

Homelessness Action Strategy for the Tri-Cities

Action Plan - 2008

Actions	Implementation Plan (May 4, 2007)	Work Plan 2008	Accomplishments 2008
Action 1	<p>The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to determine how many emergency shelter beds are required for which populations (e.g. men, women with or without children who are not fleeing abuse, couples) and an appropriate model for the shelter or shelters to serve these populations.</p> <p>The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group in cooperation with the identified shelter provider to prepare a proposal and advocate for new capacity with BC Housing and other appropriate partners.</p>	<p>Facilities Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue RFEI to non-profit shelter providers as soon as possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Select proponent; – Work with successful proponent to develop a project proposal including selection of a site and commitment of capital and operating funding. • Document lessons learned from implementation of CWW Mat Program. • To bridge the gap between the CWW Mat Program and opening of a permanent shelter/transitional housing facility, implement via the TC Homeless Shelter Society an interim shelter with a range of services for persons who are homeless in the Tri-Cities starting 1 April, 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized RFEI in January '09 • City of Coquitlam subsequently agreed to donate City-owned land at 3030 Gordon Ave for the permanent shelter/transitional housing. Discussions underway between BC Housing and the City on an MOU for use of the site. Following completion of MOU, BC Housing will issue an RFP to shelter providers for shelter/transitional housing development. • Northside Foursquare Church agreed to host an interim shelter using the CWW Mat Program format on a year-round basis at their Grace Church campus in Port Coquitlam, to start April 1, '09.

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Action 2	<p>Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group and the municipalities of the Tri-Cities to seek information from Fraser Health regarding planned changes in medical and non-medical addiction services capacity for Tri-Cities residents and the health authority's measurable, attainable goals regarding detox.</p> <p>The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to conduct a planning exercise to best determine detox needs for the Tri-Cities. This will include a review of best practice models for medical and non-medical detox facilities and a determination if new and planned capacity and location of medical and non-medical detox beds are adequate.</p>	<p>Detox-Mental Health Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop conceptual proposal and secure funding for a pilot Tri-Cities "sobering centre" as an economic alternative to a conventional detox facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – determine unmet demand for detox services in the Tri-Cities: – proof of concept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered a "sobering centre" as a less expensive alternative to medical detoxification; • Toured Victoria Withdrawal Management Centre with a focus on their sobering centre; • Met with FHA: Creekside manager; Regional Addictions Manager; • Decided to engage a consultant to develop a Tri-Cities "Community Addictions Strategy for Persons who are Homeless"
Action 3	<p>The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to strongly advocate with the four levels of government: federal, provincial, regional and municipal, to increase the supply of social housing.</p>	<p>Advocacy Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the implementation of the Metro Vancouver Regional Housing Strategy (Nov '07) and achievement of Tri-Cities housing targets. 	<p>No action to date</p>
Action 4	<p>The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to determine an appropriate model(s) for additional supported housing facilities, the populations to be served (e.g. focused on the chronically homeless), locations, service provider(s) and funding partners and to take the lead to advocate with BC Housing and other potential funding partners for such a facility or facilities.</p> <p>Each of the Tri-Cities municipalities is to be represented on the subcommittee to assist with planning for this gap.</p>	<p>Facilities Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the "Model for a Continuum of Housing and Services". • Set priorities and targets for numbers and types of housing units. • Monitor Riverview land-use decisions. 	<p>Determined that a "Housing First" strategy would be most effective approach to housing homeless persons who require support – included on 2009 action plan.</p>

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Action 5	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to review examples of comprehensive homeless drop-in facilities such as those under development in Victoria at Our Place (The Our Place Society) and the Salvation Army facility in Nanaimo and determine the appropriate model, location, service provider and funding partners.	Facilities Subcommittee: Given the current provincially-funded homeless outreach program, the creation of a Tri-Cities drop-in centre is no longer a priority. The Task Group will focus on the services available to homeless persons rather than a facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Services Subcommittee re feasibility of a “virtual drop-in centre”. 	Hope For Freedom Society has opened a “Homeless Resource Centre” at the Grace Campus of the Northside Foursquare Church in Port Coquitlam. The Centre will include shower and laundry facilities when fully developed.
Action 6	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to plan and arrange for shower and laundry facilities in an existing facility or facilities until the drop-in centre(s) is created.	Services Subcommittee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure sites and funding to install washers and dryers at additional service provider locations in the Tri-Cities. • Consider a “token” program for Coast Meridian commercial laundromat. • Investigate the church-run “Kits Shower Program. • Look into volunteer transport from a central collection point to showers, laundry and other facilities on specific days of the week when additional facilities become available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shower program was implemented at Cedar Park in Port Coquitlam on a weekly (every Friday morning) basis – however program was terminated due to lack of use (transportation likely an issue). • “Token” program for commercial laundromats not accepted by laundromat operators. • Shower and laundry facility to be implemented at Homeless Resource Centre.

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Action 7	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to determine what outreach capacity is needed in the Tri-Cities.	Ongoing	No further action to be taken
Action 8	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to advocate with Fraser Health for increased mental health outreach staff and services for those with a serious mental health illness who are not connected to Mental Health Services.	Detox/Mental Health Subcommittee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate clinical outreach worker with HFFOA outreach activities. • If trial confirms effectiveness of clinical outreach worker, pursue ongoing funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatric street nurse integrated into HFFOA outreach team and proving highly successful; • Position has been made full time with funding confirmed to 31 March 2010.
Action 9	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to continue to encourage cooperation between the municipalities of the Tri-Cities and cooperation of the municipalities with the Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to coordinate efforts to address homelessness in the sub-region.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Action 10	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to develop a transportation strategy for the homeless to enable them to better access services.	Ongoing	Complete - BC Housing is funding purchase of transit tickets for distribution by HFFOA.
Action 11	The Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group to develop and implement a community advocacy strategy to inform, promote the benefits of and engage the community in addressing homelessness in the Tri-Cities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a communications strategy for the implementation of the Homelessness Action Strategy to inform the public about planned actions to address homelessness; ▪ Seek assistance from the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA), which offers a training course and communications strategy for dealing with community opposition; ▪ Organize Greater Vancouver Region Homeless Action 	Advocacy Subcommittee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and maintain a Tri-Cities Homelessness Task Group website with information on speakers, addiction education, challenges to recovery, social assistance rates, needs of the homeless, stories of the homeless etc. • Create a speakers bureau -experts on the above topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness Task Group website www.tricityhomelessness.ca on line September '09; • Proposal made to Port Coquitlam and Port Moody to adopt Coquitlam's housing strategy indicators for a Tri-Cities report card. Both cities are either considering or intending to develop their own

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	<p>Week (October 2007) activities; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan "Seeing is Believing" tours of homeless services success stories and to meet homelessness individuals in the Tri-Cities, for councillors, other key community stakeholders and community organizations. 	<p>ready to speak to Chamber of Commerce, Service Organizations, PAC's, Church groups etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create handouts on the above topics for raising community awareness. • Develop a Powerpoint presentation on homelessness in the Tri-Cities and augment with a locally-produced video "Faces of the Homeless". • "Seeing is Believing" luncheons – continue bi-monthly with invitations, develop a stronger follow up component. • Assist with the "gaining public acceptance" process for temporary and permanent emergency shelter facilities in the Tri-Cities. • Develop a report card for the Tri-Cities which rates progress in addressing homelessness, social housing needs, and affordability issues. 	<p>indicators – however there is likely to be some consistency as municipalities implement the Metro Vancouver Regional Housing Strategy (Nov '07);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the March '08 Metro Vancouver homeless count in the Tri-Cities; • Organized a variety of successful events for HAW '08, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Connect Day" (services for homeless persons); - screening of "Tears for April", with Odd Squad members in attendance; - Chamber of Commerce luncheon with Iain De Jong, Manager of Toronto's "Streets to Home" program.