

HRAC Working Group 2 – Meeting 1 – October 16, 2024

Working Group Guidelines Document (20 minutes)

Chair Selection (10 minutes)

Human Rights-Based Analysis Tool (20 minutes)

Working Group Agenda & Priorities (45+ minutes)

Present

Elizabeth McIsaac

Harmy Mendoza

Bee Lee Soh

Ann-Marie Moulton

Chase Gaudet

Regrets

Housing Secretariat Support

Asha Sivarajah

Notes

1. Working Group Guidelines Document

- No comments
- Moved 'Chair Selection' to the final item

2. Human Rights-Based Analysis Tool

3. 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. **Working Group Agenda & Priorities**

- Member raised concerns related to access to subsidized housing for survivors of abuse.
 - Survivors may be excluded from the Special Priority Program if they are not cohabiting with the abuser
 - Survivors often fall under the category of 'hidden homeless' and may not be captured in shelter system data
 - 'Safe at Home' model speaks to certain survivors and should be considered by the City
- Discussion on access to housing and the link between health and housing as well as importance of wrap around supports
- Member discussed importance of having a structure to make the affordable housing search more transparent and easier to navigate
- Member shared observations from individuals experiencing housing precarity over barriers in accessing rental subsidies and private rental discrimination
 - Many may go to a shelter because it is a requirement to be a shelter resident to receive rental subsidies, including COHB (3 month minimum stay in shelters)
 - Landlords often don't know about COHB which, may prevent COHB recipients from accessing housing due to stigma towards tenants receiving social assistance
 - Proof of employment often acts as a barrier, especially if not employed full-time (even if receiving subsidies)
- Shelter and housing are not 'one size fits all'

- Some rightsholders need transitional housing before permanent housing
 - For example: permanent housing residents may experience difficulties adjusting if they were previously living in an encampment or have experienced chronic/long-term homelessness, some return to the encampment if they don't have access to adequate wrap around supports
 - Supportive housing is not a singular model, important to break down monolithic view
 - Discussed what the course of action will be for shelter hotels which will be closing next year
 - Priorities Discussed
 - Barriers to for Survivors of Abuse
 - Disaggregated Data Collection
 - Hidden Homelessness
 - Health Services and Housing
 - Housing Search Navigation
 - Supportive Housing
 - Landlord Discrimination in the Private Rental Market
 - Proof of Income
 - Accessing Rental Supplements
 - Proof of Employment
 - Racism and Discrimination
 - Future Questions
 - What are the pathways to housing?
 - Who is affected?
 - Which groups are most left behind?
- 4. Chair Selection**
- Ann-Marie was nominated as Chair and accepted

Working group ended at 3:08pm.