

HRAC Working Group 1 – Meeting 1 – October 7, 2024

Working Group Guidelines Document (20 minutes)
Chair Selection (10 minutes)
Human Rights-Based Analysis Tool (20 minutes)
Working Group Agenda & Priorities (10 minutes)
Discussion on Shelter Safety Action Plan (60 minutes)

Present

Bahar Shadpour
Bee Lee Soh
Lindsey Lemieux

Regrets

Elizabeth McIsaac

Housing Secretariat Support

Asha Sivarajah

Notes

1. Working Group Guidelines Document

- Reviewed, group had no comments.

2. Chair Selection

- Elizabeth was nominated as Chair and accepted
- Discussion over Chair's responsibilities as:
 - Guiding the agenda and priorities of the working group
 - Connecting with HRAC Chair about setting the agenda for HRAC Committee meetings so it represents the interests of the Working Group
 - Encouraging consensus

3. Human Rights-Based Analysis Tool

- Working Group members discussed the educational human rights-based analysis tool developed by Maytree to support their capacity to analyze items considered by HRAC through a human rights-based approach

4. Working Group Agenda & Priorities

- Member shared that the objective of this working group is to speak to the diverse experiences of homelessness in this city, as they are often placed into a singular box
- Hidden homelessness was suggested as a key focus area
- Member shared that in Rent-Geared-to-Income application 'couch surfing' is not considered as 'homeless' which is a major gap

5. Discussion on Shelter Safety Action Plan

- Members discussed the Shelter Safety Action Plan
- Member shared the importance of understanding trauma responses from shelter clients and the success of trauma-informed approaches in different sectors (healthcare).
 - For example, infractions within shelters may be the result of a trauma response.
- Discussion about whether complaints are monitored to identify common issues and linked to staffing training needs and priorities

- Discussion about housing pathways for unhoused rights holders; encampments to modular building to community housing to subsidized permanent housing provides supports for rights holders exiting homelessness
 - Creates accountability for vulnerable tenants as they are not being followed up on throughout their housing journey
 - Needs housing that is safe for sober rights holders
- Members shared remarks from conversations with shelter residents noting:
 - Everyday fears of evictions
 - Poor quality and consistency of service
 - Bullying of shelter residents by shelter staff
 - Issues with the training, recruitment and staffing of shelters

Next Steps

- Working group will prepare a feedback document based on its discussion of the Shelter Safety Action Plan
- Working group Chair will present feedback at the next HRAC meeting

Working group ended at 2:05 pm.