



Indigenous Community Safety and Mental Health Responses

Presentation to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC)

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December 15, 2020



Overview

- Where did this originate?
 - October AAAC Motion and Council Direction
- Where are we at?
 - Division Updates
 - Social Development & Finance Administration
 - Shelter, Support & Housing Administration
 - Toronto Public Health
 - Children Services
- Where do we go from here?

AAAC Motion AA7.4 and Council Direction

- Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee passed a [motion](#) to recommend the Executive Committee direct that:

City Council requests the Director, Indigenous Affairs Office, to work with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and other relevant City staff and divisions, and report to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee at its next meeting on December 15th, 2020 on a process to identify funding needs and sources to fund Indigenous-led responses to community safety and mental health in Toronto.

- Council [adopted](#) the motion on November 25, 2020 without amendment.

Where We Are At

- Initiatives happening across various City divisions
- Divisions have started to come together to identify processes for collaborative and coordinated approaches to this work.

What we heard at TASSC/Mayor Roundtable:

- 1. Dedicated funding stream for **co-ordinated** Indigenous mental health plan.*
- 2. Need **land-based services** to support mental health needs of community members – particularly children and youth.*



Social Development & Finance Administration

- Mental Health Support Strategy (MHSS)
- Police Reform
- Community Safety and Well-being
- TO-Supports: COVID-19 Equity Action Plan



Toronto Public Health

- Toronto Indigenous Health Strategy
 - Several actions pertaining to mental health, wellbeing, and community safety
- Cultural Safety Training
- Culturally Safe Parenting Program
- Culturally Appropriate Health Promotion

Children Services

- Every Child Belongs
 - Service delivery model for children with extra support needs (i.e., special needs or special gifts) and their families in licensed child care and home child care
 - Resource Consultation Service
 - Specialized Consultation Service
 - Indigenous Resource Consultation
- EarlyOn Child and Family Programs
 - Programs for parents/caregivers and their children from birth to six years of age that, help strengthen adult-child relationships, support parent education, and foster healthy child development
 - 5 Indigenous Early On Centres and 3 mobile programs provide holistic, wraparound supports for Indigenous children and families
 - Includes activities designed to address mental health and wellness needs as defined by the Indigenous community

Shelter, Support & Housing Administration

- Current Funding Indigenous-led, culturally relevant services
 - Provides funding to Indigenous-led organizations for social housing, emergency shelter, street outreach, housing supports, housing help, supports for daily living, drop-in services, and employment services.
- Dedicated Indigenous Funding Streams
 - Homes for Good
 - 20% Grants Indigenous Funding Stream
- Coordinated Access to Housing and Supports System
- Potential Opportunities for Growth
 - Health Care in Shelters
 - New Shelter Service Model (NSSM)



Next Steps

- Begin community circles, workshops to hear from Indigenous leaders, health care providers, communities.
- Need to identify gaps in services, immediate needs, funding needs, service preferences, etc.
- Continue building coordinated Indigenous mental health process internally
- Support from AAAC and other Indigenous partners to help define mental health from Indigenous perspectives.

Marsi, Miigwetch,
Anusheek, Nia:Wen,
Baamaa pii, Thank you