

City Support to Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

Date: April 13, 2017

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

From: Executive Director Social Development and Finance Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) deputed to Community Development and Recreation Committee on January 16, 2017. Boost CYAC provides a comprehensive response for child abuse investigations and interventions by bringing together teams of police, child protection, medical and mental health professionals who work under one roof to provide a coordinated response to children, youth and their families.

Boost CYAC is seeking to further build support, partner and work with the City of Toronto, particularly to secure additional space to expand their programs to respond to community needs in Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York.

Boost CYAC is a centre of excellence and model for to child abuse response. It sets the benchmark for child abuse investigations and interventions across the country. Boost as a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre networks with other CYAC across the province and these centres are seeking municipal support to advocate to the province to provide sustainable funding for CYACs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to assist Boost CYAC to locate a suitable Below Market Rent (BMR) property and if the organization is deemed eligible, to recommend a BMR lease between the City of Toronto and Boost CYAC.
2. City Council urge the Province to provide appropriate and stable funding support for Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what is included in the 2017 Operating Budget for SDFA (a grant of \$0.263 million is distributed through Community Service Partnership Grant Funding to this organization). Should the City be successful in negotiating a Below Market Rent agreement with CYAC, the details of the agreement will be reported to the Government Management Committee for approval at a future date.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 19 and 20, 2007, City Council adopted the report titled “Providing City-Owned Space to Community Organizations at Below-Market Rent” and outlined provisions of occupying City space through an RFP.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/decisions/2007-11-19-cc14-dd.pdf>)

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CDRC Requested the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A to report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the first quarter of 2017 on how the City of Toronto can further build support, partner and work with the Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre on a priority basis

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getMinutesReport&meetingId=11843>

COMMENTS

Boost CYAC has a long history of partnership with the City of Toronto. On October 1st, 2013, Boost CYAC launched Toronto's first Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC). Boost CYAC provides a comprehensive and coordinated response for child abuse investigations and interventions across the country. Boost CYAC brings together teams of police, child protection measures, medical and mental health professionals who work under one roof to provide a coordinated response to children, youth and their families. This removes the need for children to be interviewed in police stations, or to have to go to numerous different locations to receive the services they require.

Community Service Partnership Grant

Boost CYAC is a Community Service Partnership Grant recipient that receives \$262,500.00 annually to support four (4) programs and core administration.

The organization provides a range of services to sexually abused children, their families and offenders, and promotes cooperation among health, legal, child protection and education systems and advocates for improved responses to child sexual abuse. The specific programs that are funded are:

Assessment & Treatment

The program provides service to 458 service users, reaches 2,100 participants, supported by 12 volunteers and a staff of 7.00 FTE.

Child Victim Witness Support Program

The program provides service to 1,602 service users, reaches 2,450 participants, supported by 12 volunteers and a staff of 3.00 FTE.

Coordination

The program reaches 2,000 participants, supported by 30 volunteers and a staff of 1.00 FTE.

Prevention & Public Education

The program provides service to 4,328 service users, reaches 5,000 participants, supported by 50 volunteers and a staff of 4.00 FTE.

Partnership with Children's Services

Children's Services staff currently sit on the Boost CYAC Protocol Revision Committee. This is a group chaired by Boost CYAC that is working to update the protocols related to inter-agency cooperation in child abuse investigation cases. Toronto Home Child Care, the home child care agency directly operated by the City currently uses Boost CYAC to provide information sessions for their contracted home child care providers on child abuse and reporting requirements.

In the past, Children's Services provided a small amount of annual funding to Boost CYAC to coordinate training sessions on child abuse reporting requirements. Children's Services staff has recently met with Boost CYAC to receive an update on their activities and will continue to work with the agency to explore opportunities for sharing information with the child care sector on the services they provide and training opportunities available.

Request for space

Boost CYAC is currently located at 890 Yonge Street in space they are renting as part of a commercial lease which expires in December 2018. They are looking to replicate this successful model of child abuse prevention and intervention across Toronto, specifically in Scarborough, Etobicoke and North York where there are heavy caseloads. They are seeking the City's support to secure a BMR lease for a suitable City owned property of 25,000-30,000 square feet in a Central/ North location with parking and TTC access.

Boost CYAC has strong partnership services agreements with: Toronto Police Services, Children's Aid of Toronto, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Jewish Family and Child, Radius Child and Youth Services, Child Development Institute and East Metro Youth Services. East Metro Youth Services in Scarborough is the lead agency in Toronto for children's mental health transformation through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Partners are supportive of Boost CYAC's expansion efforts. Boost CYAC is poised to undertake a readiness study to launch a capital campaign which will support their expansion efforts.

Sustainable Provincial Funding:

The provincial government provides financial support to Boost CYAC but this is insufficient to meet their operating costs. Like many not for profits, Boost CYAC also depends on grants from the federal government and foundations which are not a sustainable source of funding. Boost CYAC is joining efforts with other CYACs to ask municipal governments in their respective communities to write letters of support urging the provincial government to provide sustainable funding for Child and Youth Advocacy Centres. Staff support this request given the high caliber of work that Boost CYAC undertakes and the leadership it provides in the development of standards and training related to child abuse intervention. Boost CYAC also provides services that support child witnesses to homicide and human trafficking both of which support City Social Development Strategies.

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SIGNATURE

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