Food and Shelter Advisory Committee

Presentation to Emergency and Community Services Committee

June 11th 2012
Food and Shelter Advisory Committee

**Mandate**

- Identify the urgent needs of citizens
- Provide advice and information to E & CS Committee.
- Agencies take immediate action to address issues where appropriate
- Opportunity to liaise and collaborate

**A Committee Goal**

Increased use of Food & Shelter Advisory Committee as a resource to inform Council’s decision making
2011-2012 Accomplishments

Key Committee Learnings:

- Existing Homelessness/Shelter Services (*Out of the Cold, Women & Men’s Shelter Services*)
- Bed Bugs
- Direct linkages and knowledge members have in the food & shelter system

Collaboration with Mayor Bratina on letters to the Provincial and Federal Governments
2011-2012
Key Issues of Concern to FSAC:

- Ongoing sustainability of women’s homelessness services, because there has been a crisis and current interventions do not have sustainable funding.

- Increasing demand on emergency food and lack of sustainable system resources.

- Impacts to the young women living in Lynwood/Charlton Hall resulting from the public discussion regarding location of their home. FSAC asks Council to:
  - Reconsider the existing bylaw and
  - Use the expertise within the relevant City departments to develop a coordinated and cohesive approach to resolving the Lynwood/Charlton Hall issue.

- Need for increased beg bug education and response programs because every person in Hamilton can be affected by bed bugs and current programs do not have sufficient resources.
Who Food & Shelter Is

5 citizen representatives

Alexander Ramirez (vice chair), Anne Wilson, Fernando Forero, Maria Cristina Pelaez and Thyra Marting

10 service sector representatives

Don Jaffray (chair) Social Planning & Research Council, Collaborative for Adult Justice
Denise Arkell Emergency Food Action Committee
Larry Huibers Affordable Housing Flagship, H & H Planning Group
Carmen Sal ciccioli Hamilton Emergency Shelters Integration & Coordination Committee
Karen Brown Street Youth Planning Collaborative
Medora Uppal Woman Abuse Working Group
Robert Foster Hamilton Addiction & Mental Health Coalition
Linda Ense Hamilton Executive Director’s Aboriginal Coalition
Katherine Kalinowski Women’s Housing Collaborative
Scott Jones Housing Services for Newcomers
A Committee Goal

Important & Challenging Issues before Council

Investment of Remaining OMPF funding
*Current Initiatives in Women’s Homelessness Need Sustainable Funding*
*Demand for Emergency Food is high*

Social Assistance Discretionary Benefits
*Compliments to E&CS for supporting funding to end of 2012*
*Funding is required for 2013 and beyond*

We invite E&CS to engage Food & Shelter Advisory Committee as a helpful resource in your decision making processes

THANK YOU