

# **Community and Social Services Committee (CSSC) Report: October 2023**

## **1. Community and Social Services Committee Paused**

The CSSC Chair have had to pause actual committee meetings and slow down ongoing work due to health issues. The CSSC Chair has an upcoming surgery to address these issues and she is hopeful that she will be able to start holding committee meetings in January 2024. The CSSC Chair had called the first meeting for September 24, 2023; however, her household experienced 2 weeks of illness, including on the planned committee meeting date. She will continue to consult committee members as related items arise for feedback.

## **2. Community Liaison Committee**

This past month, the CSSC Chair has attended 2 Community Liaison Committee meetings - one virtually and one in person. That committee is taking shape nicely. There are some administrative and action updates for that committee.

### **2.1 Administration**

- a draft Terms of Reference has been developed and distributed to CLC members for feedback on two separate occasions.
- the CLC is looking at who from among its members will act as Co-Chairs
- the CLC is looking for volunteers (whether they are committee members or not) who can develop a website to get the communications network up and running.
- The CSSC Chair had intended to provide updates to the community on the ASH website as well; however, that has fallen by the wayside as a result of the aforementioned illness.

### **2.2 Actions**

- There is a pot of federal funding available at the moment under the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) that could fund community-related activities. The proposal is due November 22, 2023.

The CLC has struck a working group to develop proposal ideas for this grant. That working group will meet on Nov. 9, 2023.

Those ideas will be provided to the CLC for consideration. If there is an idea that the committee can support, the volunteers with grant writing experience and other working group members will provide a full proposal to the committee for approval on Nov. 21 at our next meeting.

The CSSC and the ASH Board of Directors will be informed of any updates related to this grant proposal.

If it is approved, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

- The CLC has begun a process of gathering and sorting ideas about how to address the impacts of the toxic drug supply, and safety and security for all stakeholders in Sandy Hill.
  - Brainstormed solutions have been sorted into some categories.
  - More ideas were added as the previous meeting.
  - Next steps will be to identify if those ideas are short, medium or long term solutions. At that point, we will focus on the short-term ideas to determine which ones could/would/will respond to the needs of all community stakeholders. This approach will be repeated for medium- and long-term solution ideas.
  - We will also work to determine if we act directly as a community or if there will be advocacy necessary (or both) and at which level(s) of government.
  - These solutions and ideas will give rise to a strategic plan to guide CLC work.
  
- The City of Ottawa Board of Health will be meeting on November 6. Ottawa Public Health will be tabling a report on their Overdose Response and an updated Overdose Strategy under the Community Safety and Wellbeing pillar. Louise sent a related email requesting input and approval.
  
- A list of CLC members is appended to this report.
  
- Upcoming events:
  - Working Group Meeting: Nov. 9, 2023
  - CLC meeting Nov. 21, 2023

### **3. Upcoming City of Ottawa Board and Committee Budget Meetings**

The CSSC Chair attended a Ward 12 community meeting with Councillor Plante Wednesday October 25, 2023. At least one other CSSC member was there. It was related to strategizing for the budget meetings of different Boards and Committees of the City of Ottawa. She shared her plans with us, and we asked questions. Her office will be providing a write up of their positions related to the different budgets and based on that, we will try to streamline messaging or address any incongruence directly with her office. The CSSC Chair will share the document she receives with CSSC members and the ASH Board of Directors when she receives it.

### **4. Other Issues**

The work related to the CSSC, the CLC and other items is too much work for one Board Member. The CSSC Chair believes that a Co-Chair or Vice Chair for this committee is needed. Please consider whether or not you can participate.

There are a number of website updates that need to be made; however, the CSSC Chair is finding it difficult to do that work at this time given their health status. There is no intentional withholding of information related to the CSSC or the CLC. Information requested can be provided upon request.

### **5. Safe Supply Advocacy**

CSSC members are currently particularly concerned with what is called "safe supply." It is funded by the federal government. The structure of it is very complex and there is a lot of work to be done to prepare to advocate for a change. Based on some very in-depth research executed by CSSC members, the CSSC Chair is working to develop a document (with supporting material) that will help clarify the structure and how/what to advocate for.

## **6. Updates from September 2023**

The CSSC Chair missed the September Board Meeting due to illness. She was unable to provide a report for the same reasons. Additional updates from September 2023 are:

### **6.1 Board of Health**

The CSSC Chair participated in the September 18, 2023, Board of Health meeting, where the Carr motion passed, and a report was presented by Dr. Vera Etches to the Board. She expressed her disappointment that the projects they had undertaken did not include any community consultation or engagement. She expressed additional disappointment that the CLC was not included in the report presented by OPH, even though an OPH representative is a CLC member. She also highlighted many of the issues residents and other community stakeholders have brought up in official and unofficial conversations.

### **6.2 Jericho Road Podcast**

As you know, the CSSC Chair was interviewed for an episode of the podcast Jericho Road alongside Councillor Plante. The podcast episode was released on September 9. These are the public links provided to me:

[jerichoroad.ca/podcast](http://jerichoroad.ca/podcast)

<https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/NwuCvu2ZVCb>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0ep8HPSIVIwFRcppuJvuZ?si=8a2ddf9d81464fc6>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-recovery-connection/id1590452406>

### **6.3 Community Liaison Committee**

Many September 2023 updates included the steps taken to coordinate the CLC. They were included in the overall CLC update under point 2.

## **Appendix A: CLC members**

### **Businesses**

David Hajesz (landlord/resident)

Andrew Peck (Rideau BIA)

Pam Benoît (Sandy Hill Childcare Centre: now closed, moving out of Sandy Hill)

Sim Kaler (Circle K)

Anthony Desloges (Recovery Care)

### **Other Community Stakeholders**

Tania Mohr (Ottawa Public Library)

Robert Paiement (uOttawa Protection Services)

Kira Mandryk (Ottawa Public Health)

Rev. Michael Garner (St. Alban's Church)

Sandra Milton (Lowertown Community Association)

### **Residents Housed**

David McKay (resident/condo owner)

Calla Barnett (ASH/resident/renter)

Rebecca Armstrong (resident)

Scott Williams (resident)

Anya Fraser (resident/homeowner)

### **People with Lived/Living Experience**

*Not everyone on this list attends each meeting. Their last names are purposefully not included to provide them with some anonymity given their vulnerability.*

Jess

Mark

Max

Tiffany

Andrew

Sean

Alex

Sheila

Crystal

Melva

### **Service Providers**

Wendy Stewart (Sandy Hill CHC)

Rachel Robinson (Belong Ottawa/Centre 454)

Peter Tilley (The Mission)

Cts. Paul Stam (Ottawa Police)

Kent Hugh (City of Ottawa Community and Social Services Department/Community Engagement Team)

**Others in Attendance:**

Facilitator: Lorna Lemay (Community Mediation Ottawa)

Facilitator: Norm Desjardins (Community Mediation Ottawa)

Note Taker: Courtney Miller (resident)

Observer: Louise Lapointe (ASH, Chair)

Logistics Support: Gerald Dragon (Sandy Hill CHC)