

AHAN
National Housing Strategy Day Forum
NOV 22/05

Welcome and introductions

Action: That all service providers bring their stats to the next meeting.

Action: Scott to inform AHAN of the outcome of the meeting in Dec. regarding the funding for new housing.

Action: Ensure that all correspondence, minutes provide information about how to get involved with AHAN

Service Updates:

1) December 1st the Warm Room opens. It will be open from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m.

2) Rent Bank: accessed through Intake Services at 771-9630 and they will direct you from there. We are trying to promote it. It is not for ODSP or OW recipients. You must be 2 months in arrears and have a low income. If you are more than 2 months we may still be able to help. Please encourage people to use it if they need it.

Updates from Task Forces

Community Capacity Building

1. Advocacy

Jennifer Davis and Bob Cottrell met with Ernie Parsons to let him know about AHAN. At first the people in the office felt like they were going to be challenged about their policies. When they realized that AHAN was there simply to inform Ernie about them, everyone became more receptive. They left him some reports about the homelessness in Hastings.

Other politicians in the area are willing to meet with us, but have been unable to organize a convenient time as of yet. Will continue working on it.

2. Information Sharing

Rahno met with Michele regarding the Landlord information kits. They talked about the possibility of a remote workshop for landlords, developing kits for "friendly landlords" and a default kit. The kits are being developed by our group but will be used by others for distribution.

The group reviewed the pamphlet and the display board. They are in the final stages of development. The information will be passed to Joan and Vanessa for editing, then given to the HWG for final approval.

3. Networking

We met in Nov, but before that we had not met for some time. When Richard Ferris left we lost our focus and are now getting back on track. We want to develop a Community Navigation process and a circle of support for service providers.

Our short-term goal is to develop business sized cards and stickers with emergency numbers on them. Our long-term goal is to have 211 established here.

Bricks And Mortar Task Force

There has been new provincial and federal funds for housing development but there are no details available at this time about the funding. On Dec 7 there is an information session for service manager about the monies. There will be funding for Rent Supplements for 5 years and over a 20 year period for 40 new units. When Scott knows more he will make sure to pass the information along.

Social Services dealt with 900 emergencies from January to mid October of this year. With the help from Hastings County Housing she was able to find accommodations for a hard to house client. Hastings County Housing waiting list: 34 urgents and 27 victims of abuse on the list. Urgent includes homeless.

Dave B. from Bancroft told us several studies had been done in his area. One was to investigate what types of housing were available and another was what types of housing are needed for people who need support. These are only in the draft stages, but he is more than willing to share them.

National Housing Day:

Initiated in 1999, endorsed by the city of Toronto. It was intended to be a way for Canadians to recognize the need for a National Housing Strategy and to acknowledge housing as a Human Rights Issue.

Time Line: Everyone participated in developing a time line. Where we had been in our work, where we are now, (AHAN) and where we would like to go. There were copies of newspaper articles, front pages of reports and cards for people to write on. The purpose of the exercise was to give people a sense of accomplishment and of moving forward. This exercise seemed to do that.

New housing has not been built in this area in the past twelve years. Eric Fry thanked AHAN for the work they are doing.

Can we not urge politicians to release funds announced in a more timely fashion?
We need to continue to expand the AHAN network.

Two people hired, Vanessa Rollins and Joan Gauthier. Part of their role is to help generate awareness, help build the network and contribute to the web site.

2 more people are being hired to do Community Plans for North and Centre Hastings, Quinte West and Deseronto. They only have until March 31 to accomplish this. Hopefully through the Community Plans we will be able to apply for more funding for different projects in the outlying areas of Hastings County. This is a way to integrate the rest of Hastings County into the AHAN network.

Discussed where we would like to go:

Our House Too	4 Community Plans for outlying areas of Hastings
Service Forum	
Website	-North Hastings
Picture Essay	-Centre Hastings
Display Board	-Deseronto
Forums (homelessness maze)	-Quinte West
Landlord info kits	2 more AHAN employees
Homelessness Business Sized Cards	non-traditional partners
Some Units	Tenant Package
2 Employees AHAN	Integration of Hastings County with AHAN
More Advocacy-Federal Election coming up	-North Hastings
Daryl Kramp	-Centre Hastings
Lenora Dembrosky	-Quinte West
Pamphlet AHAN	-Deseronto
Community Navigation Tool Implemented	Making non-traditional connections-people willing to be used as an emergency housing resource eg. Madoc, safe homes
Rent Bank	List Serve
Access to seniors in Deseronto	
Home Ownership Forum	