



Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 27th, 2017

SCHEDULE

CLC Meeting 6:00p.m.- 7:30p.m. (Refreshments & Dinner will be provided by LOFT Kitchen)

Special Guest: Dion Oxford, Advocate and Mission Strategist for The Salvation Army's 5 homeless shelters in Toronto, will be joining us to discuss homelessness services in Toronto from his 25-year plus career.

AGENDA

Community Update

1. Welcome & Review of October 23rd 2017 meeting
 - Spoke about decisions to be made at end of year meeting going forward
 - Re-capped on questions answered by SSHA and Mike Layton at October meeting
 - OCM role is officially over in December 2017
2. Update on Shelter and Drop-in operations
 - Greg, shelter manager, presented monthly shelter report
 - Greg advised that he will be leaving CONC in mid December
 - Shelter manager position will be posted and interviewed to be ready for next January 2018
 - November housed the most amount of people since the shelter's opening
 - TTC tokens remain the most pressing need for shelter residents
 - CLC member was thanked for arranging for Holiday stocking presents for clients
3. Committee Member Forum for questions or concerns relating to shelter operations
 - Members confirmed that the next CLC meeting will be scheduled once the new shelter manager is hired and trained
 - OCM confirmed that a monthly shelter report will be distributed by email starting January 2018
 - CLC member Alison has confirmed that she will continue Community Integration subcommittee

4. Discussion on homelessness in Toronto with Dion Oxford

- Dion spoke about his experiences working from 1990's as a shelter cook moving up to running Gateways and becoming mission strategist for the Salvation Army's city shelters
- Salvation Army runs 600 Beds across Toronto
- Next shelter slated to open at Leslie St. and Eastern Ave. in 2018
- Advised on Salvation Army's mission statement and his process in developing programming based on it: HOME (Housing, Outcomes, Mission, Excellence)
- Talked about his philosophy is working and helping those experiencing homelessness, "can't be all things to all people"
- Talked about how people facing addiction need community to heal. "The opposite of addiction is community"
- Talked about his work in developing CauseWay – a program that has community members meet those transitioning to housing from a shelter once a week for coffee to talk or play board games, a "manufactured community"
- Says his life's work is about reducing recidivism and getting people to connect beyond socio economic stereotypes and perceptions
- Spoke about how the Salvation Army's reputation should be changed, as they no longer make people "sing for their supper" and are not homophobic. He has worked diligently to make changes in the agency's culture happen across Canada.

5. Scheduling of next meeting: January 2018

- Committee agreed that OCM will email group in early January 2018 to confirm next meeting date, most likely for mid-February 2018

Community Integration will be re-started in 2018

