SCS Business Meeting

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday July 14th

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Sarah Gill, Health Promotion Specialist, SMDHU

**Recorder:** Antoinette Welsby

Organizational Representation:

Mia Brown, Program Manager, Substance Using and Injury Prevention Program, SMDHU|Cathy Eisener, Public Health Nurse, Substance Using and Injury Prevention Program, SMDHU| Lynne Cheliak, Clinical Director, CMHA | Meredith Fryia, Manager CMHA │Rebecca deWitt, Director CMHA

**Participants Attended: 24**

| Time | Item | Presenter |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3:00-3:10 | Welcome, land acknowledgement and introductions   * Covered general housekeeping notes re: how to ask questions and muting of devices. * Land acknowledgement was completed * Roundtable introductions completed | Sarah Gill |
| 3:10-3:15 | Update on the SCS application process for this location   * Site was endorsed on May 31st by Barrie City Council. * Application will now be sent to the province of Ontario – Ministry of Health (MOH) and Health Canada. * The application process is involves many elements. The application includes:   + a proposed site plan and local conditions document detailing data specific to the area.   + a requirement for extensive policy & procedure development including security procedures.   + a staffing plan and how service will be provided.   + The consultation report which includes all of the inputs from the various engagement strategies such as, deputations, this focus group, the online survey, neighbourhood consultation sessions and inputs from key stakeholders.   + A financial section of the application.   + A plan to deliver the mandatory harm reduction services as well as a plan about wrap around services that will be provided or linked to including addiction and mental health support and treatment options, and referrals or touch down services provided by other social service providers e.g. housing etc. in our operational model.   + A physical safety and security plan–a preliminary Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CEPTD) was done and a much more comprehensive one is planned by CMHA and The Barrie Police.   + A plan to address issues of proximity, accessibility, and community engagement through an ongoing community engagement and liaison plan which may include things like these focus groups.   + A detailed site design. The applicants have consulted and engaged with an architect and engineer to develop a design based on the physical capacity of the building. We plan to maintain an effective working relationship with the landlord and the building management. * Based on information we continue to collect for the surrounding community, we will review and revise the documents. There will be ongoing opportunity for the businesses to provide feedback. | CMHA |
| 3:15-3:25 | Feedback and or concerns with this proposed location  Overview of feedback heard during deputations provided by the moderator  Additional comments made by participants   * Proximity to residential area and loitering in and around 80 Bradford St remains a concern * Question asked by participant related to any systematic reviews completed on the benefits of a SCS; Mia Brown will provide information on the literature available.  1. Kennedy MC, Karamouzian M, Kerr T**. Public Health and Public Order Outcomes Associated with Supervised Drug Consumption Facilities: a Systematic Review**. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep. 2017 Oct;14(5):161-183. doi: 10.1007/s11904-017-0363-y. PMID: 28875422. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28875422/> 2. Potier C, Laprévote V, Dubois-Arber F, Cottencin O, Rolland B. **Supervised injection services: what has been demonstrated? A systematic literature review**. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2014 Dec 1;145:48-68. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.10.012. Epub 2014 Oct 23. PMID: 25456324. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25456324/>  * Concerns were raised about security and will be addressed during the discussion on the mitigation strategies | Sarah Gill |
| 3:25-3:35 | Overview of the proposed mitigation strategies and operational plans for the site  See mitigation strategies and operational plan documents.   * High level overview provided of both the planned mitigation strategies and operation plan as provided to the City of Barrie and to participants | CMHA/SMDHU |
| 3:35- 4:10 | Discussion of suggestions for both the mitigation strategies and operational plan documents | Sarah Gill |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mitigation Strategies | | |
| Category | Question | Response |
| Community and Client Safety | Perimeter safety. Concerns were raised by several participants on the call regarding discarded needles and other drug use paraphernalia on the grounds of the building | This will be addressed in the mitigation strategies through regularly planned needle/debris sweeps around the perimeter of the building and the nearby neighbourhood. Clients will have access to safe disposal options and will be encouraged to use these and other safe disposal options in the community; there will be a Liaison position created when the site is operational to ensure the public has direct access to a staff member of the site to report any concerns e.g., discarded needles in the neighbourhood |
| Access to bathrooms: “Will bathrooms be available at the site and will these be for use by SCS clients only?” “This is currently an issue within the main building with bathroom access being restricted.” | If a need is identified by an individual for use of a bathroom, it will be addressed and supported by the SCS staff |
| “How will concerns of the nearby residents be addressed?” | Concerns will be addressed using trained staff engaging with the clients of the site; regularly scheduled needle/paraphernalia sweeps, clearly identified and open lines of communication through site staff and the role of a site liaison. |
| “How is the budget determined and what is the period of time for funding?” | The budget is reviewed yearly and information about this will be posted for public access once the budget is finalized. |
| “Will there be a process to address the potential for impaired driving and strategies to ensure clients are not driving away from the site impaired?” | Staff will work with the clients to ensure that they are getting to their next destination safely; if a client drove to the site, they will be supported by staff to find another way of travelling to their next destination. It was noted that most clients of SCS do not drive to the site. |
| “There are currently people loitering in 80 Bradford, will the proposed site increase traffic within 80 Bradford of people seeking harm reduction supplies?” | There will be clear communication to clients and partners that harm reduction supplies can be accessed at the SCS location; harm reduction clients will be redirected to the SCS to have their needs met; 11 Innisfil St does have a separate entrance directly into the site; this will we promoted through signage and word of mouth.  It is expected that current Needle Exchange Program partners in the 80 Bradford building will continue to provide harm reduction supplies through their interactions with clients as needed. |
| Concerns were raised about the current lack of street lighting and the risk this presents to staff and clients on nearby businesses. | Lighting issues will be taken into consideration and discussed with the City of Barrie during the site planning process. |
| “Is the site large enough to accommodate COVID 19 public health measures?” | The site is large enough to meet physical distancing requirements and this will be considered in the floorplan. |
| Ongoing Community Engagement | “What will be the impact on the neighbouring community and how will this be evaluated?” | The site operators are required to report monthly on a number of indicators. This information is available within the [Consumption and Treatment Services Application Guide](https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/opioids/docs/CTS_application_guide_en.pdf) starting on page 16.  Also, an SCS Community Advisory Committee will be created and will be providing insight into the operation of the site and communicating regularly with the operators and other members of the public  An identified Community Liaison role will be part of the staffing model to ensure ease of access for the public to provide insight or concerns about the site |
| Education and Awareness | “What are the reporting requirement to the ministry?” | Please see above; reporting is completed monthly to the MOH and each site is evaluated by the MOH on a yearly basis. |
|  | | |
| Operational Plan | | |
| Staffing | “What will be the qualifications and wages for staff and how will retention of staff be managed?” | Recruitment and retention is a priority and CMHA staffing policies will be used; staffing will include a  Nurse on-site during operational hours, as well as harm reduction and peer workers; there will also be  close relationships with community partners who will provide services on site. |
| Hours | “What will be the hours of operation” | The hours of operation are still being considered and will also depend on funding.  It is anticipated that the site will operate between 8 – 10 hours per day, depending on need and usage. |
| Client Flow | “How were potential clients of the site involved in this planning?” | In 2019 a survey was conducted within the community and specifically with people who use drugs through community partner agencies; the survey focused on the need for a SCS location in Barrie, and specific about services that individuals would like to see made available. More recently, in the winter of 2021, people who would potentially use the site were provided with paper copies of the community survey through agencies working directly with this population. A total of 50 surveys were received with a general theme of moving forward with a site to save lives. Also, during the virtual neighbourhood sessions 11 participants self-identified as people who use drugs out of the total 104 participates. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4:10-4:20 | Overview of new SCS Community Advisory Committee for the proposed site  An overview of the planned SCS Community Advisory Committee was provided; the committee will provide a means of communication and engagement for the community, residents, businesses, operators, and social support agencies.  Feedback welcome for suggestions of membership composition.  The current priority is completing the Provincial and Federal applications, with the expectation that this committee will be formed in the Fall of 2021. | SMDHU |
| 4:20-4:30 | Final comments, suggestions, or feedback from the business community   * Question raised about Community support and approval including letters of support and non-support- All letters received either in support of or in opposition were sent to the City and will be included in the application to the MOH and to Health Canada. * Question raised about the Child Care provider across the street from the site- The applicants will attempt to work with the daycare provider to address specific concerns raised and develop mitigation strategies based on the identified concerns. | Sarah Gill |
| 4:30 | Adjournment | Sarah Gill |

**ADDENDUM:**

**A response from a Club operating in the 80 Bradford Building provided feedback via email:**

“Our members and guests use building entrance #7 and the Vespra Street parking lot, all on the south side of the building.” “Our members normally meet during evening hours, twice a week, and on Saturdays.”

“The SCS will have minimal impact on our Club, and we have no objections to the placement of the SCS at 11 Innisfil Street. We applaud the initiative taken for this social concern. We do, however, have a number of recommendations related to security and lighting along the south side of the existing building.”

**Feedback and Mitigating Measures were provided in the email:**

“The SCS site will be immediate to the west of entrance #7 location as described above. Currently, the area between Innisfil Street and Bradford Street (from west to east) consists of an industrial parking lot, chain link fence and gate, a car parking area, entrance #7 to the building, and a driveway going east to Bradford Street parking area, all located on the property of 80 Bradford Street and all immediately adjacent the south side of the building.”

“Currently, the area is traversed by pedestrians, cyclists, and a minor number of transients. The area is not well lit. Safety and security of the users of entrance #7, particularly after dark, has been a concern of our members.”

**Proposed Security Measures:**

Additional Lighting:

“Although we recognize that the people using the SCS site will be law-abiding, we are concerned with the possibility of the few people that may be attracted to this facility for unscrupulous reasons. As such, we would request that additional lighting be placed along the south side of the existing industrial parking area and the area between the industrial parking area and the east side of the main building as this area is a transit path, as described above. This area is currently poorly lit and has vegetation that blocks light dispersion, creating dark zones.”

“It is our recommendation that the lighting is increased to meet lighting standards for walkways (City of Barrie Standards). Increasing the luminosity levels meeting current dark sky lighting standards is recommended through the addition of appropriately spaces LED lights and replacing existing fixtures. In addition, we suggest that a small amount of clearing of overhanging branches from trees and bushes be implemented to increase security and lighting.”

Security Cameras

“Although the owner has security cameras inside the building, we are not aware of any security cameras, exterior to the building, along the south side of 80 Bradford Street. Therefore, we recommend that a security camera or cameras and signage be installed to sufficiently cover the area. This will allow for monitoring and provide reliable documentation of areas of concern, should that be needed. We believe this measure alone would be most conducive to addressing complaints.”

“We trust you will find our comments helpful in meeting the needs of the SCS site and public safety concerns.”