Minutes:  Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
Approved  Thursday, June 12th, 2008 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Location:  St. Matthew’s House, 414 Barton St. (at Victoria St)

PRESENT:  Ron Sharegan, Denise Arkell (Neighbour to Neighbour), Harry Banfield (Salvation Army), Larry Huibers (Housing Help Centre), Jeff Wingard (SPRC), Wendy Roy (St. Matthew’s House), Allison Jones, Thom Davies (Wesley Ministries), Carmen Salciccioli (GSC), Joanne Santucci (Food Share), Tom Heeney (Mission Services)

REGRETS:  Geoffrey Roman, Craig Foye (McQueston Legal & Community Services)

Also Present:  Molly Elliot, Brian Kreps, Dave Brodati, Teresa Herechuk (recorder), Tammy Morasse

1.  **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
Additions:
Item 6.4:  Utility Arrears; Jeff Wingard

Future Agenda Item:  Ron Sharegan asked to bring forward suggestions of future speakers/presenters ie: various foodbanks, shelter personnel etc and maybe the idea of extending FSH meeting invites to other organizations to be present at the table for information sharing and awareness building.

ROOF Program:  Larry Huibers announced that the Rental Opportunity for Ontario Families (ROOF) program is ending and applications will be available at the Housing Help Centre.

Information session regarding the new Ontario Child Benefit (OCB):  Dave Brodati provided a hard copy of the invite letter that was sent to community stakeholders from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). The invite letter from MCSS announced the second information session being held at the Hamilton Central Library on Friday June 20th, to talk about the new OCB and how it affects families who are receiving benefits and services.
from either the Ontario Disability Support Program or Ontario Works. FSH reviewed the letter.

Downtown Task Force/Cleanliness & Security Committees: Brian Kreps attends these committees and when their next meeting is scheduled. Brian will give an overview on homelessness and send key messages to these committees. Brian will be asking FSH for input. Joanne Santucci suggested that Brian also connect with Paul Johnson of the Poverty Roundtable for further input as well.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None received.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 8th, 2008.
Approval must be 1st and 2nd by voting members who attended meeting of May 8th.
Moved by Harry Banfield, seconded by Jeff Wingard and carried to accept the minutes of May 8th, 2008 as distributed.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

4.1 12 Month Workplan (Jeff Wingard/Dave Brodati)
Dave explained that the plan (workplan) is to respond as an emergency arises ie Downtown/Security etc. This workplan item will be reviewed in September to take a look at the year and isolate topics and focus for FSH.
Ron Sharegan asked to bring forward suggestions of future speakers/presenters ie: various foodbanks, shelter personnel etc and maybe the idea of extending FSH meeting invites to other organizations/persons to be present at the table for information sharing and awareness building. Also in September, the report preparation to present on October 20 to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the activities of FSH will need to be done.

4.2 Update on Summer Food shortfall at the Foodbanks
Brian Kreps contact with the City:
Brian will be meeting tomorrow with Gillian Hendry, OW Director to talk about accessing emergency services for non-social assistant recipients to work through a system. Food banks are working with the development of the strategic plan and Brian just hired a Senior Policy Analyst that will be concentrating on this as well.
Food Drive media release:
Joanne Santucci said that all food agencies stepped up to the plate for media coverage of the food shortage concern and the
The public’s reaction was empathetic and positive and hope to see a response to the awareness.

There have been approximately sixteen food drives since the press release and will work on more opportunity for specific food requirement drives ie rice, bread etc. The City of Hamilton is launching a food drive with transportation supports similar to the arrangement at Christmas and will work with Brian to co-ordinate.

Joanne talked about the strategic plan that is including information of identifying the very vulnerable population. Joanne will provide FSH an update as the strategic plan develops.

4.3 Update on Back to School/Winter Clothing allowance:
FSH chair working with Emergency and Community Services (E&CS) Committee to communicate to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and other government departments.

There is a report going to E&CS committee from Ontario Works Division on this same topic on June 18th and Ron Sharegan as chair of FSH has requested delegation. Ron will bring forward the motion from FSH minutes of May 8th and present to E&CS committee ie, urgency for back to school grant and long term perspective concerns.

4.4 Update on Terms of Reference
Awaiting City clerks approval.

5. BUSINESS/Standing ITEMS

5.1 Affordable Housing Flagship (AHF)
– Jeff Wingard
Defer to next meeting.

5.2 Emergency Food Action Committee (EFAC)
– Joanne Santucci
It’s been decided that the data sharing protocol process will be hosted by Food Share and disseminated to the agencies and other city contacts. Food Share has an assistant and is currently training on the system. Brian discussed his new hire and the plan in process of the relationship between the city and the
shelters/foodbanks of movement through the system and to build the understanding of the future. Joanne and Brian talked about the partnership role, responsibilities (funding and/or supports) and exchange of information that this data will formulate.

5.3 **Homelessness Partnering Initiative (HPI) – Brian Kreps**
Brian announced that the call for applications is now closed. The review process is near completion and sixteen applications were received.

5.4 **Hostel to Homes (H2H) Pilot Project – Betty Lou Purdon**
Defer to next meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 **Share the Warmth Update – Jeff Wingard/Denise Arkel**
See item 6.4

6.2 **Homelessness Blueprint – Brian Kreps**
The consultant has completed and submitted the final report by the deadline. A formal review has not been done but work has started already with the recommendations:
- determine the right size of systems (82% occupancy)
- long term direction (building capacity throughout the whole system)
- defining what is the base/standards for base funding (what would the base funding look like)
- intensive case management: support service to exit shelters/enhance responsibility/system resources etc.

The Blueprint is a discussion with executive directors (how do we move away from per diem funding) to create standardization/specializations. A blueprint will be public in July.

Direction for September agenda item: A system for shelters to report to FSHAC. The request of structuring the communication flow to this committee ie: EFAC (having a representative at the table).

6.3 **Everyone Has a Home, Strategic Plan – Tammy Morasse**
Tammy provided FSHAC an update of the strategic plan being back on track and the five outcome areas and thirty six strategies and each strategy derives an action. Some actions are moving well and some are not. Gathering more information
over the summer months of bringing individuals/groups together to look at what is happening on the different strategies and get input for the document. The desire is to forward a report to E&CS committee in September and over the year and a half to keep the strategies that are working well moving and to improve the strategies through 2009. Tammy also will be contacting other planning organizations to work with linkages etc. The plan was set up over a three year period and this phase is about evaluation/implementation and determining the action outcomes and Tammy will be in contact with you in the near future. There was concern expressed that the plan is weak in the area of prevention and support efforts to help keep people in their housing.

6.4 Utility Arrears: Jeff Wingard
Jeff distributed meeting notes as a result of several meetings with a FSH sub-committee (consisting of Larry Huibers, Denise Arkell and Jeff Wingard) working with City staff (Utility Arrears Advisory Committee) to examine the issue of arrears in more detail. The FSH sub-committee has brought forward two areas of concern:
- #1 Performance issues
- #2 Under spent portion
FSHAC suggests additions to include “older adults” (working poor/low income) and to ask that the performance review be initiated by Sept. 30, 2008. Brian will approach City staff (Kerry Lubrick/Jack Brown) to request the performance review. Ron will forward a formal report to E&CS committee for September in order to bring these concerns forward.

The FSH sub-committee will continue to follow up with the City’s Utility Arrears Advisory Committee and update FSHAC with the development.

7. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.
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<th>Future Topics/references</th>
<th><strong>floor available for September.</strong></th>
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| - Oct 22, 2008: FSH presenting work/achievements to E&CS committee.  
  * Need to have report ready for J. Priel Sept. 22. |
| - Back to School/Winter Clothing Allowance: investigate options in finding an annual assistance for “back to school/winter clothing” allowances, due to the changes of the OCB tax credit. |
| - A system for shelters to report to FSHAC. |