Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 17 End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Funding Agreement Report

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to designate the City representative for the End Homelessness Board of Directors.

2. That the End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Report, attached as Attachment 1, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

End Homelessness Winnipeg submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Funding Agreement Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Glugosh	C. Fernandes	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 2015, End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) leads the implementation of Winnipeg's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. As part of the City's first multi-year budget cycle 2020-2023, Council directed the Public Service to enter into a funding agreement with EHW for a four-year period in the amount of $150,000 per year.

To satisfy the reporting requirements of the grant, EHW is required to submit an annual report detailing its activities over the previous year. In compliance with this requirement, in July 2023, EHW submitted their annual report to the City covering the period from August 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 (Attachment 1). This report provides key highlights from EHW's 2022-2023 annual report and outlines progress made on the seven measurable target areas for preventing and ending homelessness as outlined in EHW's 5-Year Plan (Attachment 2). The report also identifies a range of important initiatives and community collaborations, including the launch of Winnipeg's Coordinated Access system: Naatamooskakowin.

It is important to note, the Community Services Department (CmS) provides support to EHW with regard to governance and engagement. As appointed by Council, the CmS Director is a member of the EHW's Board of Directors and Audit Committee. Other CmS staff, including the Manager of Community Development, meet regularly with EHW representatives and work collaboratively on shared initiatives and projects. This report recommends that the CAO be delegated authority to designate the City representative to EHW, which is in alignment with City representation for other organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to designate the City representative for the End Homelessness Board of Directors.

2. That the End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Report, attached as Attachment 1, be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Through the 2020-2023 multi-year budget process, the Public Service was directed to enter into an agreement with EHW in the amount of $150,000 per year, for four years to lead the implementation of Winnipeg's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. As part of the funding agreement, the recipient is required to submit an annual report detailing:

1. The organization's activities over the previous year.
2. How successful the organization has been in reaching its goals and objectives.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Recommendations of this report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

End Homelessness Winnipeg received its mandate from the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg launched in 2014. EHW was established in 2015 with financial contributions from the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the United Way of Winnipeg and the City of Winnipeg. EHW was appointed as the permanent Community Entity (CE) for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. EHW's 5-Year plan (the Plan), launched in 2019, sets out seven measurable targets for preventing and ending homelessness in Winnipeg by 2025. The Plan aligns with the directives of Reaching Home and the Reaching Home Winnipeg Community Plan. EHW is well positioned to align local and Federal funding strategies to achieve tangible outcomes and actions that can prevent and end homelessness.

The Community Services Department (CmS) provides support to EHW with regard to governance and engagement. As directed by Council, the CmS Director is a member of the EHW's Board of Directors and Audit Committee. Other CmS staff, including the Manager of Community Development, meet regularly with EHW representatives and work collaboratively on shared initiatives including those related to: Extreme Weather, the Kíkinanaw Óma Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, OurWinnipeg 2045, and the Indigenous Accord.

As outlined in Recommendation 1, the Public Service is seeking delegated authority for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to designate the City representative to participate on the EHW Board of Directors. This authority will enable the CAO to determine who in the Public Service is best positioned to represent the City based on a number of factors including but not limited to: expertise, knowledge, and ethnicity. EHW is an Indigenous organization that requires the Board to be at least 75% Indigenous.

The recommended delegation of authority would also be in alignment with other similar organizations, such as the Downtown Community Safety Partnership, where the CAO appoints the City's representative.

As a grant recipient, EHW is required to submit reports on an annual basis. Key highlights from EHW's 2022-2023 report include:

- 479 housing units have been created between 2019 and 2023.

- 370 new units are in development as of June 30, 2023.

- 835 people were housed from homelessness by Reaching Home funded programs in 2022-2023. This totals 2,695 people housed since the launch of EHW's 5-Year Plan.

- Representation of Indigenous clients at adult emergency shelters and safe spaces slightly decreased in 2022-2023 (as in previous years). However, it is important to note this data did not capture individuals accessing N'Dinawemak, an Indigenous led 24/7 safe space. Significant work remains to address over-representation of Indigenous populations experiencing homelessness.

- The number of adults who stayed in emergency shelters and who were recently discharged from various institutions decreased in 2022-2023 by over 37% compared to the previous reporting year. This follows a consistent trend since 2019.

- The total number of programs and organizations onboarded to the Homeless Individuals and Family Information System (HIFIS) has exceeded the 5-Year target of 45.

- Led and supported by EHW, Naatamooskakowin, Winnipeg's Coordinated Access System, was launched on March 31, 2022. Gifted by Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck, the name Naatamooskakowin is a Cree word meaning "a place to come to for help, shelter, or resources." Naatamooskakowin supports people experiencing homelessness and facing multiple barriers to securing safe housing. The system offers a collaborative approach with a shared goal of ending homelessness by streamlining access to support and housing for people experiencing homelessness. System components include a shared intake and assessment process across all partner agencies and a shared information system for participants to avoid having to repeatedly tell their stories.

In addition to progress made on the above target areas, EHW has also led and supported a range of initiatives and community collaborations. This includes:

- The EHW Board of Directors commissioned a stakeholder engagement report. The insights gathered from staff, stakeholders, sector leaders, the community as well as former and current board members will serve as a valuable resource to inform the work and decisions of the board and organization, set strategic goals and drive positive change within the organization. The complete results will be released later this year.

- EHW hired a Manager of Prevention. This individual has taken the reins of several pivotal projects aimed at combatting the root causes of homelessness.

- A pilot program with Manitoba Corrections was created and aims to provide individuals released from provincial corrections facilities with the necessary knowledge and resources to secure and sustain stable housing.

- The Acquired Brain Injury Research Café project was launched and aims to improve support and quality of life for all Manitobans with brain injuries, including access to supportive and affordable housing.

- The Winnipeg Street Census took place again in 2022. Twenty-three agencies, of which seven were Indigenous, worked together to conduct the census. A survey was presented to people experiencing homelessness at 53 locations throughout Winnipeg. Interviews were also held at shelters, food banks, bottle depots, drop-in centres, libraries, churches, and malls where people, who are unsheltered, spend time. Outreach teams also conducted surveys at locations outside the inner city.

- EHW has contracted Cibinel Architecture to proceed with a land use assessment of the area surrounding The Circle of Life Thunderbird House, currently titled the Neeginan Project. Several information discussions have taken place and the community has expressed a keen interest in the project. EHW has determined the project is complimentary to other work being done in the area. As such, the community will be engaged formally through the land use and operations survey, which will inform and guide the next steps of the project.

It is also important to highlight that in early 2023, the Province of Manitoba introduced their comprehensive homelessness strategy entitled “A Place for Everyone: A Collaborative Homelessness Strategy for Manitoba” (Attachment 3). The strategy encompasses five pillars, four of which align closely with the pillars of EHW, indicating a shared focus and commitment towards common objectives.

Through its work in 2022-2023, EHW continues to demonstrate its commitment to ending homelessness and supporting those who may be unsheltered. EHW is currently preparing for its next strategic phase, however, key challenges remain. This includes the creation of adequate housing supply and the over-representation of Indigenous people among those experiencing homelessness. These areas of need are also reflected in the City of Winnipeg’s 10-year Poverty Reduction Strategy represented in the ‘Affordable Housing’ and ‘Indigenous Children, Youth and Families’ life poles. The need for targeted investment and support for evidence-based Indigenous-led housing solutions remains a concern at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** August 17, 2023

Project Name:
End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Report 2023

COMMENTS:
There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations to receive the report as information.

Ryad Ali on behalf of Ozzy Garrett on Aug 17, 2023
Ozzy Garrett, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- End Homelessness Winnipeg

OurWinnipeg 2045 POLICY ALIGNMENT

OurWinnipeg contains six policy goals that form the foundation for OurWinnipeg vision, objectives and policy direction. The report aligns with the following goals:

Goal: Leadership & Good Governance
- 1.15 Community Capacity Development
- 1.16 Equitable Funding Distribution

Goal: Economic Prosperity
- 3.12 Poverty Reduction

Goal: Good Health & Well-Being
- 4.1 Health Equity
- 4.4 Affordable and Supportive Housing Options
- 4.6 Community Safety
- 4.9 Inclusive Public Places
- 4.11 Equitable Service Access

Goal: Social Equity
- 5.1 Equitable Services Access
- 5.2 Affordable & Supportive Housing Options
- 5.3 End Homelessness
- 5.5 Indigenous Lens
- 5.8 Community Cohesion

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy has eight 10-year goals for poverty reduction efforts. The report aligns with the following goals:

Goal 2: The City Actively Plans for and Partners in Affordable Housing
- Collaborate on Ending Homelessness (Continue to support and collaborate with EHW, coordinate a city-wide response to ending and preventing homelessness, including support for implementation of EHW's 5 Year plan and continued support and delivery of

the recommendations of Kikinanaw Oma - A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers, including support for outreach services.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Community Development Division
Prepared by: Karen Glugosh, Community Development Worker
Date: August 22, 2023
File No: CMS-2023-7

Attachments:

Attachment 1: End Homelessness Winnipeg Annual Report to the City of Winnipeg - 2023

Attachment 2: End Homelessness Winnipeg 5-Year Plan

Attachment 3: A Place for Everyone: A Collaborative Homelessness Strategy for Manitoba