



St. Thomas-Elgin Housing & Homelessness Action Group  
Meeting Minutes – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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<b>Date</b>	June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
<b>Time</b>	10:00am to 11:30am
<b>Chair</b>	Danielle Neilson
<b>Location</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Danielle Neilson</b> , St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services <b>Ellen Hickey</b> , St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services <b>Lindsay Rice</b> , YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin <b>Karen Schouten</b> , Fresh Start <b>Jon McCurry</b> , Eastwood Housing <b>Alex Connoy</b> , The City of St. Thomas <b>Sara Knight</b> , West Elgin Community Health Centre <b>Valerie Beneteau</b> , YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin <b>Leticia Mizon</b> , The Nameless <b>Andrea Graves</b> , St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services

**Discussion:**

<b>Order</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1.	<b>Introductions and Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>D. Neilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that we have received many regrets.</li><li>The group went around and introduced themselves.</li></ul>	Danielle // All
2.	<b>Housing Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>E. Hickey provided a housing update from St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beginning July 1, our community will be moving to the new RGI Simplified process. The St. Thomas-Elgin housing application is being updated as well.</li><li>As of today (June 16<sup>th</sup>), there are just under 900 households on the waitlist for social/public housing. The average wait time is between 1 and 9 years, with the longest wait being for 2-bedroom units. Approximately 30% of the individuals on the waitlist currently reside outside of St. Thomas-Elgin.</li><li>St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services will introduce a new Social Services Relief Fund initiative over the month of July. This initiative is intended to help households directly impacted by the pandemic who have incurred rent, mortgage, or utilities arrears. Applications will be available at the St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services office or on the City's website as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.</li></ul></li></ul>	Ellen

3.	<b>Homelessness Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Neilson provided a homelessness update from St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- St.Thomas-Elgin has officially become a Built For Zero-Canada community. Built For Zero-Canada is a national campaign that supports communities in their response to homelessness. More information can be found here: <a href="https://bfzcanada.ca/">https://bfzcanada.ca/</a></li> <li>- Efforts to develop a plan to implement HIFIS 4.0 in our community continue.</li> <li>- A Point In Time count is being organized for September 29<sup>th</sup>. Point In Time counts provide a snapshot of homelessness in a community on a specific day and time. Many volunteers will be needed and recruitment for volunteers will occur over the summer.</li> <li>- West Elgin Community Health Centre has retained a consultant to conduct a rural homeless and housing needs assessment in Elgin County. The final report, which will help inform future planning, is expected end of September.</li> <li>- CMHA has piloted a street outreach team, starting with a team of 2. A promotional flyer with more information is expected in the coming days.</li> <li>- The Inn Out of the Cold will be moving out of its church location and into 10 Princess Ave in the fall. It is expected that 423 Talbot will remain open until 10 Princess Ave is up and running.</li> <li>- Indwell is on target to finish their micro apartments by the end of the summer. Matching of the apartments will flow through Coordinated Access from the By Name List and based on priorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Danielle
4.	<b>Terms of Reference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that the Terms of Reference be reviewed and updated. A. Connoy and K. Schouten volunteered to assist D. Neilson in putting together the draft ToR before the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Danielle // All
5.	<b>Membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current Terms of Reference identifies that anyone can be a member of the group as long as we all agree. Any expressions of interest can be sent to D. Neilson and she can share them all at the next meeting.</li> <li>• The group agreed to review the current members and then have a discussion at the next meeting regarding who is missing from the table. D. Neilson identified that representation of lived/living</li> </ul>	Danielle // All

	experience and expertise is needed and agreed to look at best practices for this before the next meeting.	
6.	<b>Meeting Frequency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior meetings were held monthly, but the group decided it will be better to determine frequency once we have the updated Terms of Reference on hand and know what the objectives are.</li> </ul>	Danielle // All
7.	<b>Community Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L. Rice provided an update on Project Tiny Homes. There are a lot of changes happening on 21 Kains Street, and demolition has started. The goal is to have the tiny homes community ready for occupancy in 2022.</li> <li>Indwell has a second build of 45 supportive housing units that is expected to be completed in 2022, with a third build of 60 supportive housing units scheduled for 2023.</li> </ul>	All
8.	<b>Next Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group agreed to meet again in September. D. Neilson will send out a meeting invitation.</li> </ul>	Danielle // All