

# Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service System Planning Forum

## December 14, 2022

**Date and time:** December 14, 2022; 10:00am – 12:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82549827829>

### 1. SSHA Items and Updates

- Update on **SSHA's Winter Plan** by Anabella Wainberg, Manager Quality Assurance, SSHA & Ashley Holland, Manager Homelessness Initiatives, SSHA
- There will be more than 1000+ new spaces added this winter season to the shelter system including 100 hotel rooms for refugees.
- Physical distancing will be reduced from 2 metres to 1.25 metres between beds at base shelter sites (approx. 500 additional beds will be added, with 377 beds activated to date).
- We will continue IPAC measures including the mask mandate in all our shelters, and we will continue to operate the Isolation and Recovery site (IRS).
- Over 4200 staff have been trained on IPAC management.
- Update on Warming Centres: there are two confirmed locations: Metro Hall and Scarborough Civic Centre, and SSHA continues to explore additional sites for warming centre spaces.
- TTC will be supporting our warming centre locations and will be providing free transportation to all our ECWA sites.
- Update on Street Outreach Services: during ECWA, additional street outreach teams will be deployed to provide wellness checks and get people sheltered.
- [Winter Services Plan for People Experiencing Homelessness – City of Toronto](#)
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
  - **Q:** How many people are in the Isolation and Recovery site at the moment? Is there a rise in numbers?
  - **A:** We will follow-up on the numbers currently at the IRS.
- **SMIS Gender Identity Consultations** by Lauren Kimura, Policy Development Officer, SSHA & Chris Webb, Research Analyst, SSHA
- We will be hosting a SMIS Gender Identity Consultation in January 2023 for the purpose of revising the gender identity question in SMIS. The current gender identity field options are limited and non-inclusive.
- This consultation will help us provide a policy recommendation on revisions to the gender identity field, and the implementation plan.
- This consultation will give us the opportunity for feedback and highlight potential challenges to implement changes to the gender identity field in SMIS. The consultation will be based on research and best practices.
- We are asking for input from regular SMIS users, from staff at the DOS and POS shelter sites.
- The consultation will take place on January 12, 10 am until 11 am. Please send an email if you want to participate in consultation.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*

- **Q:** Covenant House has consulted with young people and we have some helpful feedback from them we would be happy to share.
- **A:** Thank you!

## 2. Housing Secretariat Items and Updates

- Update on **Supportive Housing** by Matt Hilder & Mercedeh Madani, Program Policy, Housing Secretariat
- Update on the current plan: 24-Month COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Recovery Response Plan, and the new 2023/2024 plan.
- The 24-Month COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Recovery Response Plan (2021 – 2022) has secured 2300+ supportive housing to-date: [Housing Response Plan \(toronto.ca\)](#)
- This was an inter-governmental effort provided by the federal government's ongoing commitment through the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI): [Rapid Housing Initiative | CMHC \(cmhc-schl.gc.ca\)](#)
- City Council adopted the new plan for 2023/2024 in May 2022, to rapidly create 4000 new affordable and supportive homes.
- The goal is to net new capital and operating investments, by creating awareness and needed supports required from the provincial and federal governments.
- In November 2022, the federal government announced the third phase of the Rapid Housing Initiative with an investment of \$1.5 billion to create new affordable homes within 18 month timeframe.
- Within the third phase of the RHI, there will be two funding streams: Projects Stream (\$1 billion) and Cities Streams (\$500 million). The City of Toronto can apply to both streams.
- CMHC has set affordability and population targets for funding.
- RHI 3 timelines will be based on an 18 month completion (December 15, 2024). This has been extended beyond the previous 12 month timeline.
- Next steps: we will reach out to TAEH in preparation for the City's investment plan and CMHC RHI Phase 3 application.
- Key point: this is not just a City of Toronto plan. It is based upon partnerships. We are asking our partners to please bring projects that were not funded during phase 1 or 2. Our goal is to show the need and funding opportunities in Toronto. This will help our case when applying for additional funding and supports.
- Progress on Supportive Housing: [Housing & Homelessness Research & Reports – City of Toronto](#)
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*

## 3. Community Presentation: Making Better Lives

- Presentation on the **Opening a Bank Account Protocol Document** Co-Development by Making Better Lives & Streets to Homes, Kathy McKay
- We are a Toronto based non-profit company: the Better Lives Digital Platform and the Better Lives App (24.7 digital tool): [Making Better Lives](#)
- There are three user groups and each user group will have their own sections: 1. those who are experiencing homelessness (a digital tool to help connect with social workers, and resources), 2. housing and social services providers & their

support workers (a digital tool to help staff facilitate needed services and resources to support clients), 3. the citizen (a digital tool to help the community through various methods of donation and resources).

- The goal is to provide life stabilization support services, access to all of the resources and services that people experiencing homelessness need.
- We have collaborative working groups that have the tools and resources to build this digital platform. With these working groups, we are co-developing solutions for digital, financial and social inclusion.
- We can't do this without Toronto housing and homelessness community members. We are looking for participants to help reach our goals.
- The goal is to reduce some of the barriers that prevent people from getting a bank account.
- Next steps: Working with CMHC to create a joint-venture, partnership to tackle these problems, and to help people obtain the resources. To eliminate the need for browsing or searching. We try to understand the needs and barriers of the three user groups. We can't do this this work without our partnerships and community support.
- We are asking for you to become part of our user groups, project working groups, test pilots and/or development phases.
- We are 100% inclusive with community and collaborative effort.
- If you are interested, please make a connection with me: [katmuk1@gmail.com](mailto:katmuk1@gmail.com)
- We are not trying to reinvent the wheel but instead tell us how we can help.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
  - **Q:** From Daily Bread Food Bank: How can we help on the particular issue of food programs?
  - **A:** We certainly have a couple of things that we would like to talk to Daily Bread Food Bank.
  
  - **Q:** How would you like us to reach out to you if we are interested? How can we provide information about this service locally? How do we get in touch with you?
  - **A:** If you have a particular focus and/or experiences you would like to share, please let me know. There are various initiatives and working groups that you could be involved in.
  
  - **Q:** How does this digital platform keep things up-to-date?
  - **A:** Constant user group interaction will help with this problem.

#### 4. TAEH Updates (Savhanna Wilson, TAEH)

- Update on the **Working Group 2023 Launch** and opportunities for involvement.
- There are five working groups: three active and two launching in the New Year: coordinated access sub-committee, housing development, supportive housing growth plan integration, policy and advocacy, and equity and anti-oppression.
- If you want more information, connect with Savannah directly.
- Please reach out if there is a particular policy piece or research that you want to make recommendations on.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*

**5. Other Business** (Savhanna Wilson, TAEH)

- **2023 THSP Forum Structure**

- Housing secretariat will be taking on a more active role in 2023 and there will be a change to standard agenda: 1 hour will be for SSHA/HS updates, then there will be a focus on community voices (we will be inviting the community to have a more active role).
- We will be sending out an environmental scan survey in January to determine what are the current concerns from the sector? What is happening in the community that we want to see amplified or highlighted?
- If you have a community voice invitation and/or a community update, please send an email to [savhanna@taeh.ca](mailto:savhanna@taeh.ca)
- We will also be rotating chair positions.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday January 11, 2022, 10:00 am -12:00 pm

**Zoom:**