

## **HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE**

### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 24, 2025, 5:00 pm**

**W & M Edelbrock Centre, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville**

Members Present: Yvonne Balakar  
Sabrina Dabovic  
Grace Duchemin  
Sherri Plourde  
Councillor James McLean (Melancthon), Vice Chair (arrived at 5:06 pm)  
Councillor Lisa Post (Orangeville), Chair

Members Absent: Terrance Carter (prior notice)  
Heather Hayes (prior notice)

Staff Present: Carol Barber, Housing Services Manager  
James Cassidy, Ontario Works Manager  
Brenda Wagner, Director of Health and Human Services  
Michelle Hargrave, Administrative Support Specialist

---

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

#### **2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

The Chair shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

#### **3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

#### **4. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **4.1 Housing and Homelessness Programs**

Councillor James McLean joined the meeting at 5:06 pm.

Carol Barber, Housing Services Manager, and James Cassidy, Ontario Works Manager, provided presentations on the housing and homelessness programs at Dufferin County.

Carol provided an overview of the following:

- housing portfolio, including the number of units, units designated for seniors, rent gear to income units, affordable units and market units
- rent supplement portfolio, including how staff support the landlord tenant relationships
- Housing Access Dufferin waitlist, including the number of applicants on the waitlist and how the priority applications from the Special Priority Program and By-Name List are handled
- Homelessness Prevention Program aimed at preventing homelessness, addressing homelessness, and reducing chronic homelessness
- agreement with Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP) for the County to fund a Housing Stability Specialist to support individuals
- 236 First Street Support Housing program
- Out of the Cold and Motel programs
- UrHome Program to help residents secure or maintain housing through the Homelessness Prevent Program
- Homelessness Prevention Housing Allowance
- Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (CHOB)
- Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

- Chronic Homeless Housing Allowance Program (CHHAP)
- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

Chair Post left the meeting at 5:45 pm and Vice Chair McLean took over chairing the meeting.

James provided an overview of the Ontario Works Division including:

- how the program works
- number of Ontario works files (897) supporting 1,070 individuals in Dufferin
- amount of financial supports available
- staffing compliment in the Division
- Reaching Home Program & the funded projects (Landlord Liaison, Choice Shelter & Support Services, Family Transition Place)
- involve with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and Built for Zero
- Community Advisory Board (CAB) representation, service providers and goals
- Coordinated Access Table (CAT) working group goals and supports

#### **4.2 Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) Report Discussion**

The Task Force reviewed the recommendations made in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) report, Municipalities Under Pressure: The Growing Human and Financial Cost of Ontario's Homelessness Crisis.

Members discussed how the Master Housing Strategy could support the recommendations from the AMO report and what County priorities could be. Feedback included:

- using a holistic approach
- need to include short term and long term supports
- more homelessness prevention measures

- different housing options (tiny homes, shipping container homes, cohabitating, shed conversions, accessory dwelling units)
- remove barriers that applicants face
- consider how health and justice systems contribute to homelessness
- service provider supports
- explore partnerships to create more affordable and attainable housing options
- review risk factors and preventative measures across the housing continuum

#### **4.3 Follow Up for Next Meeting**

- Discussion in regards to scheduling service providers/stakeholders presentations to the task force – i.e. who, when
  - educational presentations will continue
- Workplan with timelines to keep the group on a schedule to achieve recommendations in time for the budget preparation
  - generate an action oriented draft workplan and rough timelines
  - conduct interviews with social service providers and people with lived experience, connect with Voices Coordinator
  - investigate how different systems interact to support
- Update report to Council

#### **5. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, May 22, 2025

W & M Edelbrock Centre, Edelbrock Room, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.