

EX20.1**Community Crisis Support Service Pilot (Ward All)**

Jan. 27, 2021

Founded in 1994, Working for Change is a charitable organization that emphasizes the importance of work in the lives of people who have been marginalized. We operate 4 social purpose enterprises, leadership and pre-employment training programs, as well as providing community - based research and public education on issues related to poverty, mental health and addictions, violence against women and newcomer/refugee challenges.

The reason for our existence was that people with lived experience were not satisfied with the vocational programs offered by the formal mental health system.

We write today to thank the City for tabling a report that can strengthen community responses to people in crisis. We want to endorse to endorse the submission of the Gerstein Centre with which Working for Change has had a strong relationship ever since the Gerstein Centre opened in 1989. For instance, our Executive Director of many years, Joyce Brown, was on the founding board of the Gerstein. Paul Quinn, ED of the Gerstein was, for many years, chair of Working for Change's board.

Our biggest concern with the report is that there is not nearly enough money to give this a good chance of changing the way we respond to people in crisis.

I quote the last sentence of the Gerstein submission:

“We look forward to building on our many years of experience and collaborating, partnering and allying with others across the city to create an integrated, community-basis, socially just crisis care system.”

Yes, we agree.

David Reville, Board member

Working for Change workingforchange.ca