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Coming up at 1 pm, it's this month's Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee. This is what's coming up:



MEETING PREVIEW: Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Com...

It's going to be another busy meeting of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee as they look at the present, near-future and a post-safe consumption site future in Guelph next...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/10/04/meeting-preview-joint-social-services-and-land-am...>

Chair Anderson has called the meeting to order.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest? Nope!

First up is Melissa Kwiatkowski, CEO of the Guelph Community Health Centre for a presentation: Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs Presentation. (Apparently, the ad hoc committee got this presentation.)

Kwiatkowski says that while there is an open call for proposals, there's the "business transition plan" portion, which is what the City of Guelph is participating in. She says Guelph is **not** in a competitive process.

Guiding Principles for HART Hub

- Build on existing engagement
- Protect existing services – youth concurrent hub/adult hub • Preserve trusted relationships clients have with staff
- Build on what we have
- Address known system gaps

(cont'd)

- Create an integrated system of care • Work with what we can start quickly
- Mitigate as many risks of CTS closure as possible

Tight timelines: They got the application in Sept, and it's about 100 pages long and due on Oct 18. Also, the ONgov wants the HART Hubs up and running sometime in the winter.

Kwiatkowski says that they want to address known gaps in the system, but there's still a lot of risk when the CTS closes.

Risks of CTS Closure

- More overdoses in unsupported / public spaces
- More improperly discarded substance use supplies
- More ED visits for urgent care – wound care, foot care, etc.
- More EMS calls
- Lose contact with clients and access to health services
- Health Alerts – losing information about what is in substances

Did you know, that since 2018 the CTS has:

- Supported over **41,000** visits
- Made **1,000 referrals** to primary care for unattached individuals
- Connected an average of **44 people per month to on-demand addiction treatment**
- Managed and reversed **311 overdoses. Only 12 resulted in a transfer to the Emergency Department.**

And,

- Had **zero fatalities.**

Kwiatkowski says that these numbers don't take into account the number of poisonings that never get started to begin with b/c of preventative care.

Basic needs support really needed in the community and they're trying to fill that gap. Focus is on people with a need for a high level of service, crisis level services like police and paramedics, plus they're dealing with homelessness and other issues. (Reference to tier 4/5)

	H&H Table \$450k	HART Hub
Funding source	City of Guelph	MOH
Outcome	Fund a short-term daytime service gap AND build long-term plan with budget to come back to council	Submit HART Hub application for tier 4/5 by Oct 18th.
Gap addressing	Universal, low-barrier access to daytime service, including basic needs supports	People who are medically complex that are cycling in crisis. Addressing crisis stabilization for substance use health, mental health and physical health.

Working group: Guelph CHC, County of Wellington, CMHA - WW, Wyndham House, Stonehenge, WDG Public Health, Guelph General Hospital
Homewood Health Centre, Guelph Wellington OHT,
Rural Wellington Community Team, Groves and North Wellington Hospitals, Guelph Police, and EMS.

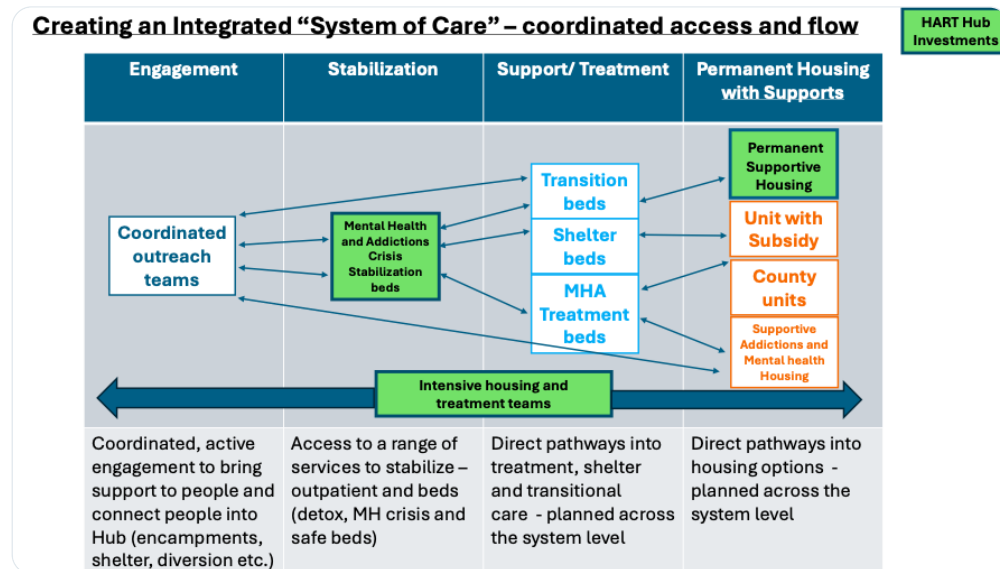
The goal is to focus on stabilisation to get people to the next level of care:

Addressing know gaps: Building on OHT & Health and Housing work

GW HART Hub for Tier 4/5 Youth and Adults who are medically complex

Intensive Housing and Treatment Teams	HEALTH: Adding new treatment bed capacity	HOUSING: Adding new Permanent Supportive Housing capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attaching 1500 clients with wrap-around support Flow with clients no matter where they are on the continuum Clinical and housing staff working together Focus on matching to holistic treatment and housing solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detox beds Crisis stabilization beds Focus is on stabilization so the team can connect the client with the next, right level of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on prioritized access for HART hub clients Dedicated funding to create as much new capacity as possible

How it will flow:



Next phases:

Engagement with groups in the area

Application is due Oct 25 now, not the 18th. Cities with CTses getting an extra week.

Cllr Busuttill asks if they have to have the beds on the side where people are getting treatment? Kwiatkowski says they're figuring that out, abut if they can't get it all on the same site, they are looking at integrated pathways.

Can't build new building or do renos, but there is capital funds that can be used. This is uncertain though. Parts of services may be co-located, and they're still assessing a number of options.

Busuttill: How does this housing magically happen?

Kwiatkowski: We don't have confirmation of amount of capital that *might* be available, but there are options what can be done with the money and what can be done it time.

Social Services Admin Artuso says that housing manager needs to support a letter of support with the application, and they're looking at creative ways to look at current stock and using

\$1.3 million in funding. Got to be net new, and should have info by end of month.

Cllr O'Rourke asks how many net new units. Artuso says that's tricky, what does \$1.3 million buy? There will be Guelph units and County units, but. they just had a meeting about this yesterday and there's a working group looking at it.

Kwiatkowski says these are being labelled "demonstration projects" and there's only 3 years of funding. Hence no new buildings and no major renos, have to see what they can do with existing buildings.

O'Rourke says she's speechless.

Cllr Bulmer says he has the question, "Transition to where" and that seems to be common concern. He asks if needle collection and drug testing will be part of this. Kwiatkowski says no CTS, safe supply or needle exchange allowed. CHC runs all those.

Kwiatkowski says they're waiting for clarity about whether or not they can run those services out of the same building as a HART Hub or if they will have to relocate.

She says these are important inputs for health info, 20% make different decision in drug checking program and that's data that will also be lost if CHC can no longer do them.

Bulmer asks what it might look like if CHC loses those services, what's the impact?

Kwiatkowski says it's hard to say, more demand on EMS for sure, and CTS numbers have gone down in the last few weeks so users are internalizing the ONgov position. Already seen 2 health alerts.

Kwiatkowski says that there are a lot of people who are going to be dragged into the community response.

Cllr Downer asks about keeping CTS open. Kwiatkowski says funding ends on Mar 31, but they would need to find new location, re-apply to the feds, and securing an alternate source of funding, and that's the biggest hurdle. Would want an integrated care setting though.

O'Rourke says CTS is a health seeking behaviour, a place of referral (44/month sent for treatment), will there be restraints for location? Kwiatkowski says she's hasn't heard about those for the HART Hub, worked for 4 years on health hub, but where this is exciting is housing.

Kwiatkowski: Yes, there are some ingredients that are being excluded, but there are still a lot of ingredients left. They will also be bringing the youth housing at Wyndham House into this.

Anderson says if there's a positive, it's that there's a lot of expertise that's been pulled together on this.

Cllr Duncan asks if they find a funder, so they still need permission from the ONgov to run a CTS? Kwiatkowski says needle exchange funding is not ending, they just can't offer it at the Hub, that's a gold standard of health service.

CTS passed a while series of requirements to get through with funding, but the exemption comes from the federal government. The only thing the ONgov could do is make it illegal to run one, and SCOC ruled that unconstitutional.

Duncan asks about money. Kwiatkowski says the Call for Proposals list \$6 million/hub.

Report received for information.

Next, 65 Delhi St. Transitional Housing Construction Project. Kevin Mulholland, Construction & Property Manager says it's moving along well. Paving begins next week and finishing trades are working inside. Near the finish line.

O'Rourke asks about occupancy date. Mulholland says it will be ready to occupy by December, but he's not in charge of occupation. Artuso says they signed a letter of intent with the group that will running it, and there's 2024 funding for staffing. Looking at Jan 2025.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of September 30, 2024. Shauna Calder, Manager of Finance notes that OW has some savings, but tracking close to budget even with higher caseloads (those funded ONgov)

There are some variances in childcare, but most of them absorbed by the costs to the feds. In Housing, there's a neg variance in supplies and equipment and a couple of other areas, mostly its the set up of Norfolk temp housing and winter response.

Caulder says they do expect to receive winter response funding from the feds, and that will probably be announced in November.

Busttil asks about increased staff need, anything that can offset those costs. Caulder says that they're not aware of any. It's the worst case scenario.

O'Rourke asks if Caulder has separated out the grant money in case funds lost from the other Govs. Caulder says they do that in the full financial reports, but they streamline everything in these reports to be concise.

Motion That the JSSLAC recommend to County Council that the Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of September 30, 2024, for Social Services is approved.

Next, Children's Early Years 2025 User Fees and Charges. Caulder says this coming forward a month early to give parents notice of the changes, though they shouldn't be too made since all the changes are going down.<https://pub-wellington.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=837f3e02-9a41-4871-9039-317bc5f65b5c&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=21&Tab=attachments>

Busuttil asks about changes to funding. Mandy Koroniak, Director of Children's Early Years says that in 2025 the funding model will change to be based on cost of service and not fee based. That's part of Canada – Ontario Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agrmt.

Recommendation:

That the attached 2025 User Fees and Charges for Children's Early Years be approved.

Carried.

Next, Impact from Closure of Guelph Consumption and Treatment Services Site. DCAO Clack-Bush says that there's not much to add, and the report speaks for itself. At a high level, they still don't know what the full impact will be but are committed to responding.

Bulmer says that this would have been the fifth meeting with nothing from the City about paramedics w/o this requested report. Would like some more regularity. Clack-Bush said she's provided a schedule to the clerk and there will be 7 reports over 6 months coming up.

Clack-Bush notes that there is a different level of operational reporting at the City, so they are trying to fit with that. But there's lots of stuff coming up on KPIs, levels of service, and financial reporting.

Cork agrees saying that there's been a "vacuum of information" on paramedics and it's important to get that info. Realises that this isn't the way it's done at the City but this is not the City. We can't have questions without the information.

Clack-Bush says she will be here at every meeting and pull in staff as needed, not just Chief Dewar. She also said that they previously invited Dewar under old gov't structure and they're trying to be cognisant of levels of report to Guelph council. Needed to work thru it.

On the report, Duncan says that the report was not self-explanatory, because they asked for impact and they still don't know what it will be. Can they get a follow up about the steps if there are higher number of calls?

Busuttill asks if Duncan is asking for a draft response plan, and he says not really a plan, but maybe an indication of how they'll respond. Clack-Bush says again they don't know what the impact will be, and they used best info available. Doesn't want to commit to speculation.

Responding to service levels, that's something they have to monitor like they did with COVID or offload delays, but there's no linear equation because they have to look at these things in a cross-system way.

Mayor Guthrie says it's a valid question, is the City able to move quickly as circumstances change? Guthrie says he's already asked as part of budget process and there's a collective admin and council keeping eyes on this.

Guthrie says there will be a delay if they have to get more paramedics onboard, but there comes a moment to move the City is ready to move. Guelph would never ignore a situation in the name of safety in the city and the county.

Anderson says there are a lot of unknowns with the transition to Hart Hubs and Guthrie agrees. Asks if the County side could come up with a list of expectations for paramedic reporting that they'd like to see, that might help too.

Bulmer says that's why they asked for the schedule of reports to come on the next agenda. No one wants work just dropped at the door. He was hoping to see what Guthrie described: If the wheels fall off the bus, so to speak, how will the City respond?

Bulmer says there's a lot of data from around Canada to give us some indication of the post-CTS impact, and he would like to see some level of adaption built into the system. CAO Baker says they'll start bringing those quarterly financials to give committee big picture.

Baker adds that this is all new to them, including the new budget process, and there will be annual reporting on KPIs and other things that will on future agendas.

Downer notes that Kwiatkowski said that they don't know what all components might go away, there's still a question mark about safer supply. The question should be how will we get the data to know how to respond and not just how to respond.

Clack-Bush said it might be helpful to send report schedule out to committee before next week's meeting too, and that will help members formulate their questions.

Cllr Ballantyne says that she appreciates that no one has a crystal ball, but there are experts who can formulate a best, medium and worst case scenario. It makes sense to put something like that together now so they don't have to start from zero later.

Guthrie says he's favour of the Hubs, but he's not blind to the impacts of CTS, and it's good that we're talking about it. He takes this feedback seriously, and there will be more opportunities for feedback as the draft budget is released.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, The Value of Licensed Child Care, which you can read in it's entirety here: Koroniak says that its meant to tell the full story of childcare beyond the availability. <https://pub-wellington.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12595>

O'Rourke calls it an excellent report, is there a plan to share it more broadly? Koroniak says the report will be made available thru County website and Ministry of Education, but she will ask comms team about spreading it further.

Busuttil asks about informing planning priorities. Koroniak says they evaluate applications on various components, incl. location, and the way the program might address flexible options (of which there aren't many), much of the work already incorporated.

Ballantyne suggest sending the MPPs for areas with low childcare numbers a copy of the report with the highlight numbers so that they can see where the gaps are to get capital funding.

Artuso says the first time they got this report was 2016 and the County was at 1% and the goal was to have one 0-4 years childcare for every municipality and they got there. She also notes that the big issue in Puslinch is land, no school land they can use so looking @ community.

Motion to receive the report for information approved.

Next, Social Housing Stock and the Centralized Waiting List. Paul Skinner, Interim Director of Housing Services, highlights that community housing providers have most 2-3 bedroom units, and centralised waitlist has 32 individuals waiting for accessible units out of 23 available.

There's also a significant need for 1 bedroom/bachelor and larger family units, but also because of low turnover there's a general need for all kinds of units.

Busuttil asks about people who maybe over-housed, have they talked to agencies about that? Skinner says overhousing is one issue, but it's an internal matter and not new. Most

providers built for families, not individuals.

Guthrie asks the wait for people trying to escape trafficking or IPV. Skinner says special priority status takes precedent, top priority. They allocate units as they become available, service partners working actively, but time of move is the most vulnerable time

Guthrie asks if there should be dedicated plan to get the length of time on the waitlist down. Skinner says if he means targeting more housing for those victims, that's a matter of investment and that is a priority, though there's intersectional matters.

Artuso says shelters with Women in Crisis are funded through different stream, and they are planning meetings to address the wait list time, which has double to 1 year since pre-pandemic. Children are also a consideration in these matters, and there should be dedicated plan.

Artuso says something formal should come back in the first half of 2025, but note this will require more operating and capital funding.

O'Rourke asks if there's any planning for low income seniors. Skinner says there's a percentage of housing stock dedicated for the use by seniors.

O'Rourke asks if they're working with private developers to expand stock. Skinner says development usually comes through Feds, ONgov

Busuttil says that Community Living is struggling to find housing in the community too, so they should be looped in too.

Motion to receive report for info approved.

Next, Inadequate Ontario Works Assistance Rates. This is the info that was shared at AMO and highlights freezing of OW rates in 2018 and how recipients are buried in a cycle of poverty. Anderson says Cornwall's figures were identical.

Anderson says that there are members of the community that are just over the live from getting OW support to, so the question is where do they go next with advocacy?

Downer asks if they need a better advocacy plan and put this on the radar of local MPPs and not just ministry. Maybe have Guthrie put this on AMO agenda. She also says this is not in the news, so there's a question of how to get it there.

Anderson says it is in the news because people are not able to afford housing because the rates are so low. Downer says that she's not sure that people are making that connection.

Guthrie suggests some kind of combined effort with County staff and City intergovernmental staff. O'Rourke says that they should also go to the opposition leaders and not just focus on ONgov.

Recommendation to receive the report for information. Anderson adds that there needs to be more discussion about how to move forward, ROMA is another opportunity coming soon.

Anderson suggests coming back to the November meeting with more direction. Guthrie suggests the teams from City and County should go away and come up with a combined strategy to suit any advocacy opportunity.

Recommendation to receive the report approved.

One last matter, Correspondence from the City of Guelph dated September 24, 2024. Guthrie says this is a kind of template sent to all outside boards about 4 % increase limits though he knows there will be a couple of boards that will probably come in over that number.

He says take the letter as a respectful request because he knows staff are always on the lookout for efficiencies.

Motion to receive the correspondence for info approved.

That's a wrap for this meeting!



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