



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Follow-up Report Regarding Kendleton Seniors' Club

Date:	June 5, 2008
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Wards:	Ward 2
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

On January 3, 2007, staff from the supportive housing program supported clients residing at 111 Kendleton Drive in applying for and receiving a \$12,416.00 grant from Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) to form the Kendleton Seniors' Club. The club was envisioned as a forum to benefit both supportive housing clients at 111 Kendleton and seniors in the adjacent Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) buildings at 101 and 121 Kendleton Drive.

The club's objectives were to provide seniors with opportunities to participate in social programs, to decrease social isolation, and to share and develop new skills such as crocheting, knitting, gardening, etc. The club has achieved significant success to date, including increased community engagement amongst participating seniors, the development of social cohesion and expansion of intergenerational programming. This report will provide an update on the progress to date and future plans of the Kendleton Seniors' Club.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising out of this report. Funding for the Kendleton Seniors Club was provided by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. The program will be sustained beyond 2008 through club members' fundraising activities such as bake sales or garage sales and through the charging of nominal fees for selected events. TCHC is providing the free use of meeting space and garden areas by the Kendleton Seniors' Club.

DECISION HISTORY

Eligibility for the HRSDC grant required clients' direct involvement in the planning of the club and collaboration with community partners. Clients conducted a needs

assessment to support the application process and included a summary of the findings in the application package, as well as letters of support from Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), CANES Home Support Services, local schools, and the Ernestine's Women's Shelter.

Clients were notified that their funding application for a one-time grant had been approved in January 2007. It is noteworthy that the application from 111 Kendleton met all of the criteria required by HRSDC and addressed five (5) of the six (6) priorities identified for the province of Ontario. Immediately after funding approval, clients began meeting in the Kendleton Seniors' Club format. Initial organizational meetings evolved into operational meetings, involving seniors from all of the three (3) buildings located at the Kendleton Drive location. Seniors from all three of the TCHC buildings on Kendleton Drive continue to hold meetings monthly to set the club's agenda and plan and hold activities and functions. From the outset, members themselves have chosen the activities, themes and entertainment events. The first special event was a Valentines Party, held on February 14, 2007.

It is important to note that although the supportive housing program is 100 percent funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), funding is designated for homemaking and personal support only with no provision for social programming. The one-time grant facilitated and supported seniors residing at 111 Kendleton in implementing a forum that addressed social needs and empowered them in decision-making.

COMMENTS

111 Kendleton Drive is one of several supportive housing sites operated by the City of Toronto. The Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division acts as the supportive housing service provider through a contract with CANES, whose staff deliver the direct day-to-day services. TCHC acts as the landlord. To be eligible to live at 111 Kendleton, applicants must be fifty-nine (59) years of age or older and require assistance with homemaking and/or personal care.

111 Kendleton Drive is located in one of the City's thirteen priority neighbourhoods and is home to a very diverse ethno-racial and cultural population. In addition, a number of clients residing at 111 Kendleton were formerly marginalized individuals who relied on city shelters. They are now thriving in their new homes.

The Kendleton Seniors' Club has focused on a number of activities that members have wanted to either teach or learn. Opportunities for growth have been provided through computer classes, a crocheting group, an exercise room and a gardening club. Inter-generational experiences have occurred in conjunction with several local schools. Outings have been arranged for the members to give them an opportunity to explore other locales and to interact socially with each other away from the site. Social events and musical programs have been planned and held to foster interaction between members of the Kendleton community.

There is a strong ongoing relationship with Greenholme Public School, located nearby 111 Kendleton. Staff from the school have arranged for their primary students to visit clients and to volunteer in an indoor gardening program, in which students have germinated seeds in indoor trays. In spring, the students and the seniors will plant the seedlings in gardens around the buildings. This activity has been very successful in re-affirming the wisdom of age and the value of inter-generational respectful relationships for the students from the neighbourhood. The activity has also been very successful in providing members with a contact with youth that is often missing in their personal lives.

Members have contributed to the community by donating crocheted/knitted goods to shelters and long-term care homes. In addition to being an activity that contributes to the public good, these events have strengthened clients' own sense of self-esteem, pride, peer collaboration and independent decision-making. Peer support has been evident through activities in which some seniors have taught computer use, crocheting, gardening, etc. to others. Lastly, the club and its activities have helped vulnerable seniors at risk for marginalization, homelessness, abuse and isolation by providing opportunities to discover shared interests and make personal connections that enhance and expand their support networks.

Although the HRSDC grant was one-time funding for a one-year period of time, the clients have found the club's socialization an important aspect of their day-to-day lives and do not want the newfound friendships, peer support and social activities to end. As a result, they have self-determined to keep the Kendleton Seniors' Club active through their own fundraising activities, which will include knitting sales, garage sales, etc. Fundraising will also be done through the Toronto Challenge.

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SIGNATURE

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