Sandy Hill Community Liaison Committee – February 20, 2024, Meeting Summary

*Administrative items*

* 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.
* Recovery Care and Sandy Hill Childcare Centre resigned from CLC, leaving 3 vacancies in the business representative stakeholder group. There is also one vacancy in the indirect service provider/organization stakeholder group. **The planning committee is working on screening and onboarding new members. Pre-screened stakeholders will be invited to join while newly identified members will be pre-screened and brought before the committee.**
* Website for SHCLC remains under development even though it is live. Committee members should look at it when they can. The ASH website also contains a page for the SHCLC. Calla updates that site and is open to any feedback. **A direct link will be sent via email to committee members.**
* A request has been made for an updated member and email list to be circulated to the committee (for internal use only). **The planning committee will update and circulate via email.**

*Presentations*

* The majority of the meeting consisted of three presentations by: Rachel Robinson from Belong Ottawa/Centre 454, Kira Mandryk from Ottawa Public Health (OPH), and Kent Hugh from the Community Engagement Team (CET). Copies of the presentations are available. The questions posed by committee members, and responses from the presenters are below. Note that the questions and answers are not verbatim and that they were recorded because the purpose was knowledge sharing and so the knowledge has been recorded.

*Other updates*

* SHCLC continues its work with Synapcity and looks forward to receiving reports on a Good Neighbour Commitment (submitted by Oasis with SHCLC support) and Strategic Priorities (submitted by SHCLC) in March 2024. All SHCLC members have be en invited to the graduation ceremony where these will be presented on March 6, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. **More information about the event will be sent via email.**

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 19, 2024.

Questions and Answers

Are the same numbers being seen at other Belong Ottawa sites?

*No. Issues at 454 are unique due to location and scope of service.*

What are the opportunities to overcome the silo effect on the ground?

*Service providers already work together but hearing that there is a coordination gap.*

How many arenas have we lost to becoming overflow shelters?

*Cannot answer that. Need to follow-up with housing. Calla is working on this with Action Sandy Hill.*

The map provided from Kent’s presentation was very useful, can this version be used by other parties (OPH) to have more accurate tracking?

*Not useful because of the sheer volume of safe injection and inhalation supplies collected by OPH.*

Is the Mobile van also a safer consumption site?

*No.*

For CET: do we know how many safer inhalation devices are handed out and picked up?

*Cannot differentiate between needles and inhalation devices when they are picked with the tools currently available.*

Are drop boxes used for biohazard bins only or also individual needles?

*Both*

Does the mobile van have specific routes throughout the city?

*No. Responds to calls as needed.*

Are staff at Belong feeling unsafe in the current climate?

*Only when someone is smoking inside the bathroom. They feel safe in that space otherwise.*