

# Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service System Planning Forum

## June 8, 2022

**Date and time:** June 8, 2022; 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89213891956>

### 1. Land Recognition

#### Celebrating Indigenous History & Pride Months

- Kira Heineck shared two videos in recognition and celebration of celebrating Indigenous history and Pride months:
  - [Awakenings - We Were Always Here](#), by Jonathan Elliot
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxknhL5nBeA> - about Marsha P. Johnson in honour of Pride Month

### 2. SSHA updates

#### Laural Raine, Director, Service Planning and Integrity, SSHA

- Laural shared slides on a Shelter System Update (see presentation).

Q: Do we have stats on users experiencing homelessness using Rent Café?

A: In slide showed by Laural, one of groups listed in housing options is CWL-DA (waiting list priority for people experiencing homelessness). We can only track that priority – but there may be others. We expect those numbers to increase as people are being enrolled.

Q: Do we know the difference between old system and new Rent Café?

A: We don't have that data yet. But we're hoping overall uptake goes up. There are challenges with getting people enrolled in the system.

Q: Do we anticipate any increased federal funding for needs of refugees?

A: The City has had some positive commitments from federal government. Funding was included in the Council approved budget for refugee programs. We now have some commitment from federal government but will work out details on how much, but they've committed to continuing program. In the past, the City expends program and then requests funding retroactively. We've asked for more upfront funding for us to better plan.

Q: Woodgreen was approached by IRCC to submit proposal for funding to support Ukrainians.

A: There are people who arrive in country and then claim refugee status. There are other programs by federal government for different categories that aren't part of City's system.

Q: Balancing between refugees and also people who already are here and have needs.

A: Acknowledging two distinct needs and different kinds of pressures and services. Appropriate supports that meet needs.

Debbie sharing: Refugee claimants ineligible in COHB until they get SIN, and because of delays in asylum seeking process people aren't getting their numbers for months. People can't move out of shelters.

Q: Is THAP still in affect? Thought COHB replaced it? Because refugees are eligible for THAP – depends which government is funding it and what requirements are.

A: Now it's just for people in the program but it's being phased out, and will be just COHB.

Q: People aren't receiving help at the Access to Housing In-Person Resource Centre at 176 Elm Street.

A: We continue to take feedback and try to resolve issues. Understand that Elm Street is now open for in person supports. There is a process to [book appointments](#), you can also walk in to receive service if space is available.

Q: Is the cut-off date firm for July for Access to Housing applications?

Q: Elm Street aren't spending time to assist people with software

Q: How do people without technology book an appointment? Should be drop-in

Q: Clients don't always have access to computers

A: We will reach out to have someone from Access to Housing at the next Forum to speak to applications and supports available for clients.

### **3. Seniors issues in housing and homelessness**

Panel and discussion issues with:

**Andrea Austen**, Manager, Seniors Services and Community Programs, City of Toronto

**Lindor Uygur**, Director, LOFT Community Services

**Frances MacNeil**, Community Living Toronto

**Stephanie Malcher**, Manager, Coordinated Access, SSHA

Andrea Austen - no presentation

- Coming up with Senior's strategy was more collaborative in version 2.0
- Senior Strategy Accountability Table.
- Homeshare pilot. City funded for a year, but now got CMHC funding. Incredibly successful.
- New role – Council took Long Term Care Division and expanded the mandate.
- Integrated service models in 83 seniors buildings (Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation) we oversee and evaluate it by collecting data from new corporation

Lindor Uygur, Loft Community Services - see presentation

Frances MacNeil – see presentation

Steph Malcher – see presentation

**Next meeting:** July 13, 2022, 10:00am-12:00pm

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89213891956>