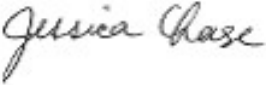




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 6, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Annual Report (HSC23015) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Rachelle Ihekwoaba 905-546-2424 ext. 5909
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children's and Community Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

In 2019, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was notified of new legislative requirements for municipalities to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (HSC19032). The plan aims to ensure all residents in the community feel safe, have a sense of belonging and can meet their needs for education, healthcare, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression. The plan was developed using the provincial government's Community Safety and Well-Being Framework¹ which identifies four key areas of planning: incident response, risk intervention, prevention and social development. These key areas of planning will ensure all opportunities to make communities safer and healthier are identified.

Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWBP) is overseen by an advisory committee, referred to as the System Leadership Table, which meets both legislative requirements and brings together various sectors' perspectives to provide

¹ <https://www.ontario.ca/document/community-safety-and-well-being-planning-framework-booklet-3-shared-commitment-ontario/section-2-community-safety-and-well-being-planning>

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

strategic advice and direction to the City of Hamilton on the plan. The organizations listed below are members of the System Leadership Table:

- Banyan Community Services
- Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leadership
- City of Hamilton (Children's and Community Services; Public Health Services; Housing Services)
- Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hamilton Police Services
- Hamilton Police Services Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Indwell
- McMaster University
- Mohawk College
- Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg
- St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- Woman Abuse Working Group
- YWCA Hamilton

With the emergence of the pandemic, work on the plan was put on hold in 2020. During this period, City staff supporting the development of the plan were redeployed and advisory committee members were called to focus on the pandemic response in their organizations.

In June 2021, the Emergency and Community Services Committee approved Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan² (HSC19032(a)). This plan outlines a framework for working alongside partners to promote the safety and well-being of all residents. The content within the plan was informed through data and evidence related to local risk factors and trends, as well as consultation with Hamilton residents, service providers and advisory committee members. This framework includes a series of guiding principles that will be applied across all work within the plan as well as six local priorities where opportunities for action have been identified. The local priorities include:

- Hate incidents
- Violence
- Mental health and stigmatization
- Substance use³

² <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/2022-12/community-safety-and-wellbeing-plan-2021.pdf>

³ Community engagement and service collaboration related to substance use is happening through Hamilton's Drug Strategy.

- Homelessness and access to affordable housing
- Access to income

CSWBP Highlights

To date, the implementation of the plan has focused on building relationships and aligning or contributing to the work of existing tables and groups as well as initiating some new projects. In many ways, the CSWBP has acted as a convener/facilitator, by bringing groups together to work on issues or to support work, which is already underway. The list below highlights some, but not all, initiatives championed by the CSWBP in 2022:

- **Development of Evaluation Framework**, in partnership with McMaster University's Office of Community Engagement, this resource outlines how to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the CSWBP. An objective of the framework is to support equitable, evidence-based, and accountable decision-making.
- **Participation in Inter-Regional CSWBP Greater Toronto and Hamilton Areas Collaboration**. The Hamilton CSWBP co-planned the 2022 Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Symposium on June 10, 2022. This virtual event brought together more than 250 participants. More than 140 organizations were represented from 30+ Ontario municipalities, with the goal of raising awareness about the Community Safety and Well-Being plans as well as the priority risk factors across communities.
- **Addressing Safety Concerns in McQuesten** by bringing partners together such as the McQuesten Planning Team (with representation from local community organizations), and the Hamilton Police Youth Engagement Team we are providing opportunities for youth to connect with each other, learn new skills and/or participate in recreation activities, and build relationships with police in their neighbourhood.
- **Building Safer Communities Fund** awarded by Public Safety Canada to the City of Hamilton. Nearly \$4 million over 4 years was secured in support of community-based programs to prevent gun and gang violence by tackling its root causes. The aim of this fund is to implement community-led initiatives that will reduce and prevent youth gun and gang violence through trauma informed and anti-racism community engagement and partnerships. A project consultant was selected to develop a multi-year plan by working closely with various community organizations to inform it. A total of nine⁴ community organizations were directly funded to conduct engagements with youth and build capacity in the areas of

⁴ Nine community organizations funded to lead community engagement include: Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association; Big Brothers of Halton and Hamilton; Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion; John Howard Society of Hamilton, Burlington and Area; Wesley Urban Ministries; YWCA Hamilton; Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg; and Liberty for Youth.

trauma-informed care and anti-racism training with community organizations⁵ leading this work to support the system.

- **System Mapping**, in partnership with CityLab. This resource is under development and will illustrate the relationships between various organizations, institutions and collaborative tables in Hamilton that have a common goal of improving safety and well-being, related to the plan's priority areas. The map will demonstrate how these groups interconnect, relate and act in a complex system.
- **Partnering to Prevent Hate in Hamilton** through the new city-wide campaign. Hamilton For All 2023 is a community-based initiative to raise awareness and build capacity against discrimination of all kinds. In addition to this campaign, collaboration with other City departments and external partners to support anti-hate initiatives in Hamilton are underway.
- **Community Partner Workshop** held in November 2022 brought together more than 110 participants, representing a wide-range of sectors and organizations to learn more about the CSWBP and provide an opportunity to inform what initiatives should be included in 2023 CSWBP Implementation Plan to address priority areas. The workshop was planned and delivered in partnership with City of Hamilton and Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion as members of the CSWBP System Leadership Table.

2023 CSWBP Implementation Plan

In February 2023, the System Leadership Table reviewed the results of the Community Partner Workshop to determine the focus areas for the year ahead. Based on this feedback, the System Leadership Table recommends the following initiatives for 2023 implementation:

- Implement a situation table in Hamilton⁶
- Develop a CSWBP data strategy
- Enhance community driven solutions to support community safety and well-being
- Improve and expand affordable housing options and supports
- Improve homelessness supports through collaboration, shelter reform and reduction of barriers to access Advocate for a living wage and basic income

As these are complex, integrated issues in the community, it is expected that some solutions may be addressed through collaboration and alignment of existing funding, while others could require significant investment to demonstrate success in outcome measures. As such, CSWBP will focus on opportunities to continue aligning and

⁵ Banyan Community Services developing trauma informed care resources and Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre leading anti-racism supports

⁶ Situation tables are a forum for decision-makers from health, social service, and public safety sectors to convene regularly and leverage community assets and relationships to rapidly connect clients living with acutely elevated risk to a holistic group of protective services in order to prevent a crisis and help clients to better manage and reduce the risk factors in their lives.

working with existing initiatives and partners to improve outcomes. This includes, but not limited, to connections with Hamilton's Drug Strategy, Urban Indigenous Strategy, Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, Youth Strategy, Mohawk College's Challenge 2025 and many more. As this work occurs, and gaps in the system appropriate for the CSWBP become clear, identification of resources required to advance the plan will occur by the System Leadership Table and a report will be brought forward to Council. It is expected that requests for dedicated resources for the plan itself would come forward for the 2024 budget process, and that the CSWBP partners will also continue to support investments and requests brought forward that have other partners as lead, as much work is occurring in the community that advances the goals of the CSWBP.

Investment within the local priorities to improve outcomes related to safety and well-being is beyond that of a single organization and is a shared responsibility between different levels of government, community partners and funding networks. The work of the CSWBP System Leadership has been significantly advanced in 2022 through the Public Safety Canada grant, and is an excellent example of how upper levels of government funding can also contribute to the CSWBP. Sustainable funding will be sought through the appropriate funder(s) as further requirements related to the above-mentioned actions are determined.

Resource Allocation

To support a collaborative and coordinated community-wide implementation of the Hamilton's CSWBP, Council approved hiring 1.0 FTE Senior Project Manager to support this work in 2021 (Report HSC19032(b)). Since then, the governance model has been developed and actions for implementation are confirmed, opportunities for increased, sustainable funding will be sought through the appropriate funder(s) based on the requirements of the implementation plan. Requests for municipal funding to support this work will be brought forward to future budget processes.

CSWBP Next Steps

The City of Hamilton, in collaboration with members of the System Leadership Table and community partners play a vital role in ensuring the CSWBP is implemented sustainably and focuses on improving integration and continuity between services and across sectors and inclusion to realize the goals of the safety and well-being of all residents in Hamilton.

The City will continue working with the System Leadership Table and community partners to determine resources required to support the successful implementation of the recommended actions for 2023 and beyond.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable