

JOINT ACCESSIBILITY

COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 3, 2025, 6:00 pm

W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville

Members Present: James Jackson, Vice Chair, Access Orangeville
Trevor Lewis, Access Dufferin
Tammy Limebeer, Access Orangeville
Ric Ugolini, Access Orangeville
David Vahey, Access Dufferin
Kim Van Ryn, Branching Out Support Services & Access Orangeville

Members Absent: Sean Johnson, Chair Access Dufferin (prior notice)

Staff Present: Tony Deluisse, Manager, Transportation & Development, Town of Orangeville
Michelle Hargrave, Administrative Support Specialist
Lovepreet Kaur, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor
Kareema Sookdeo, Manager of Equity
Brenda Wagner, Director of Health and Human Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Equity Manager called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Equity Manager shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Augmentative and Alternative Communication Training

Kim Van Ryn, Branching Out Support Services, provided training regarding augmentative and alternate communication. The training included:

- meaningful access to communication
- the uniqueness of communication styles
- the types of communication (verbal, non-verbal, written, textural, visual, listening/receiving, etc.)
- communication elements (spoken words, voice/tone, body language, etc.)
- neurodiverse communication including language processing, social interaction and expressing/receiving
- what alternative and augmented communication is
- myths and misconceptions about complex communicators
- responding to myths and judgement
- best practices for group meetings, one on one interaction and events

4.2 County-Wide Transit

Brenda Wagner, Director of Health and Human Services, reviewed transit services currently offered by Dufferin County and the work of the County-Wide Transit Ad Hoc Committee.

The Director noted Community Support Services currently offers older adults and residents that are disabled transportation to medical appointments within or outside of the County. Also, the Grey Transit Route, operated by Grey County, runs from Dundalk to Orangeville three times per day at a cost of \$5 per ride. This route is currently contracted with Grey County until June 2025.

Brenda noted Community Support Services will be expanding the transit offered in summer of 2025 to include 4 routes to take older adults and those with mobility challenges from their door to shopping and pharmacy locations within the County. Grey County has also applied for funding to continue the Dundalk to Orangeville transit route. Also, Grey County, Dufferin County and Bruce County have applied for funding to conduct a region wide transit study to discover solutions for transit in the area. This study will involve public engagement and opportunities to provide input will be sent to the accessibility committees.

5. NEXT MEETING

To be announced (Fall 2025)

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.