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Coming up at 1 pm, the monthly Social Services meeting at Wellington County. Follow along!



MEETING PREVIEW: County Social Services Meeting for May 10, 2023

This month, the Wellington County Social Services Committee meeting will be mostly about the future of childcare and after school programs, from the County staff's own internal plans to the o...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/05/05/meeting-preview-county-social-services-meeting-fo...>

Chair Anderson calls the meeting to order.

No Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

Anderson talks about attending a conference on homelessness in Toronto last week. One of the things mentioned was that housing is health and housing is a human right. Plus, there's stress from COVID shutdowns on homeless pop. and we'll see that in next five years.

Anderson says that they got great ideas from the conference. Also learn about economics of homelessness, it costs \$2,200 per month to house someone versus \$6,000+ per month to put them in a shelter.

Warden Lennox asks what "getting worse" means? Luisa Artuso says that issues with homelessness will peak in the next five years, but this will also depend on actions that happen.

First up, Social Services Financial Statements as of April 30, 2023. <https://pub-wellington.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=7392>

Shauna Calder, manager of finance, says there's not much to add since committee looked at this last month. There are some costly move out repairs they're monitoring, but they do have some grants covering that. Next month, a detailed variance report is coming.

Statements approved unanimously.

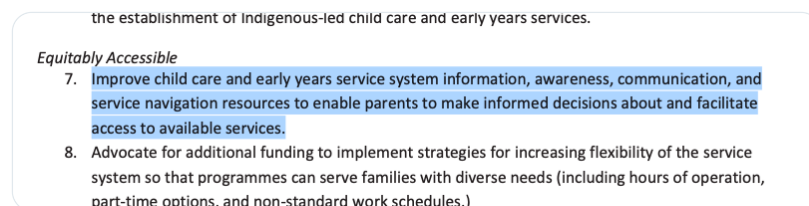
Next, Wellington Child Care and Early Years Service Plan, 2023 - 2027. Mandy Koroniak, Director of Children's Early Years Division, presents.

The plan was devised in input from service partners, research in the childcare field, and work already in development by the division, and there are 16 priorities in five principle areas including ...

...high quality, equitably available, equitably accessible, affordable child care and early years services, and leadership and accountability. This plan needs to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval.

Read the full report here: <https://pub-wellington.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=7395>

Koroniak is asked if a centralised waiting list might help with priority #7. She says yes, but there is a question about how such a list will be managed. The Province is a big part of this, and they're presently looking for feedback about how to replace current system.



Member Bulmer asks about making people in Mapleton aware of subsidies for childcare, awareness seems to be a bit of an issue. Koroniak says that the deficit of licensed spaces in Mapleton is an issue, but they are looking at ways to generate awareness.

Lennox is there anyway of separating out Mennonite communities in the northend of the county, since they're less likely to seek out care. Koroniak says that's hard to do w/normal data, but it might be able to be done through data tabulation, which can be bought from StatsCan.

Koroniak notes the county does have ways of interacting and collaborating with the Mennonite community, so they can look at options.

Lennox says the concern is knowing that there's a need, but not knowing how big exactly. Koroniak says that they can figure that out by digging in with the community.

Member Duncan asks if putting money for facilities in the budget will solicit provincial help. Koroniak says that's hard to say, they are expecting more info about capital funding under the new models and hopes to be back soon.

Member Davis notes that there's already been a census of schools in Mapleton and they don't have the space for additional childcare, so there needs to be a new school. Puslinch and Mapleton are, apparently, the only two places in the county without a centre.

Lennox recaps, UGDSB has no space right now, but can they put an addition on? Artuso says that they've been looking for a space for 15 years, and the schools themselves are worried about accommodating their own growth and don't want to give anything land-wise up.

Davis says that they raised these points with the Minister of Education, who said that he doesn't see the need for a new school in the area even though he sees the need for more childcare. 🙋

Motion to receive the report approved unanimously.

Next, New Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Funding Formula. The Min.of Education released the new funding formula discussion paper for the next few years of childcare funding. This isn't policy, and should not be taken as a hint of what the final document will look like.

It presents six new grant structures that will replace all the present grants, although there shouldn't be any impact on the overall money allocated.

Davis comment: He's glad staff is able to review these changes, but there are a lot of changes coming rapidly and he's glad that they're able to roll with the punches.

Report received unanimously.

Next, Overview of the Housing Services Division. Mark Poste, Director of Housing, will present.

Preamble:

Background:

The County of Wellington is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Housing Services designated by the Province of Ontario under the Housing Services Act, 2011(HSA). Under the HSA, the County is one of 47 designated Service Managers that deliver housing and homelessness services on behalf of the province of Ontario in the County of Wellington and the City of Guelph.

The Housing Services division is responsible for service system planning for the Housing and Homelessness systems. Planning activities include developing service system needs analysis and approaches to housing issues in our service area across the housing continuum from Homelessness, through emergency shelters, transitional and supportive housing systems, through social and affordable rental housing, to private market rental and ultimately homeownership.

The division works on an ongoing basis to explore opportunities within our community to prevent and respond to housing instability and experiences of homelessness. This work is undertaken collaboratively with a variety of local stakeholders including municipal partners; Indigenous organizations; health and human service organizations and operators in the homeless serving system.

This report, which is being shared for information, provides an overview of the Housing Services Division's roles and responsibilities as well as service delivery throughout our delivery area.

HOUSING CONTINUUM Guelph – Wellington



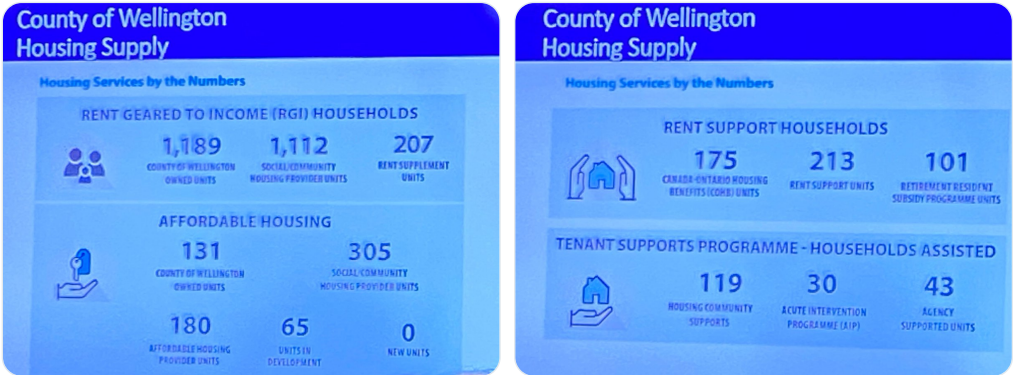
We're coming up on the tenth year of "A Place to Call Home", the County's 10-year homelessness and housing plan. It was updated in 2018 with extensive community consultation.

FYI: The 2022 update report will be coming out in June.

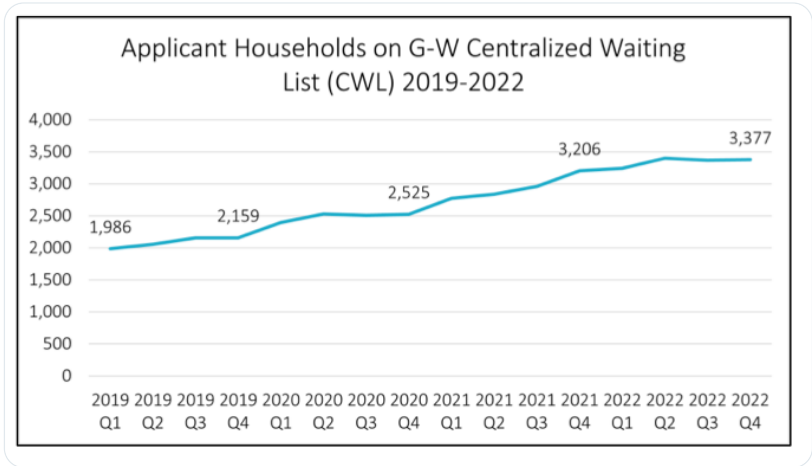
This is the housing continuum and the County works in all parts, but the focus is in the first four spots from the left side.



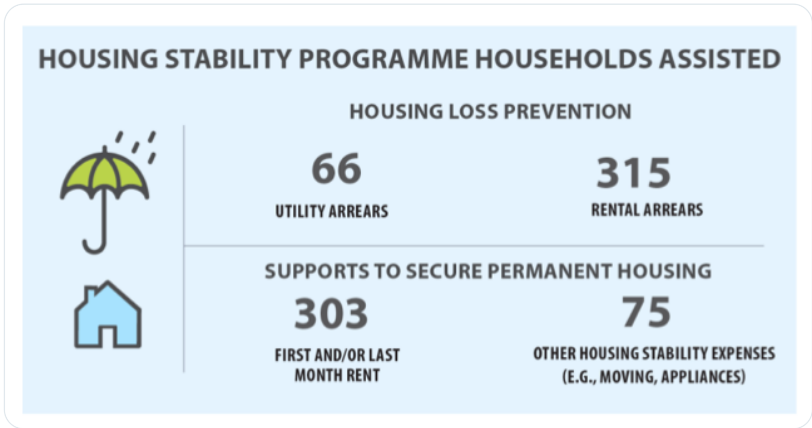
Housing supply by the numbers. Poste notes that they're doing well in terms of variety but they're only seeing an increase in need.



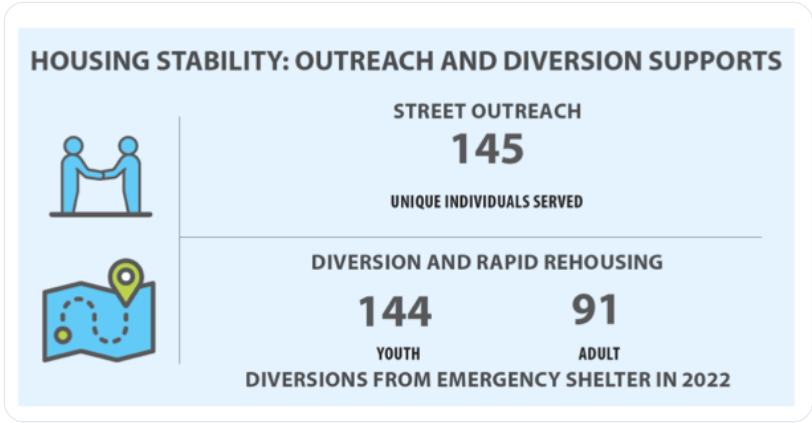
The number of names on the wait list have only gone up, because people are staying in social housing longer because there's nothing they can afford in the community that they can transition to.



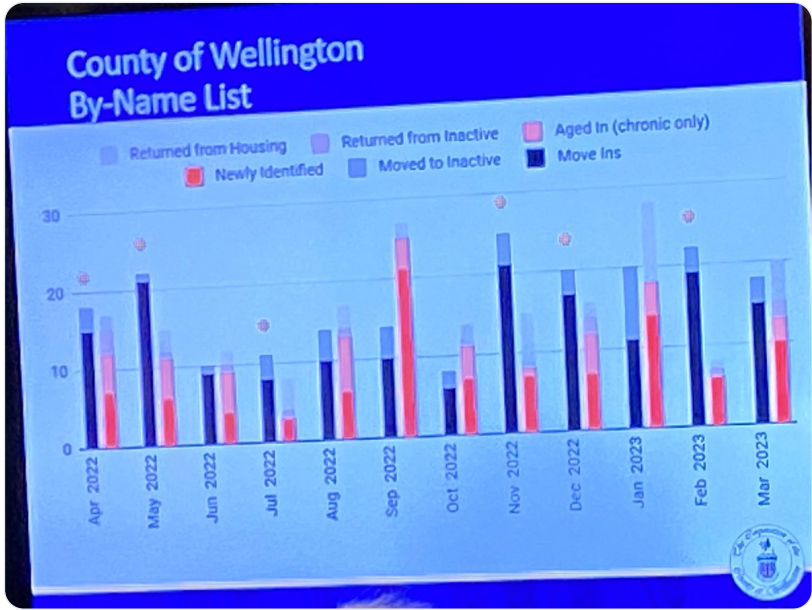
The County also supports people to cover the rent and hold on to their homes.



There's been an increase in the average number of people using shelters since the start of the pandemic. The number now is 79 and pre-pandemic it was 51. The trick is to try and get people immediate help before being unhoused becomes a way of life.



The by-name list was created in 2017, a real-time list of people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. Wellington County was the fourth community in Canada to put this into practice and now it's SOP.



Part of this work is the Point in Time count, which is done every 2 years. When they did the last one, which is kind of a two-day blitz census of the local homeless population, they found 20 more people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Poste says the only true way to attack homelessness is to develop stock of affordable housing, which requires working with all levels of government, the housing sector, and community benefit partners.

Housing is managed by 7 teams at the County:

Housing Policy team:

The Housing Policy team is responsible for supporting the Housing Services division and the goals and objectives of the Housing and Homelessness Plan, by researching best practices, supporting programme creation and implementation, and facilitating community knowledge mobilization around housing and homelessness matters across the housing continuum.

Housing Stability team:

The Housing Stability team is responsible for service delivery oversight of emergency shelters, transitional housing and supportive housing services, managing housing stability related agreements with contracted community organizations and the direct delivery of housing stability service programmes.

Applicant Services team:

The Applicant Services team is responsible for the oversight of the community's Centralized Waiting and the Review of Decisions System List for social housing units, which are both legislatively required under the Housing Services Act, 2011. The team is also responsible for applications for County and Guelph Non-Profit owned affordable housing units.

Housing Programmes team:

The Housing Programmes team is responsible for the administration and oversight of existing social and affordable housing building, rent supplements and federal and provincial funding towards the development of new housing across the housing continuum.

Community Property Services team:

The Community Property Services team is responsible for resident support, rent geared to income administration and property management services for the 1360 units of County-owned social and affordable housing stock.

Housing Maintenance team:

The Housing Maintenance team is responsible for the daily maintenance, preventive maintenance and capital asset planning of the 1360 units of County-owned social and affordable housing stock. This portfolio will soon also include the transitional housing units under development at 65 Delhi St in Guelph.

Additionally, Housing Services has management agreements with *Guelph Non-Profit Housing Corporation* and *Wellington Housing Corporation*. These are non-profit housing providers that administer 584 social and affordable housing units under a management agreement with the Housing Services division. These two housing corporations have separate governance structure based on their original creation under their original operating agreements that were created in the 80s and 90s.

Warden Lennox says he went to the Bellevue reopening at Wyndham House and it was nice to see the community support. He congratulates Poste and his team.

Davidson asks about the big difference from 2014. Poste says there will be an update for 2025 and a lot of that work is going to be consultations with the community. The huge pressure is affordability, which we see everyday, but the rental market especially...

...Whenever someone moves out, the affordability of that unit moves out too.

Poste adds that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the priority is keeping people in homes they've already got and giving them help at the moment of crisis, not afterward.

Lennox asks about need for housing services, and fighting NIMBYism. Need to make people more aware of the housing continuum, and understand that the desire is to not present people as "stuck" in social housing.

Lennix invites Poste to bring this message to the different councils, and staff have apparently already had this discussion. They especially need to raise awareness of people homeless in rural areas because there's more land, and homelessness is harder to see.

Lennox notes that at the county council they deal with this all the time, but it gets lost on the township council level. It would be useful for some of those people to see that broader picture.

Cllr O'Neill asks about counting accessory apartments or basement apartments. Poste says that it's hard to stay on top of the secondary market since there's a lot of transition.

Cllr Duncan says that it might be easy to look around and say that there's nothing happening, but the presentation noted that there's a lot of work being done at the County to fight the crisis.

Report received unanimously.

Nothing to report on Ontario Works this month, but this will coming to committee next month.

That's a wrap!



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