

City of Port Colborne

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Committee Room 3-City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

Members Present: Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges Community Health Centre
Phil Licskai, Niagara Regional Police
Vicki Doidge, Staff Lawyer, Niagara Community Legal Clinic
Joanna Mataya, CEO, Community Living PCW
Adrienne Harper, Health Promoter, Region Public Health

Member(s) Absent: Christine Clark-Lafleur, Chief Executive Officer, Port Cares
Jeffrey Sinclair, Manager, Housing and Homelessness, Niagara Region
Kim Simons, Director, Anchors Away

Guests (non-voting) Taralea McLean, Bridges CEO
Judy Cassan, Bridges

Staff G. Todd, Staff Liaison
William Steele, Mayor
Bryan Boles Port Colborne CAO
Tim Hoyle, Councillor (absent)
Rachel Tkachuk, Library CEO (absent)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved By A. Harper, vice chair

Seconded By J. Mataya

That the Agenda of the April 3, 2025 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved By P. Licskai

Seconded By V. Doidge

That the minutes of February 6, 2025 meeting of the Social Determinants of Healthy Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Healthcare engagement follow-up

Chair thanked CAO Boles for leading the special meeting of the committee March 19 during which he summarized the timeline of the Niagara Health plan to vacate the former Port Colborne hospital site, including the Urgent Care Centre, by 2028. He encouraged members to respond to the call for five citizen members to serve on City Council's new Healthcare Advisory Committee.

B. Boles and Port Colborne delegates met with the Minister of Health chief of staff during the Good Roads provincial conference March 29 to April 2. Many provincial ministers did not attend the conference, as they were settling in to new cabinet posts following the general election Feb. 27. Boles said the Port delegation was well-received, and the Ministry was aware of the local situation. Boles said there was to be a round of funding directed to Family Health Teams to be announced in the near future. (Canadian Press April 10: Ontario is looking for up to 80 new or expanded primary care teams to serve 300,000 patients)

A second call for proposals is expected in September.

T. McLean noted last time there was a funding announcement it was a free-for-all, with numerous applications coming from everywhere. She said there may be an invitation-only approach to applying to subsequent rounds of funding. She also noted transitional funding needs to be addressed.

5.2 Lodging House Licencing Bylaw

S. Hanson was unable to attend but forwarded a brief report bylaw was working with owner of the lodging house toward compliance.

Chair asked if other municipalities were aware and watching the new bylaw. CAO said all municipal CAOs are aware. Mayor said all 12 mayors were also aware and on board.

6. New Business

6.1 Affordable housing

CAO Boles provided update of affordable housing project at Haney and King Streets. He said Niagara Regional Housing has financing complexities but will allow the city to establish a separate housing corporation, with its own board, to establish not-for-profit housing with rents at market price as well as subsidized/geared to income. The board decides the tenants.

6.2 Niagara Transit

CAO Boles noted a transformational movement in some cities and towns where school buses are being cancelled and students ride public transit only. A monitor rides to and from school with the youngest children.

Committee will wait for results of public engagement (in each Niagara municipality Jan and Feb) are published before addressing local transit concerns.

7. Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion

P. Licskai was impressed to see so many engaged people, of all ages, in the Vale Centre while he attended a Niagara Regional Police Services public engagement session regarding body-worn camera. He said every area was busy with people who looked "pretty darned happy" on the walking track, in the gym, and some "older gentlemen" playing hockey.

A. Harper reported Public Health will hold a free Rabies Vaccine Clinic June 3 in St. Catharines. Details to be announced asap.

8. Action Items

Further to discussions of housing and homelessness the Chair presented an article "Protecting Tenants from Renovictions." She asked members to do any information gathering, so it can be discussed at next meeting. V. Doidge said the haw clinic deals with renovictions frequently.

9. Next Meeting

Thursday, June 5 at 1pm

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm

Chair

Staff Liaison