

Minutes  
Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES)  
Committee Meeting  
January 8, 2025 – 9 am  
Finance Meeting Room, City Hall

Attendees: Councillor Gord Klassen, Councillor Trevor Bolin, Councillor Sarah MacDougall, Bonnie McCue (recording secretary)

Guests: Meaghan Mallough, Car 60 Specialized Clinician

1. Call To Order:

9:00 am

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

The December 11, 2024 CRCHES meeting minutes were provided and will be included on the next Regular Council agenda.

5. Invited Guests/Presentations

Meaghan Mallough attended the meeting as an invited guest.

Discussions took place regarding:

A description of the Car 60 program locally, including aspects of the partnership between RCMP and Northern Health, staffing level and specializations, and hours of service. The goal of the program is to provide health clinicians to meet immediate needs and assess mental health issues on calls attended to by the RCMP. Car 60 clinicians attend with RCMP on calls for those who are in a mental health crisis and offer immediate support, connect individuals to available resources, and provide follow-up if needed. They do not carry caseloads.

Commonly, calls attended include issues that are related to obstacles in accessing medical care, or parenting support services. Financial barriers, substance use, and homelessness are also factors. Substance use is prevalent with both visible and hidden use. Car 60 clinicians do not attend calls that have any threats of violence or weapon use.

The Car 60 program breaks the stigma that police involvement is always punitive, clinicians accompany RCMP Officers as health experts to provide social support, recognizing that RCMP training is in public safety, not public health. Clinicians have provided awareness to school district staff by visiting middle schools and providing resources to teachers and administrators.

Challenges with psychiatric medical care and accessing information about available resources were discussed. There is a need for preventative care and services, and additional programs to support individuals and families who are at risk. The Car 60 program only supports those who have reached the point of calling the RCMP.

It's estimated that 25% of the calls attended involve individuals who are experiencing some type of homelessness. There are barriers to accessing housing for those who have had previous challenges but are now able to support themselves in a rental unit, and waitlists for supportive housing are very long. A program from Prince Albert was provided as a successful partnership project providing housing to those in need.

Meaghan left the meeting.

4. Correspondence

None

6. Updates and Progress Reports:

- A report and presentation are scheduled for a Committee of the Whole meeting on February 24, 2025. The report will provide a summary of CRCHES activities and recommendations to Council.

7. Ongoing Discussion Items

None

8. New Business

None

9. Budget and Resource Planning

None

10. Action Items

- Prepare report and presentation for Feb 24 COW meeting.

11. Adjournment

10:30 am