

Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service System Planning Forum Notes

October 6, 2021

Toronto Shelter System Flow Data (Heath Priston, SSHA) (presentation)

- How do we access the data?
 - Can access data on city's website and there's an open data link
 - Trying to have everyone who is experiencing homelessness
 - (Shared definitions of inflow, outflow, types of people interacting with the shelter system)
- How do we use the data?
 - Depends on quality of the data we collect
 - Want homelessness to be:
 - rare (low # of people newly identified as homeless)
 - brief (people moved to permanent housing)
 - has been very challenging – people moving has been declining month over month (not good)
 - non-recurring (people returned from permanent housing)
 - August over 100 for the first time (not good)
 - Showed how the open data can be analyzed to look at different population groups
 - Hidden homelessness groups will continue to be a challenge
 - Plan was to integrate streets to homes data with shelter data – but that has been on the city's to-do list for a number of years. We're in the process of having development team working on next iteration of SMIS which we want to use for both bedded programs and service programs (ex s2h) to track. Streets to homes also a different service environment when you're outside trying to build trust how to then collect info at the right time

Housing Secretariat updates (Valesa Faria, Housing Secretariat) (no presentation)

- Supported by RHI, well on track to delivering large number of supportive homes
- To date, estimating to deliver approx. 964 homes to be opened by end of December 2021. Some of these are already open (877 Yonge street, 88 units renovated and are occupied, 2 modular housing sites are opened operated by TNG and Cota)
- Additional 250+ by March 2022

New activity and updates:

- July federal government committed more funding through RHI. We're required to deliver 233 new units (net new)
- Council last Friday also approved staff report, gave us authorities for phase 2 RHI
- In addition to 132m guaranteed allocation, working with non-profit sector requested additional allocation from federal government.
- Submitted allocation (working with CMHC) for 19 projects across city, 1000 units
- Indigenous specific funding, working with our partners

What's upcoming over next few months:

- Inclusionary zoning and new definition of affordable housing.

- Currently working to bring two reports to planning & housing committee meeting at end of October, those will go to Nov 9-10 meeting at city council
- Update on housing now initiative – activates city owned sites (17) transit rich sites close to major transit stations. Mixed income/mixed use complete communities.
- Housing TO annual update report. December 15th council meeting.
- 10 year housing plan robust in targets, will provide council with an update with where we're at in the targets. Rising evictions in the city as a direct result of covid, recommending any mitigation strategies as part of that report,
- RFP issued for 3 sites, groups will have the option to bid for one or multiple.
- Mixed use/mixed income communities with units at different levels of AMR vs RHI which is strictly all supportive housing, not looking for any mixed market/affordable, recognizing that operators will also need top-up through government funding rent supplements
- Housing now – minimum of 10% at 80%? AMR and others at 60% AMR. Seen 3 sites at the market we're close to announcing successful proponents for those sites. We'll achieve more than 10% supportive housing target.
- Some sites for non-profit housing providers, others strictly for indigenous housing providers, some rent control approved, also been able to push partnerships between non-profits and private sector so for future sites can really dictate which partners the private sector will partner with. City has priority groups we're prioritizing

Update on common assessment tool (Paulina Vivanco, SSHA) (presentation)

Implementing a common assessment tool:

1. Intake and triage
 - Pilot at 14 sites
2. Housing assessment
 - Centralized on SMIS
 - Housing application and supporting documentation, preferences, support resources
3. Comprehensive needs assessment
 - Want to build this into SMIS in Q1 2022
 - Assess the types, frequency, and intensity of supports a person may need

Client journey

- Prevention and diversion
- Encounter with homelessness services
- STARS Intake and Triage
- STARS housing assessment
- STARS comprehensive needs assessment

Development partners

- TICAB
- TAEH
- STARS common assessment tool advisory committee
- STARS comprehensive needs assessment working group

Training next steps