Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 17, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 6 End Homelessness Winnipeg 2023-24 Annual Report to City of Winnipeg

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That this report 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

Betty Edel, Senior Director of Housing Supports, and Jackie Hunt, Senior Director of Strategy and Impact, submitted a presentation dated September 17, 2024, in support of the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: End Homelessness Winnipeg 2023-24 Annual Report to City of Winnipeg

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Brens, K. Glugosh	S. Armbruster	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 2015, End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) leads the implementation of Winnipeg's 10 Year Plan to end homelessness. EHW is an Indigenous mandated organization guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Report. In March of 2024, Council passed the 2024-2027 budget, and approved $150,000 in annual funding to EHW. To receive this funding, the City created a funding agreement with EHW. As part of that agreement, EHW must provide the City with an annual report that gives a summary of their activities and accomplishments from the past year.

EHW's report for last year (June 2023-2024) is included as Attachment 1. In the report, EHW provides updates on seven targets included in their 5-Year plan. The report also gives a summary of the work EHW is doing to address homelessness. As described in more detail below, through its role advocating for change, providing resources, and building the capacity of other organizations, EHW continues to support solutions for ending homelessness in Winnipeg.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approved the 2024-2027 operating budget and directed the Public Service to enter into an agreement with EHW in the amount of $150,000. To satisfy the reporting requirements of the funding agreement, EWH is required to submit an annual report to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications to receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) received its mandate from the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg launched in 2014. The organization was established in 2015 with financial contributions from the United Way of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the City of Winnipeg. EHW applies a collective impact approach to its work with partners from diverse sectors to prevent and end homelessness. Since 2015, EHW has served as the backbone organization supporting collaborative responses for unsheltered, emergency sheltered, provisionally accommodated and at-risk populations. In 2019, EHW launched its 5-Year Plan to end homelessness which includes seven measurable targets. These targets include:

1. Create 1,340 additional housing units based on identified housing needs.
2. House 1,519 people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed.
3. Reduce Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by 50%.
4. Shorten lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days.
5. Eliminate entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school.
6. Expand use of the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) to 45 homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system.
7. Prevent 90% of those served by Coordinated Access from re-entering homelessness.

For the reporting period of June 2023 to June 2024, complete details related to the outcomes of each target can be found in EHW's annual report included as Attachment 1. However, several important highlights include:

- During the reporting period, 157 new housing units were completed or were in development. This number contributes to the 3,132 new units created since 2019. The number of total units is expected to increase in 2024 with the introduction of the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), launched by the Federal Government and managed through the City of Winnipeg. EHW is working to support and coordinate this work.

- Since 2019 there has been an ongoing reduction in the number of individuals released from a correctional facility, Child and Family Services, or a medical/psychiatric treatment facility entering into homelessness. While there are limitations to this data, success in this area is in part linked to upstream planning led by EHW that connects individuals and their families to needed supports and services.

- The total number of programs and organizations onboarded to HIFIS exceeded the 5-Year Target in the first quarter of 2021, and has steadily increased annually. As outlined in EHW's report, there are now over 90 programs currently active on HIFIS.

- Indigenous people are over-represented in Winnipeg's emergency shelter system accounting for more than half of all emergency shelter users, but only 12% of the city's overall population. The target of EHW's 5-year strategy is to reduce Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters. However, since 2019 Indigenous representation in the shelter system has increased. This data reflects the ongoing and critical need to support key strategies, initiatives, and programs to reverse this trend.

In addition to the above updates, EHW's annual report also provides important narrative summaries related to strategic planning, person centered supports, prevention, and work related to housing and housing supply. While complete details can be found in EHW's report, several important highlights include:

- EHW recently hired a Senior Director of Strategy and Impact. This addition to the EHW leadership team brings additional experience and expertise, particularly in the area of Collective Impact Models, which will be important for supporting collaboration and planning with community partners and governments moving forward. The role of this new staff person will include the review and assessment of the original 10-year plan to end homelessness and the identification of lessons learned. This work will support the development of EHW's future to reaffirm and strengthen their role as the backbone organization to support the community's collective efforts to end homelessness.

- In addition to the Senior Director of Strategy, EHW also hired a Person-Centered Support Manager. This role focuses on several key initiatives including Outreach Mapping, Chairing the Extreme Weather Response Committee, the Unsheltered Encampment Strategy and the Gizhe Waa Ti-Sii-Win Service Delivery Expo. This role will be important to help coordinate key partners and plan for the above noted initiatives. For example, currently EHW is undertaking a project to complete a comprehensive analysis and mapping of outreach services to identify and address service gaps impacting homelessness. Collaborators include, Main Street Project, the Downtown Community Safety Partnership, West Central Women's Resource Centre, St. Boniface Street Links, Resource Assistance for Youth, and various foot patrol outreach teams. As outlined in EHW's report, the project focuses on enhancing coordination between EHW and organizations representing those with lived and living experiences of homelessness. This work, and the role of the Manager, is critical to supporting a collective approach across all outreach teams reducing service duplication and enhancing service delivery.

- In the area of prevention, and specifically related to provincial Corrections, during the reporting period EHW initiated a pilot workshop at the Women's Corrections Center (WCC). Launched in November 2023 the workshop provided critical housing and resource information to participants. To date, the WCC workshop graduated 32 participants, with at least 10 individuals successfully connected to Naatamooskakowin-Coordinated Access. This program provides a strong example of the type of work EHW is leading to not only advance the seven targets of the 5-Year plan, but also to address the issue of homelessness from a wholistic perspective.

- With regard to housing specifically, EHW continues to lead programs and initiatives to support the planning and development of housing within the City. Part of this work includes collaborative efforts with both the City and the Province. During the reporting period, this included the development of an affordable housing advisory committee aimed at providing direct advice to municipal and provincial decision-makers. In doing so, this collaborative work will help inform the allocation of the HAF, and ensure investments are directed toward the most impactful projects.

Through its work in 2023-2024, EHW continues to demonstrate its commitment to ending homelessness and supporting those who are unsheltered. Since inception, EHW has gained invaluable insights into the complexities of homelessness and the effectiveness of various interventions. Moving forward, and as demonstrated through the hiring of the Senior Director of

Strategy and Impact, EHW plans to assess and evaluate the past efforts of the last 10 years, and to share which collaborative efforts have yielded the most significant impacts and why. Through this work, and its continued role in advocating for policy change, mobilizing resources, and building organizational capacities, EHW will continue to demonstrate and affirm its role as the backbone organization within the sector ensuring the city moves toward a future where equitable and affordable housing is accessible to all.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** July 26, 2024

Project Name:

End Homelessness Winnipeg 2023-24 Annual Report to City of Winnipeg

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associted with the recommendations in this report.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- End Homelessness Winnipeg

OURWINNIPEG 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
- 4.3 Proactive Health Intervention
- 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 Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined 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 1- Equity and a Culture of Caring are Demonstrated through Implementation and Systems Change.

- 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.
- Goal 4 -Community Well-Being Supports for those in greatest Need are Increased.10-Year Objectives A. The immediate needs of residents experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are met through collaboration with community partners and other levels of government.
- Goal 8- Equity in Community Safety is Increased through Collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Division: Community Development
Prepared by: Karen Glugosh, Chris Brens
Date: July 2024
File No:

Attachments

Attachment 1: 2023-2024 Report to City of Winnipeg Executive Policy Committee