system costs are huge in Canada, averaging 4.5 to 6 billion dollars per year on combating homelessness; hospital, policing, other social costs.
- We can increase community safety by addressing homelessness, housing issues, re-integration strategies after prison, connecting people to programs, supporting community programs, and ensuring basic needs for food and healthcare are met.

A discussion ensued regarding poverty, the criminal justice system and housing. Priorities should focus on providing basic needs (housing, food, shelter and hygiene) over and above the punitive measures that are tough on crime.

Canadian mental health shows that it costs less to house people than to incarcerate them.

It was suggested that Thunder Bay follow Edmonton's lead by starting a program to address the local housing problem, and then asking the provincial and federal government to pitch in on our strategy. We only need to decide how to move forward with a plan.

3.2 Drug Strategy Accommodation Needs Assessment & Community Plan

C. Olsen, Coordinator for the Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, provided an overview of the Community Plan, which outlines a system to provide housing, accommodation, services and support for people who use substances along the continuum of care.

The project engaged community researchers who interviewed 143 individuals with lived experience to inform the Community Plan. It was also informed by statistics showing that community resources like Police Services, the Shelter House, and other Social Services are being stretched beyond their capacity and are unable to meet the demand. For example, around 40 - 50 individuals are responsible for the majority of the approximately 3,000 arrests for public intoxication per year. A literature review of housing solutions and models of community response was also undertaken as part of the research background for the project.

Findings from the research were shared with the community at two community gatherings, at which the community was engaged in shaping the plan, and identifying priorities.

Housing services need to be addressed along the entire continuum of recovery – for individuals in early engagement (substance involved), for individuals pursuing recovery (accessing services), and for those who are maintaining recovery. It also must include options that cut across all levels.

It's essential for community services to work together to provide the utmost support. The Community Plan outlines 19 recommendations and identifies 10 as priority. These have been folded into the work of the Drug Strategy Working Groups. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the Drug Strategy website at www.thunderbaydrugstrategy.ca

T. Walters assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting No. 05-2013 of the Crime Prevention Council held on November 27, 2013, to be confirmed.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the Minutes of Meeting No. 05-2013 of the Crime Prevention Council, held on November 27, 2013, be confirmed.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Violence Against Women (VAW) Working Group

At the November 27, 2013 meeting of the CPC, five (5) action items were presented and recommended by the Violence Against Women Working Group to be added to the CPC Strategic Plan. It was the consensus of the CPC to approve the addition to the 2011 – 2014 Thunder Bay

CPC Community Safety & Crime Prevention Strategy under the Priority Areas section, and to post the VAW Fact Sheet to the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council website.

L. Chevrette, Acting Coordinator – Crime Prevention Council, provided an update relative to the above noted.

The action items are being updated, and will be uploaded to the website in due course.

The VAW Working Group will be providing regular updates to the CPC going forward.

Indian Friendship Centre Gladue Worker

At the November 27, 2013 meeting of the CPC, Ms. L. Robinson, Elizabeth Fry Society, brought forward a news release from NAN, which reported that the sole Gladue caseworker for Northwestern Ontario, situated at the Indian Friendship Centre, is currently on leave, with no temporary replacement to work with the legal system on behalf of Aboriginal Peoples. The Elizabeth Fry Society was concerned about this situation. Discussion was held relative to the Gladue report, and if the Crime Prevention Council should be making a recommendation to City Council to bring a Gladue court to Thunder Bay. Mr. T. Walters asked that the Support for Aboriginal Populations Working Group research this issue and bring back recommendations for the consideration of the CPC.

M. Woods, Chair of the Support for Aboriginal Populations Working Group was to provide an update on the Gladue Services Worker status. This was deferred until the next meeting.

6.0 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The working groups did not meet since the November 27, 2013 CPC meeting, due to the holidays.

T. Walters provided an update on the Strategic Direction of the 2011-2014 Community Safety & Crime Prevention Strategy.

L. Chevrette advised that she would contact each working group chair to set up meetings before the next CPC meeting. She asked that each working group look back at the strategic direction and expectations, including what has been accomplished so far and bring their thoughts to the next meeting on what can realistically be done in the next few months.

The current strategic direction extends to the end of 2014 and the plan will not be revised until the City Council election is finished and the CPC members have been reappointed.

CPC members who want to become a working group member should contact L. Chevrette.

Members of the CPC were advised that the link for the complete Strategy could be found at:
http://www.thunderbay.ca/Crime_Prevention/Annual_Crime_Prevention_Action_Report/Strategy_2011_-_2014.htm

6.1 Support Strong Neighbourhoods

A working group meeting has been scheduled for January 30, 2014 at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay, on Windsor Street.

6.2 Communications and Education

Members will be contacted about a mutually agreeable date for a working group meeting.

6.3 Support for Aboriginal Populations

Members will be contacted about a mutually agreeable date for a working group meeting.

6.4 Violence Against Women (VAW)

C. Olsen advised that the VAW fact sheet was condensed into 2 pages; it should be posted on the website before the next meeting.

The VAW group is looking at the strategic direction through a gender lens as they discuss recommendations for the new strategic plan, noting that higher-level recommendations from the CPC should come with a gendered perspective.

The Chair reminded the VAW Working Group that the CPC has approved the current strategic plan, and that the Working Group cannot substantively change things towards a gendered plan right now; however, this matter can be brought forward in the future.

7.0 ROUNDTABLE OF UPDATES

Members and visitors at the meetings were asked to provide a roundtable of updates on the activities from their respective groups.

C. Olsen reported that the managed alcohol program at the Shelter House has undergone extensive evaluation and will be made public soon. The SOS (Street Outreach Services) pilot project received 200 calls in 18 days.

The Balmoral Centre withdrawal management services enhancement pilot project is also demonstrating success with their new model of care. A media release identifies that since making the enhancements, there have been a reduction in hospital admissions related to substance use, ED visits related to opiates decreases, and police reported charges for public intoxication have been reduced. The centre is also reporting an increase in discharges from hospital to Balmoral.

The Drug Awareness Committee will soon post information in regards to Thunder Bay's 1st recovery day, which is nationally recognized.

The Housing working group took on several recommendations from the Accommodation Needs Assessment. One action the group is working toward implementing is hosting a forum on housing in the fall.

S. Fata, Thunder Bay Counselling Services, was excited about her new position with a specialized youth assistance program that's new across Ontario. It will help with specialized services regarding homelessness, lack of education, and engagement in crime. This includes the launching of transitional workers for children and adults, to help deter engagement in criminal activities. There will be 6 positions created across Ontario, including one for the City of Thunder Bay.

Constable J. Tilbury, Thunder Bay Police Service, advised the CPC that the educational presentations by the CPC and Shelter House have been very well received by their department. They would like to continue working with CPC to build grassroots level messages for the people, by the people. Constable Tilbury introduced Michelle Woods, the new chair of the Thunder Bay District Crime Stoppers. Constable Tilbury also noted that the Hate Crime Awareness Campaign has been active for over a year now, and is still actively looking at realistic objectives.

N. Sponchia reported on his trip to Toronto with the Ontario Federation of Unions, where he attended a protest in favour of raising minimum wage. The current minimum wage contributes to working class poverty and has created a class of residents who cannot afford their basic living expenses.

Councillor A. Ruberto announced that it is budget time, and he recommended people to come speak at the council meetings or to contact their councillors in order to voice their opinions on the City budget. He also noted that there is a community investment fund called *Children in Poverty* that is worth looking into. Councillor Ruberto also added that housing is one of City Council's top priorities; they are allocating money for low income housing, and they recognize the extreme need for single person housing.

L. Robinson, Elizabeth Fry Society, expressed her concern about the lack of Gladue workers in Thunder Bay. She also announced that Elizabeth Fry Society Week is being held May 5 – 11, 2014.

B. Cryderman, William W. Creighton Youth Services, is finding strategies to help women get out of prostitution.

Councillor R. Johnson, Thunder Bay Drug Strategy, announced their upcoming meeting on March 21, 2014. Councillor Johnson spoke of serious statistics on suicides in the North and the need to address systemic issues through prevention strategies. She asked if CPC can make some clear actions to help local youth.

- T. Walters mentioned that it could be useful to have the school board representatives come to a CPC meeting to speak of the work they are doing in the public and Catholic boards, and then look at how the CPC can report on initiatives.

- K. Lewis reported that the Province has just announced funding for the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, which will include participation by municipalities and an education component. This could be an opportunity to bring forth an idea such as Thai Chi in our community. Applications are due by March 14, 2014.
- E. Frederickson, Lakehead District School Board, advised that the School Board has 6 social workers in the high schools, and they would be happy to present their strategies at an upcoming CPC meeting, as well as their statistics, if invited.

Councillor T. Giertuga advised that City Council has directed City Administration to look further into the Youth Center.

M. Kleynendorst, Supervisor – Community Programs (Children & Youth) advised that this group is moving forward with recommendations that came from the Youth Services Advisory Committee, including the strategy of partnering with the Youth Centre, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay, and other youth-serving organizations, which will provide the conduits to start addressing things like suicide risk and healthy children. They are meeting with Recreation & Culture around the Healthy Kids initiative opportunities.

L. Turner, a Grade 12 student from Sir Winston Churchill High School, and the new Youth representative on the CPC, reported that he is also a trustee for Lakehead University, he is co-chair of *We Stand Up*, and is an executive member of the Northwestern Ontario Secondary School Student Association. He spoke about the Safe Schools app, which was recently developed, which allows students to anonymously report bullying to Crime Stoppers; the report is then forwarded to the school in question to be addressed in an appropriate manner.

E. Coates works with an organization that helps with mentoring kids, especially those with ADD. It will be opening in March, next to Holland Bakery.

B. Hamilton applauded Roots to Harvest for their work with youth at risk. Mr. Hamilton also mentioned an upcoming event called *Pride in the Park*, which will help promote safety around gender identity issues and provide support for a cultural shift. He also announced that new transit shelters and street furnishing are going to be introduced throughout the City, which should help give greater dignity to transit users. Mr. Hamilton also asked if the *Eye in the Sky* program could be reinstated as a means to combat vandalism and improve personal security. He also noted that speeding is a serious concern in the Bay/Algoma area. Lastly, he would like to know of City employees who may be able to help with preparing grant applications to act on the ideas that are brought to the CPC meetings.

K. Lewis applauded Constable Tilbury for her role in building relations and partnerships.

R. Fenton advised that she is the new addictions worker for FWFN. Her position on the Council has taken the place of the previous healing strategy coordinator. She offered to sit in on working groups.

8.0 CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

K. Lewis, Director - Corporate Communications & Strategic Initiatives and L. Chevrette, Acting Coordinator for the Crime Prevention Council, provided updates relative to the Crime Prevention Office.

K. Lewis and T. Walters presented the CPC 2013 Action Plan to the Police Services Board in December, 2013. They mentioned that this annual update is well received and shall continue, and it would be good for the Drug Strategy to consider doing the same.

There is currently a Strategic Plan in place until the end of 2014, and a new plan will not take shape until the new members have been elected.

CPC Coordinator Updates

L. Chevrette advised that her focus has been on familiarizing herself with her new role, and meeting community members and partners.

The write-ups for the recipients of the 2013 Mayor's Community Safety Awards were sent to Chronicle Journal and will run next week.

On March 20, Diversity Thunder Bay is holding their 8th Annual Breakfast at the Victoria Inn, co-sponsored by the CPC and Advisory Committee on Anti-Racism, open to the public. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, a 3-time Nobel peace prize nominee and author of "I Shall Not Hate". The cost is \$20 and it starts at 7:30AM. At the event, the 2013 **respect.** Award will be given out. Nomination forms were already sent out to Council members and the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee. Consider nominating anyone who has contributed to the respect campaign. The deadline for nominations is February 21, 2014.

There will also be a luncheon on March 20, 2014 in the McNaughton Room, which is open to members of the CPC and Advisory Committee on Anti-Racism.

The National Municipal Network just received approximately \$900,000 for a 3-year project to foster crime prevention practices across Canadian municipalities, reduce crime and increase community safety. More information will come in the future, and a face to face meeting with the group will take place in late May in southern Ontario.

CPC is planning to bring in an officer from Windsor in early May to do a presentation on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. This will be open to the public.

Jane's Walk will be held May 3-4 this year. Planning will begin in early February. If interested in leading a walk or to get more information, contact the CPC Coordinator.

S. Nelson, **respect.** Initiative Intern, has been accepted into the Canadian Roots Exchange

program. It focuses on restorative leadership and brings indigenous and non-indigenous youth together to remove barriers and deconstruct stereotypes.

An event was recently held at Lakehead University, called *Building Bridges*, stemming from the James Street bridge fire and comments on social media. The event had 7 guest panelists speaking on the issues of racism and the impact on the community. More events like this would be interesting and the CPC Coordinator will look for future opportunities.

L. Chevrette reported that she participated with Zone Watch evenings with Constable Tilbury, and has decided to do the training and join the group.

Lastly, the Walk-A-Mile Film Project will take place at the Community Auditorium on February 6, 2014 at 6:30 PM; the event is free of charge, with a keynote address by the Honorable Justice Murray Sinclair.

9.0 2014 MEETING DATES

Meetings of the CPC are scheduled on the last Wednesday of every second month, unless otherwise notified, from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in McNaughton Room, 3rd Floor of City Hall, as follows:

- March 26, 2014
- May 28, 2014
- June 25, 2014
- November 26, 2014

Due to 2014 being a municipal election year, all advisory committee meetings will cease during the election campaign period; accordingly, no meetings will be scheduled between September 12, 2013 and October 27, 2014.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.