1. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

No changes

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2010. Denise moved/ Craig seconded, Carried

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

4.1 **OW Food Voucher Pilot Summary – Carolin Anderson**

Carolin shared the findings from the Ontario Works Food Voucher Pilot Project. The driver for the development of the program was the high number of applications OW was receiving which resulted in people having to wait longer for benefits.

Approximately, $500,000 worth of food vouchers were distributed. The last food vouchers were distributed in February.
Carolin mentioned that Ontario Works is implementing their SAIL program. SAIL is designed to improve supports to clients and to focus on issues beyond employment. It includes a computer tool to help support workers’ ability to appropriately refer clients. She also mentioned that The Hamilton Spectator has dropped the obituary fee for funerals covered by Ontario Works.

Joanne Santucci suggested it would be beneficial to work in tandem in the future ensure the referrals for food and other entitlements are useful to clients.

4.2 Future of HPS Funding – Bob McKnight

Bob provided an update regarding what is known about the future of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. The federal government earlier made a five year commitment to housing and homelessness funding. The second year of that commitment will end March 31, 2011. Service Canada has conducted a consultation on the subject, but has not made any statements about what will happen.

Motion “that FSH send a recommendation to Emergency & Community Services asking council and the mayor to advocate to the federal government to continue the federal homelessness funding after March 31st 2011” was made by Brother Richard, second by Joanne Santucci and carried.

Motion “that the above motion be amended to expand the recommendation to ask for enhanced federal homelessness funding and that the HPS Community Advisory Board be asked to make a similar recommendation was made by Craig Foye, seconded by Brother Richard and carried.

In discussion it was agreed that individual agency representatives also contact counsellors directly to discuss the need for enhanced federal homelessness funding.

4.3 Food Bank Summer Operation/May 19 Report

Bob McKnight provided a brief update. Community Services is taking a report to Emergency and Community Services Committee on May 19. The report will ask Council to provide one-time financial support to the Emergency Food Service Providers. The report will be available on the City’s website May 14.

There was discussion regarding the potential content of the report going to Council on May 19th. There was also concern raised regarding the lack of consultation with the food providers in developing recommendations in that report.
Action- Members will read the report when it becomes public tomorrow. Joanne and Denise will attend the May 19th committee meeting to support the report. Ron will mention support of the report in his presentation to committee at that same committee meeting.

4.4 Code Red – Follow up to Spectator Articles

Discussion focused on Calgary 10 year plan to eliminate homelessness that was recommended in the Code Red series. There were varying opinions on that model. Concerns were expressed regarding some of the other recommendations proposed in the Code Red series. Committee members generally agreed that working more closely with the Spectator Editorial Board would be beneficial to getting the local work that is being done recognized. No decisions were made.

4.5 Future of FSHAC - Continued

City of Hamilton staff are doing a consultation regarding the configuration of planning and advisory committees regarding affordable housing and homelessness. They have prepared some questions for use in the consultation. Molly Elliott asked, “What do FSH members value in this committee? What do they value about the membership of this committee, the work this committee does, the structure of this committee?”

Action- Molly will return to next meeting so discussion can continue.

5. BUSINESS/Standing ITEMS- items 5.1 to 5.3 deferred

5.1 Affordable Housing Flagship (AHF)

5.2 Emergency Food Action Committee (EFAC)

5.3 Emergency Shelter Report

5.4 Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) covered in item 4.2

6. NEW BUSINESS- none

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Next Meeting will be June 10, 2010.

Future Topics:
Human Services Planning – A presentation regarding Human Services Planning will be scheduled for September.