

Supporting organizations working to improve health outcomes and housing supports for Calgarians experiencing chronic homelessness.

INTRODUCTION

Collaborative work allows communities to accomplish together what individual organizations cannot do alone. These highlights demonstrate just some of the incredible work that this community has accomplished and what work is currently being done. We look forward to providing you with a quarterly update to continue celebrating the work.

CHH EVALUATION REPORT RESULTS

CHH engaged Constellation Consulting Group to conduct an evaluation through a survey assessing CHH's impact on the community. Notable results included:

- ↑ An improvement in the perception of the Steering Committee's effectiveness
- ↑ An improvement in open communication within CHH
- ↑ An improvement in the perceived value of time spent at CHH/doing CHH work
- ↓ A decrease number of respondents who believe that CHH has the right working groups to carry out the objectives/outcomes of the collaborative

A copy of the results can be seen by emailing Sara.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN WORKING GROUP

The Women and Children Working Group (WCWG) continues it's work towards five different goals with the aim of supporting women's unique needs while experiencing homelessness. Improving information available to support women when choosing family planning options, collaborating with the singles-sector to distribute and develop training for staff to help support pregnant women, as well as participate in a city-wide collaboration table to provide wrap-around supports during pregnancy are all moving from the design phase of the work and into the implementation phase.

INDIVIDUALIZED CARE PLANNING THROUGH MANAGED ALCOHOL COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

In collaboration with Peter Coyle Place, The Alex, and Alberta Health Services, this event aimed to develop a shared understanding of how to support clients through a managed alcohol program (MAP) approach framed within a risk-environment framework. Building from the perspective that part of supporting individuals in reducing harm from drinking is working on creating an environment that reduces harm in addition to working with the individual themselves. The goal was participants walked away from this event with a more comprehensive perspective of how a team can approach and implement MAP.

We were thrilled to have a number of speakers discuss the benefits of implementing a MAP approach as well as the logistics of how this can be done in programs. Our speakers included:

- Sarah Sandall of Calgary Alpha House Society
- Kyle Mack of Peter Coyle Place
- Dr. Meera Grover
- Kathy Renkas of Carewest Rouleau Manor
- Linda Strakowski of Carewest Rouleau Manor

CURRENT PROJECTS

Through March 2020 CHH will continue to focus its efforts on the following Strategic Priorities:

- ⇒ Consistent and appropriate community health and housing supports upon discharge from hospitals or jail for chronically homeless Calgarians to reduce recidivism with emergency services. This work is being done in partnership with Alberta Health Services, Calgary Police Services, and community organizations.
- ⇒ Robust and efficient shared planning approaches between community health and housing services regarding physical and mental health concerns for chronically homeless Calgarians. The Collaborative Services Delivery Cluster (CSDC) group is working towards creating a system where clients can easily have their immediate needs met by multiple organizations simultaneously through easier information sharing.
- ⇒ System-wide coordinated responses for lifespan healthcare for women, including during pregnancy, experiencing chronic homelessness through peer or professional navigation. Building off the work of the Perinatal Substance Use Symposium, the Women and Children Working group is set to move forward on new strategies.
- ⇒ Sufficient, low barrier resources for harm reduction initiatives that assist chronically homeless Calgarians who use substances. There is a continued focus on supporting Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) and Managed Alcohol Programs (MAP) through information sharing and capacity development.
- ⇒ Indigenous cultural practices which are embedded into all aspects of programming for Indigenous peoples with complex issues related to addiction and intergenerational trauma. CHH will continue to support ASCHH in identifying structures for culturally informed approaches to client services.

CURRENT PROJECTS

CSDC & ETHICS PROJECTS

The Collaborative Services Delivery Cluster (CSDC) project and the Ethics project are in full swing with regular meetings to:

- Continue seeking community input
- Continue seeking the perspectives of persons with lived experience
- Answer any questions regarding either project

ONGOING WORK

WANT TO JOIN OUR PROJECTS?

CHH's work cannot happen without the time that our stakeholders generously put into the projects. If you want to learn more about any current projects or explore additional opportunities for collaboration, feel free to reach out to Sara (saram@calgaryhomeless.com) at any time!

MOVING FORWARD