



## AGENDA

### Senior Services Advisory Committee

May 25, 2020

1:00 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI80G-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the May 25 Senior Services Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

3

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the March 2, 2020 Senior Services Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and staff liaison.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

5.1 **Ontario Health**

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 **Senior Services COVID 19 Report**

6

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Monday June 22, 2020

1:00 p.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**



## MINUTES

### Senior Services Advisory Committee

March 2, 2020

1:00 pm

Pyramid Recreation Centre - Meeting Room A  
317 James Street South, St. Marys

Member Present      Candice Harris  
                                 Joyce Vivian  
                                 Marie Ballantyne  
                                 Owen O'Brien  
                                 Councillor Winter  
                                 Richard Lyons

Member Absent      Donna Kurchak  
                                 Donna Simmons

#### 1.      **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

#### 2.      **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

#### 3.      **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** Councillor Winter

THAT the March 2, 2020 Senior Services Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Moved By** Councillor Winter

THAT the January 27, 2020 Senior Services meeting minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and staff liaison.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

##### **5.1 Ontario Health**

Staff updated the group on the recent announcement of the governments plan to modernize the delivery of home and community care in Ontario. A breakdown of the proposed changes from the Ontario Community Support Association was given.

In summary the regulations propose reorganizing services under two categories "home care services" and "community care services."

"Home care services" would include professional services personal support services as well as homemaking services. "Community care services" would include the current list of community support services and maintain the personal support services, homemaking services security checks and reassurance services by CSS outlines in Ontario Regulation 386/99.

LHIN's will be rebranded to Home and Community Care Support Services organizations. They will focus on functions of care coordination for home care and placements to long - term care. They will be under the oversight of a single Board (separate from the Ontario Health Board) and separate CEO.

LHIN's will maintain the same regional identifiers as existing LHIN's i.e South West.

The functions of planning, funding, performance monitoring and integration of the health system will eventually move to Ontario Health.

#### **6. REPORTS**

##### **6.1 March Program Report**

Staff highlighted upcoming programs and events.

#### **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7.1 Email Correspondence**

The committee discussed fundraising options and how it relates to the mandate of the committee.

**7.2 Recreation Advisory Committee Update**

Chair Harris updated the

**7.3 Town of St. Marys Update**

Councillor Winter gave the committee an update on Municipal items.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By** Councillor Winter

THAT this regular meeting of the Senior Services Advisory Committee adjourn at 2:15pm.

**CARRIED**

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Chair

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Committee Secretary



# INFORMATION REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee

**Prepared by:** Jenny Mikita, Senior Services Supervisor

**Date of Meeting:** 25 May 2020

**Subject:** **DCS 14-2020 Senior Services COVID 19 Program Report**

## BACKGROUND

On March 13, 2020 the Town of St. Marys Mayor and Council made the proactive decision to suspend all community based Municipal programs and close community bases facilities to the public to help stop the spread of COVID 19. The Friendship Centre offered its last community program on March 13<sup>th</sup> and all volunteer activity was suspended.

On March 19, 2020 the Town of St. Marys declared a State of Emergency. Development on the Community Wellness Plan was initiated by the Community Services Department with Senior Services taking the lead.

The Community Wellness Plan outlines how the Town of St. Marys will support the needs of its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan will identify at-risk residents and resources, and speak to the provision of essential services such as food delivery, medication support, social isolation and safety check-ins with these community members. The plan which has the intention to be fluid and adapted as the needs of residents changes outlined the following areas of immediate need within the community:

- 1, Supporting Residents to Self-isolate
2. Supporting Resident's Mental Health and Social Wellbeing

The Community Wellness Plan was implemented and rolled out to the community on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## UPDATE

Supporting Residents to Self-isolate:

The following areas were identified as needed supports for the residents of the Town of St. Marys and Perth South:

- **Resident Wellbeing-** This program is the Home Support Service's Telephone Reassurance program. This program which is operational as a LHIN funded Community Support was adaptable to support a surge in community members seeking a social or reassuring connection within the community. These calls provide a connection for residents who are not connect online or who are further socially isolated to bring the community back into the home socially distances. This service is currently being sustained by volunteers and supported by staff. Senior Services volunteers are matched with a list of community members who identify as

socially isolated. Volunteers contact community members in their home to provide social interaction. Emergency protocols are established if a community member does not answer their phone or expresses concerns for their personal wellbeing. Volunteers reach out to the Senior Services Department and staff initiate resources or an emergency contact list.

- **Access to Food and Nutrition and other Essentials-** as the Community Support Services provider for St. Marys and Perth South, St. Marys Home Support Services continues to provide a hot and frozen Meals on Wheels program for the community. As noted volunteer activities was suspended on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers were re-implemented into the program under the Emergency Order and procedures were adapted to support a socially distanced meal delivery the week of April 6, 2020 with staff supporting the program until volunteers could be re-engaged.

In addition to Meals on Wheels, the Community Wellness program supports residents through various methods to obtain groceries and other essential needs. The Shopping Services program provided by Home Support Services was suspended March 13<sup>th</sup> and a new program to support residents through the online grocery shopping was implemented. The new program with volunteers them picking up and delivery food to the resident's home. It became evident the online method of shopping would not function for all residents especially those with no access to Internet, technology, email or credit. The Municipality authorized the program to set up systems to help residents by ordering online through Community Wellness accounts utilizing a credit system to allow all residents regardless of ability to access support.

- **Social Connectivity**

Socially-distanced community programming was identified as an essential service for residents' physical and mental wellbeing as the COVID 19 situation progressed. The municipality identified residents' health and wellbeing as a priority, once essential needs of residents were taken care of the staff's focus shifted to meeting the social needs of the community. Staff began working to implement virtual programming options for residents who are socially isolated to bring some routine back into their lives.

Virtual programming includes both live and recorded videos of staff and volunteers offering various programming options. Live programming generally garners more interest and engagement and requires direct staff support.

Current virtual programming run by the Senior Services Department includes:

- Group Fitness three times weekly
- Chair Yoga
- Bingo
- Monthly Good News Stories
- Special Features
- Program Demonstrations
- Scrapbooking

Current telephone programs facilitated by the Senior Services Department includes:

- Monday Movement
- Museum Lectures
- Friday Phone Fun.

Staff are working to incorporate existing Friendship Centre programming groups into telecommunication programs

Senior Services continues to work with various partners to support the Community Wellness program. The Community Wellness program has received two rounds of funding through the United Way Urgent Need Fund to support the meals, grocery and telecommunication programs. Staff are currently working with the St. Marys Rotary Club to support the home delivery community meals and hope to apply for the next round of funding to support a home delivery community dining program to our existing clients and senior residents who would benefit from a meal. The Community Wellness program recently under took the Community Allotment Garden program with the support of the Public Works Department and in discussion with the St. Marys Public Library to help promote and support in home book delivery.

## **REVIEWED BY**

**Recommended by the Department**



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Jenny Mikita  
Senior Services Supervisor