

# Community and Social Services Committee (CSSC) Report: February 2024

## **1. Update from February 15, 2024, CSSC meeting: Position Statements on ASH Priorities**

*Meeting Notes are in Appendix A.*

The ASH Board of Directors approved the priorities put forward by CSSC in no particular order at the January 29, 2024, Board meeting (approved motion in Appendix B).

Following the discussion related to the priorities at the Board meeting, a committee member did some research on the meaning of wellness and shared it with the committee through an internal memo. Based on that information, the discussion at the Board meeting and a general acknowledgement that wellness was a nebulous and ever-changing concept, CSSC determined that rather than a position statement on community wellness, a vision statement of what community wellness looks like would be more effective and useful. Such a statement will be developed and brought before the ASH Board at a future meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the CSSC Chair provided a potential structure for the position statements, using an incomplete statement related to City of Ottawa Responsibilities as an example (see Appendix C). After discussing the background information that is already available, the CSSC determined that the Chair would provide the committee with the work already accomplished on the priorities, and committee members would take on the research related to one or more of the priorities.

- City of Ottawa Responsibilities
- Deconcentration of Services (review and update)
- Garbage/Waste Management
- Safer Supply
- CTSs and Treatment
- Housing

The CSSC Chair sent the information that is already available and/or collated under separate cover, with the exception of safer supply, which the Chair will take on herself.

The next committee meeting will take place the week of March 11, 2024, at 140 Mann Ave. in the common room. The official date and time are current TBC; however, they will be updated on the website once they have been confirmed.

## **2. Delegations at the City of Ottawa**

The CSSC Chair and committee members did not delegate at the City of Ottawa during the period between meetings.

### **2.1 Upcoming City of Ottawa Meetings**

[eSCRIBE Published Meetings \(escribemeetings.com\)](https://www.escribemeetings.com)

- Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee (Bylaw, EMS oversight) Mar. 21, 9:30 a.m.
- Police Services Board (Police Oversight) Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.; Mar. 25 4 p.m.

- City Council March 6, 10 a.m.; Mar. 20, 10 a.m.
- Board of Health (OPH Oversight) – no meeting in March
- Community Services Committee Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m. – *No need to delegate*; Mar. 26
- Environment and Climate Change Committee Mar. 19, 9:30 a.m.

Agendas for some of these meetings are online. Unavailable agendas are usually available online the week prior to their occurrence. Based on the agendas, the CSSC Chair determines whether a delegation is needed in the context of the CSSC or not. Committee members are then informed of her assessment, invited to challenge that assessment and/or delegate as they see fit.

### **3. Community Liaison Committee Updates**

This month, the CSSC Chair has attended 1 Community Liaison Committee meetings in person. The next meeting will be Tuesday March 19, 2024.

#### **3.1 Administration**

- Rev. Michael Garner and David Hajesz took over from Lorna Lemay and Norm Desjardins as co-Chairs of the SHCLC at the February 20, 2024, meeting of the SHCLC.
- Circle K nominated Cheryl Roper as their representative. She will attend on their behalf moving forward, replacing Sim Kaler.
- Anthony Desloges, representative of Recovery Care in the business representative stakeholder group, resigned the participation of Recovery Care from the CLC.
- Pam Benoît from Sandy Hill Childcare Centre, another business representative, also resigned from the CLC. They will remain a member of the communications network and overall supportive of the work we are doing.
- There are now vacancies in the business representative (3) and indirect service provider/organization (1) stakeholder groups due to the co-Chairs moving into that role and due to the resignation of two business representatives.
- The process that was followed in recruitment over the summer will be respected. Alternates will be approached to fill the vacancies, then potential new committee members will be identified and participate in the same recruitment process.
- THEO student residence, an alternate, has been approached to attend as a business representative.
- Currently, the website has been launched [www.shclc.ca](http://www.shclc.ca); however, one of the external facilitators developed this structure and we do not have login information to make changes. The website is incomplete.

#### **3.2 Actions**

- SHCLC has not yet heard from Health Canada with regard to the application for federal SUAP funding for the proposed CORE Team.
- Service provider representative agreed to share information about how they function and their data with the committee prior to the new year. Rachel Robinson from Belong Ottawa/Centre 454, Kira Mandryk from Ottawa Public Health (OPH),

and Kent Hugh from the Community Engagement Team (CET) presented at this meeting, which was followed by a question-and-answer period. The information shared was enlightening – especially as it relates to service delivery – and the data collected from both CET and OPH was incredibly useful for understanding what is happening in North Sandy Hill in terms of the impact of the toxic drug supply.

The OPH Stop Overdose Ottawa campaign is available here: [Stop Overdose Ottawa - Ottawa Public Health](#). It contains some data alongside information what how to access a wider scope of data.

OPH data is (mostly) available here: [Mental health, addictions and substance use health in the community - Ottawa Public Health](#) or through Open Data, here: [Drug Use and Overdose Statistics - Ottawa Public Health](#)

CET data is not yet online; however, it can be requested.

- Synapcity, Civics Booth Camp [Civics Boot Camp - Synapcity](#)

Through consensus building via email with the SHCLC, two proposed case studies were submitted to the Board of Synapcity for consideration:

- Good Neighbour Commitment (submitted by Oasis with SHCLC support)
- Strategic Priorities (submitted by SHCLC)

Each of the proposed case studies is overseen by a working group. Each working group met prior to the February 6 meeting with the students who had chosen to work on the respective cases studies to strategize, discuss expected outcomes and choose representatives for the meeting with students and a communications strategy to respond to student questions.

Wendy S. led the Good Neighbour Commitment working group. They met on February 2, 2024. They determined that the expected outcome was a draft good neighbour commitment, with different options to address certain priorities in the neighbourhood. She, Sandra M. and Kent H. attended the meeting with students on February 6, 2024.

The CSSC Chair and David H. attended the February 6, 2024, meeting with students for the Strategic Priorities working group. The January 2024 report to the Board contain details on the meeting they held prior to the student event.

The students from the Good Neighbour Commitment working group requested a meeting with the committee and a tour of Oasis. That occurred on Tuesday February 13, 2024. Committee members who attended were Wendy, the CSSC Chair, Melva, Andy, and Sandra. The discussion was fruitful in terms of ensuring they understood the desired outcomes of the study, the background information and how the CTS works.

Synapcity added committee members from both committees to the Slack app that the students are using to communicate. As such, the CSSC Chair and Wendy have access to the students quickly. This provides a forum for questions that we can then take back to the SHCLC.

#### **4. Meetings with Dr. Vera Etches**

The next meeting is schedule for March 27, 2024.

#### **5. Meeting with Councillors Plante and Carr**

The CSSC Chair and the Chair of the ASH Board met with Councillor's Plante and Carr on Friday February 9, 2024. After providing significant background information to Councillor Carr, we impressed upon her why we were pushing for the coordination between different City of Ottawa services and departments. She is already working with the mayor's office and the City Manager's office to look into how such context-based coordination could happen.

The CSSC Chair and ASH Chair are now in contact with Councillor Carr as required and she is incredibly helpful. This development is very positive, and we appreciate Councillor Carr's engagement and practical approach to problem-solving.

Updates related to our engagement with Councillor Carr will be integrated into other updates moving forward.

#### **6. Housing**

##### **6.1 Discussions with Housing Services at the City of Ottawa**

Due to the fire on Osgoode St. on February 1, 2024, and the loss of electricity for the neighbourhood, the CSSC Chair was unable to attend the meeting with Kale Brown. A committee member attended; however, they all agreed to reschedule. Kale was leaving for vacation, so they will work to reschedule when he returns.

#### **7. Solid Waste Management**

The advocacy that the CSSC Chair for improved waste management approaches yielded some wonderful results.

##### **7.1 Public Work and the City of Ottawa**

The CSSC Chair has met with Megan from the Public Works GM's office and attended the walkabout with the General Manager of Public Works and different managers for the department, as well as the Councillor's office.

Everyone was incredibly receptive to what we were explaining to them, and the GM offered to come to committee or to the ASH Board meeting to present on what they are doing, what they plan to do and to listen to feedback from us.

The CSSC Chair will continue to collaborate with Megan following that presentation.

## **7.2 Community needs and Belong Ottawa**

The daily clean-up around Centre 454 through the funding provided by the successful Emerging Needs grant has begun. It appears to be successful at the moment. We are looking forward to more collaboration.

## **9. Other Issues**

The CSSC webpage up to date. Here is the link: [Community and Social Services Committee – ASH-ACS](#)

The CSSC Chair was contacted by a reporter on February 22, 2024, to discuss the resignation of Recovery Care from the Sandy Hill Community Liaison Committee and the impact of Recovery Care and Respect Rx on North Sandy Hill and the different community stakeholders, including housed residents, businesses, and pwll/pwud. He was also hoping that the CSSC Chair could help him connect with pwll. However, given the potential for optics to suggest a conflict of interest, she was unable to make such a connection. He will proceed differently. Those discussions may continue, and his research/interviews may result in a news article; however, nothing is guaranteed at this point.

## Appendix A: CSSC Meeting Notes from February 15, 2024

Meeting began at 6:45 p.m. at 140 Mann Ave., Ottawa, ON

**Attendees:** Calla Barnett (Chair), Reza Movarekhi, Sophie Movarekhi, Bruce Levine, Margaret Grouin, Anya Fraser, Anne Alper

### **Chair's Update**

The CSSC Chair was pleased to announce that the website had been updated.

She provided an overview of her meetings with the GMs office as Public Works and the walkabout with Solid Waste, Public Works and the Councillor's office. There is interest from them to present at the upcoming ASH Board meeting to discuss what is being done, and what can be done moving forward. This will help us to identify gaps in service and make specific requests.

The CSSC Chair provided an update on the January 27 meeting with OPH Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Vera Etches.

The CSSC Chair provided an update on her meeting with Councillors Carr and Plante, and ASH Chair, Louise Lapointe.

The CSSC Chair was unable to attend the meeting with Kale Brown from housing due to the power outage resulting from the first on Osgoode. George was able to attend. He indicated that they simply introduced themselves and chatted. Kale was leaving for vacation shortly after the meeting, so they will re-schedule once he returns to work.

### **Community Liaison Committee Update**

A CLC meeting was not held in the time between the CSSC meetings. The CSSC Chair provided an update on the working groups for the Synacity case studies and the agenda for the meeting on February 20, 2024. Details from that meeting are available in the report (above).

### **Upcoming City of Ottawa Boards and Committees**

The Committee discussed the upcoming meetings at the City of Ottawa; however, agendas were not yet available. The CSSC Chair will keep an eye on the focus of upcoming meetings and let committee members know if there is a reason or opportunity to delegate. The list of City of Ottawa relevant City of Ottawa meetings until March 31 is available in the report to the Board. [eSCRIBE Published Meetings \(escribemeetings.com\)](https://www.escribemeetings.com)

### **CSSC Priorities, Research and Position Statements**

The CSSC priorities were approved, in no particular order, by the ASH Board of Directors. Following the ASH Board discussion related to community wellness, George did some research and suggested to the committee that a position statement may not be possible. Based on the information provided, a type of "vision" statement for community wellness may be more appropriate. This idea will be explored further.

The committee members expressed that they are eager to help and take on some of the work that the CSSC Chair has been doing. She is thrilled. She agreed to send them the information she has gathered and the research that has already been done for the different priorities. The CSSC Chair will continue to focus on Safer Supply research. The rest of the committee will look at what has been done and volunteer to take on different aspects of the work.

More details related to this subject are available in the January 2024 report to the Board of Directors.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the CSSC will take place the week of March 11, 2024, at 140 Mann Ave. Time and date TBC.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m

## Appendix B: Approved Motion: CSSC Priorities

### **Motion to Approve the Priorities Proposed by the Community and Social Services Committee**

**January 29, 2024**

### **Presented by Calla Barnett, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Community and Social Services Committee**

WHEREAS the Community and Social Services Committee (CSSC) held its first meeting on Saturday January 20, 2024;

and WHEREAS during the ASH strategic planning session the Board of Directors requested that committees develop position statements within their scope of mandate;

and WHEREAS the CSSC's mandate includes a number of interrelated matters that need to be addressed separately;

and WHEREAS the CSSC has discussed these matters length and believe that the most effective and efficient way forward will be to develop position statements on the following items:

1. City of Ottawa Responsibilities
2. Deconcentration of Services (review and update
3. Garbage/Waste Management
4. Safer Supply
5. CTSs and Treatment
6. Housing
7. Community Wellness

and WHEREAS sound reasoning has been provided to the ASH Board of Directors in advance of this motion (appended below).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Action Sandy Hill Board of Directors approves the list of priorities proposed by the Community and Social Services Committee.



## Appendix C: Potential Position Statement Structure

### City of Ottawa Responsibilities

<b>The Situation</b>	
<b>Issue description:</b>	<p>The impact of the toxic drug supply in Sandy Hill, and Ward 12, has been tremendous. The City of Ottawa has allowed a select number of harm reduction and frontline service providers to dictate its response to the current overdose crisis, which has put all community members at risk: residents, people with living experience, people who use drugs, people in recovery, refugees, business owners, business employees, service provider employees, and other community stakeholders.</p> <p>Decisions are being made in the siloed City departments that have intersecting impacts on this community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The functional decriminalization of illicit drugs, including fentanyl (AGs Office).</li> <li>2. The ongoing funding of frontline services with no support for community outreach or wellbeing (CSSD).</li> <li>3. Limited enforcement of bylaws, including waste disposal to blocking the public right of way (Bylaw).</li> <li>4. Refusal to intervene for the safety of PWLE/PWUD and/or residents (911 dispatch, some OPS officers, Bylaw).</li> </ol> <p>Inaction on the part of multiple departments since the consumption and treatment sites in Ward 12 opened have created an unsafe environment for all community members, including PWLLE/PWUD who are the target of all these programs.</p> <p>The City of Ottawa is responsible for ensuring the wellness of all members of this community.</p>
<b>Community Impact:</b>	<p>The residents and PWLE/PWUD in the area trust no one, including each other. There is fear, anger, and trauma on all sides.</p> <p>Businesses are losing clients; other services are closing or moving, especially daycares; violence toward residents and PWLE/PWUD is becoming more commonplace; refugees (men, women, children) are exposed to the toxic drug supply and overdose deaths after fleeing war zones; people in recovery who are suffering from homelessness are surrounded by PWUD and a toxic drug supply; women, and Indigenous women in particular, are being trafficked openly; illicit drugs and safer supply medications are being sold and traded on the street; gang activity has increase; <b>MORE IMPACTS</b></p>
<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Action Sandy Hill calls on the institution of the City of Ottawa to empower the following City departments to take the following actions:</b>	

<b>City of Ottawa Departmental Responsibilities</b>	
<b>City Manager's Office:</b>	Coordinate between the different City of Ottawa departments that contribute to the, and can help manage, the impact of the toxic drug supply and overconcentration of social services in Sandy Hill, and Ward 12.
<b>Ottawa Public Health:</b>	Ensure that coordination between the different frontline service providers in Sandy Hill, Ward 12 and across the City of Ottawa is occurring.
	Develop guidelines and best practices to manage the mental and physical health-related impacts of frontline services.
	Include all members of the community in consultations rather than limiting consultation to PWLE/PWUD.
	Ensure that City Councilors are updated when a non-for-profit or for-profit service is planning an operation that could impact the health of the whole community.
	Coordinate with other City of Ottawa departments, with the leadership of the City Managers Office, to ensure that the public health impacts of their decisions are being considered and so that potential negative impacts are mitigated.
<b>Ottawa Police Services:</b>	Focus on protection. Protect residents, protect refugees, protect PWLE/PWUD, protect children.  If there is a drunk person in the middle of the road, protect that person and the drivers who may get into an accident by helping them move.  If there are children playing outside while someone is overdosing (and that person is being helped already), protect the children.
	When a resident, service provider or PWLE/PWUD calls 911, please take us seriously. Send someone quickly. We are calling because we need help. The refusal of dispatch to send help puts all of us at risk.
<b>Bylaw Services</b>	
<b>Bylaw Services</b>	
<b>Public Works</b>	
<b>Community and Social Services Department: Housing</b>	
<b>Community and Social Services Department: Funding Frontline Services</b>	

<b>Community and Social Services Department: Community Engagement</b>	