

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Monday, July 10, 2017 commencing at 1:08 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Randy Hawes
Councillor Pam Alexis
Councillor Carol Hamilton
Councillor Jim Hinds
Councillor Rhett Nicholson
Councillor Jenny Stevens

Council Members Absent: Councillor Danny Plecas

Staff Members Present: Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer
Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Kirsten Hargreaves, Manager of Social Development
Steve Simmonds, Manager of Inspection Services
Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services (joined meeting at 1:13 p.m.)
Brandi Cowell, Administrative Clerk – Development Services
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Guests Present: Stanley Kuperis, Director Mental Health and Substance Use, Fraser Health Authority
Ajay Kaushal, Manager of Mental Health and Substance Use for Abbotsford and Mission, Fraser Health Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

SC17/021
JUL. 10/17

The meeting was called to order.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC17/022
JUL. 10/17

Moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and
RESOLVED: That the July 10, 2017 Special Council Agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

SC17/023
JUL. 10/17

Fraser Health Authority Discussion

Mayor Hawes welcomed the representatives from the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and noted that the following topics are listed on the agenda for discussion:

- harm reduction strategies, including needle distribution, detoxification services and addictions recovery;
- opioid agonist therapy in Mission; and
- mental health concerns and services, including numbers of beds and

availability of services, as well as Assertive Community Treatment Team funding.

Council expressed concern about FHA's needle distribution practices and the number of needles that are being improperly disposed of within the community. Mr. Kuperis referred Council to Dr. Victoria Lee and Dr. Andrew Larder for follow-up regarding this ongoing concern.

Discussion ensued on detoxification services available in the region and the different ways available to access these services. Mr. Kuperis outlined the role of FHA's mobile detox unit and provided an overview of the services provided at the Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre in Surrey (which offers medically managed treatment) as well as the facilities that offer short transitional access to recovery (STAR) beds (through the Riverstone program). Mr. Kuperis touched on the roles of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams and Intensive Case Management (ICM) Teams, noting that the Mission/Abbotsford ACT Team has been very successful and that ICM Teams have been launched in Langley and Maple Ridge. In response to questions from Council, Mr. Kuperis explained that, although there are similarities between the ACT and ICM programs, the services are delivered differently. The ACT services are provided by an interdisciplinary team whereas the ICM services are provided by a single case manager.

In response to questions from Council regarding what is needed to improve the system, Mr. Kuperis confirmed that it would be beneficial to have more medically managed detoxification beds (as the one that currently services the entire region is in Surrey) and additional outreach workers. He also spoke in favour of opioid agonist therapy. He referred Council to a recent document created by the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use, and endorsed by the Ministry of Health, entitled 'A Guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder', noting that it contains the most recent medical evidence for the use of methadone and suboxone for treatment for individuals with an opioid dependence. He further noted that the report, available online at <http://www.bccsu.ca/care-guidance-publications/>, provides a tapering off schedule that physicians will be required to follow to ensure that methadone and suboxone treatment does not become a way of life for people with an opioid dependence.

In terms of potential locations for the proposed opioid agonist therapy clinic, Mr. Kuperis suggested either the Mission Friendship Centre or the Mission Community Health Centre. Council informed Mr. Kuperis that they will be considering the zoning question in upcoming weeks. They did, however, express their view that a downtown location would place undue hardship on the other businesses in the area and that more people would be willing to access the service if the facility were co-located with other medical services and, therefore, not readily identifiable as an opioid dependence treatment centre.

Council expressed concern regarding the escalation in homelessness, mental health issues and substance use in the community and within the Province of British Columbia and encouraged FHA to consider a full range of options and services to address these growing problems. In particular, they cited policies which state that a support recovery facility must provide methadone and suboxone treatment in order to be licensed by the FHA, which automatically excludes all facilities that are 100% abstinence based. Mr. Kuperis confirmed that clients who opt for an abstinence based detoxification treatment are required to go to Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre because it is the only FHA licensed facility that is medically managed.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Kuperis offered to provide the following:

- the number of people on a methadone program that die as a result of fentanyl;
- the number of overdoses for 2016 and for the period from January 1 to May 31, 2017;
- data confirming the number of people going into the various treatment beds and their treatment path (what happens to them after they leave the initial treatment centre); and
- a full list of all treatment beds in the region, including the details for each facility (i.e. How long can clients can stay? Is there a waiting list? If so, how long is it? Can clients opt for abstinence based treatment at that facility?).

4. ADJOURNMENT

SC17/024
JUL. 10/17

Moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.



RANDY HAWES
MAYOR



MIKE YOUNIE
CORPORATE OFFICER