

Seniors' Task Force Meeting Summary Notes

December 15, 2020 12:00pm – 1:30 pm

Teams Meeting – Virtual

Members Present:

A. Rodrigues

B. Crease

D. Delaney

N. Martin

L. Pietrzyk

N. Gallo

(G. Aguiar, Director of Health Services, Caledon Community Services (Community Liaison)

Councillor A. Groves, Ward 5 (Council Liaison)

Regrets:

Councillor J. Innis, Wards 3&4 (Council Liaison)

E. Whittaker, Senior Interim Case Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA Peel)

K. Graydon

M. Morrison

C. Cicuto

Staff present:

K. Sawyers, Coordinator, Adult 55+, Customer Service and Communications (Facilitator)

C. McLean, Director of Customer Service and Communications

Welcome and Introductions

- K. Sawyers now reports to C. McLean, Director of Customer Service and Communications. Welcome and introduction.

Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan Update

- Survey – 350 community members responded to the AFC survey. K. Sawyers reviewed the results. The results will inform the Age-Friendly Action Plan.
 - o **Action – K. Sawyers will send the slide presentation to Seniors Task Force (STF) Members.**
- Personal Support Workers (PSWs) – A concern was raised, in response to a survey question, about caregivers. There is a shortage of PSWs due to a lack of public transportation, non-competitive pay and benefits, retention due to transitioning to the Licenced Practical Nurse program, and insufficient provincial funding. Does the STF want to get involved in the future in advocating for solutions to this problem?
 - o **Action – We will consider this idea in the development of the Age-Friendly Action Plan and STF will discuss further in the new year.**
- Update on new Programmes – Caledon Community Services (CCS) is offering a variety of new programmes which are funded via emergency funds in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, there are transportation subsidies and a weekly free lunch.

CCS has some strategies for addressing the shortage of PSWs. Recruitment is a problem across the province.

- **Action - Given the number of services and programming available and the outreach activities of CCS, it might be worthwhile to find a way to get more concrete data on the number of Caledon seniors who are feeling isolated. Are there as many as we assume?**
- Upcoming Meetings and Timeline
 - January 12 – Peel Council on Ageing – a Regional Committee in development under the Age-Friendly Parameters will be holding a meeting with Seniors Task Force members to help understand the direction they are taking and involvement of Caledon.
 - January 20 – Peel Council on Ageing meeting with local Caledon Stakeholders.
 - January 27 and 28 – Public Engagement Sessions being offered to residents to overview the AFC plan, review background information and survey results and allow residents to ask questions.
 - February 5 – STF meeting to review data and background report to date. Start developing the AFC deliverables.
 - From February to April – STF members, Town Staff, and Community Stakeholders will be working with KS and PT to develop draft version of the Action Plan and key deliverables for the 8 dimensions of the AFC. Draft Action Plan will be distributed to all for comments and feedback.
 - Tentative April – Based on productivity and when the final AFC Action Plan is complete a report to council will developed for approval. Once council approval is achieved STF members and Adult 55+ Coordinator will start working on implementing the deliverables.

Grant Update

- K. Sawyers will be applying for a \$60,000 grant from the Ministry of Social Services and Accessibility to hire a consultant to do community outreach. The goal of the project is to increase awareness of the services available in the Region of Peel and Dufferin County through the development and marketing of informational materials. If the grant application is successful, the project will begin in March 2021.

Snow Angels

- The Town of Caledon will be promoting this national project. They find volunteers to shovel driveways. You can find out more information about the project at snowangelscanada.ca

Discussion

- Services for Seniors – K. Sawyers is involved in a group which is working on updating 211 and strategizing about ways to increase access. The Ontario Health Team is working on a ‘Neighbours Helping Neighbours’ volunteer project.

- **Action - Ensuring access to services for seniors in a streamlined fashion and increasing the functionality of 211 will be considered for inclusion in the Caledon Age Friendly Action Plan.**
- Survey Data - While the number of surveys hoped to be received was 500, we have an opportunity to increase input through the upcoming open houses.
 - **Action – P. Thoma will provide the Seniors Task Force with data on demographics as they relate to seniors in Caledon.**
 - **Action – P. Thoma will indicate if the sample size from the surveys is large enough to reach general conclusions about seniors in specific geographic areas or using other potential variables.**

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 pm

Next Meeting: February 5, 2021