



A REPORT OF THE
4th COMMUNITY FORUM TO IDENTIFY NEEDS
OF HOMELESS AND AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS
IN WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY

JUNE 2007

Completed by: Colleen Mitchell, Community Consultation Resources



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INTRODUCTION

The first community forum to identify priorities that address the needs of the homeless and at-risk of homelessness occurred on **March 29, 2001**. This forum was convened by United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County. The forum was in response to the Government of Canada's announcement of funding through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). An additional forum was held on May 24, 2001 to finalize the priorities. As a result of the planning that occurred, the first community plan was approved in **October 2001**.

The Community Plan identified priorities in the six areas of emergency shelter, transitional housing, basic needs (food bank services and transportation), outreach services, health services and systemic supports. One of the priorities identified at the time was to develop a systemic mechanism for ongoing coordination and planning of services. **In January 2002**, the Taking Action on Homelessness Coalition was formed (now known as the Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County). The Homeless Coalition became the Community Advisory Board for Government of Canada funding. **In January 2003**, nine projects were approved under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative. These projects met the priorities identified in the community plan.

In March 2003, the Government of Canada announced a 3-year extension of the National Homelessness Initiative. **In July 2003**, the National Homelessness Secretariat confirmed that Windsor-Essex County would receive an additional \$1,043,639 under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) over the next three years ending March 2006.

In response to the announcement regarding additional funding, the Homeless Coalition convened a third planning forum on **October 7, 2003** and completed an update of its' previous community plan. Six priority areas were identified including: emergency shelter, transitional housing, prevention services, awareness and research, youth supports and aboriginal supports. **In January 2004**, seven (7) projects were funded through phase 2 of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). The majority of funding was designated to transitional housing priorities.

In December of 2006, the Government of Canada announced the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), would replace the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). The allocation for Windsor-Essex for 2007-2009 would be approximately \$680,000. In order to access this funding, the community was again

required to update the previous community plan and to identify community priorities. The Government of Canada required that the community plan assessment update be completed by May 31, 2007. The updated community plan must be submitted by September 30, 2007.

The Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County has always been committed to involving a broad cross section of the community in establishing the priorities for the homelessness community plan. Therefore, **on June 22, 2007**, the Coalition convened its fourth community forum.

COMMUNITY PLAN ASSESSMENT AND UPDATE PROCESS

The Government of Canada requires that two steps be completed in order to access new funding under the Homeless Partnering Strategy, 1) completion of the community plan assessment template, and, 2) completion of the community plan update template. In addition to the completion of the above two steps and templates, the Coalition was also requested by the Government of Canada to shift the delivery model for funding from shared delivery to a community entity.

1) Completion of the Community Plan Assessment Template

The Government of Canada requested that each Community Advisory Board complete the community plan assessment template. The template was developed by the National Homelessness Initiative. In early March 2007, training on how to complete the template was provided to representatives from each Ontario community. Two documents had to be completed and these were: 1) Community Plan Assessment Framework, and, 2) Data Tools.

The Data Tools is a collection of various data sets that compared changes over time beginning in many cases in 1996 until 2001. Much of the data was obtained through Statistics Canada and additional data was obtained through our local data collection called the "Inventory of Resources". Other data was provided by the service providers who had been approved for projects under phase 2 of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

The Community Plan Assessment Framework represented the analysis of the data tools and other factors using a set of questions provided by the National Homelessness Initiative. The analysis focused on identifying major changes, increases or decreases in demographics, services, and community development.

The Community Plan Assessment Update had to be submitted by May 31, 2007. At its meeting on May 24th, 2007, the Homeless Coalition reviewed the documents and provided amendments and feedback. Some Coalition members also provided additional review. The feedback was incorporated into the final documents. The documents were submitted to the National Homelessness Initiative on June 1, 2007. The documents have been approved by the Regional office and have now been forwarded to the National office for final approval by the Minister.

2) Shift to a Community Entity delivery model

When the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) funding was introduced communities were requested to choose a delivery model from two options: 1) shared delivery, or, 2) a community entity. At the first community forum (March 2001), the Windsor-Essex community chose the shared delivery model. The shared delivery model meant that each organization that was approved for funding signed a separate contract with Human Resources Skills Development Canada.

When the Homeless Partnering Strategy was introduced, the Government of Canada requested that the respective Community Advisory Boards review their model of service delivery. Many changes had occurred in the infrastructure of Service Canada and they were suggesting that a community entity model would be more efficient and would reduce the time it took to negotiate contracts with each organization that was approved for funding. Thus the Homeless Partnering Strategy funding would be flowed more quickly to the Windsor-Essex Community.

Therefore, the Homeless Coalition received information from the National Homelessness Initiative regarding the community entity service delivery model and discussed the benefits of such an approach. At its meeting on March 23, 2007, the Homeless Coalition approved a motion to approach the City of Windsor Social Services Department to act as the community entity. Discussions between the Coalition, Social Services and Government of Canada staff regarding implementation of the community entity model have been ongoing. The Social Services Department has identified that it would develop a memorandum of understanding to identify the respective roles of the Homeless Coalition and the Department. The Social Services Department is prepared to recommend to City Council that the Department become the community entity. City Council would have final approval as to whether they want to assume this role.

3) Completion of the Community Plan Update template

Although the community plan update document has not been received yet, the Coalition was committed to continuing the momentum to update the community plan by engaging the community in a forum to identify priorities. On June 22, 2007, the fourth community forum was conducted.

Invitations were sent to a broad cross-section of service providers and service organizations. Approximately 45 people participated in the forum (see Appendix 1).

In addition to identifying priorities to address homelessness and at-risk of homelessness, it was also a chance to share information and to celebrate a local best practice. The community forum agenda (Appendix 2) included:

- A review of the previous priorities to identify those that had been met through various initiatives and also to address those priorities that remained unmet; (s
- A review of the current data to identify the trends and pressures that are occurring in our community;

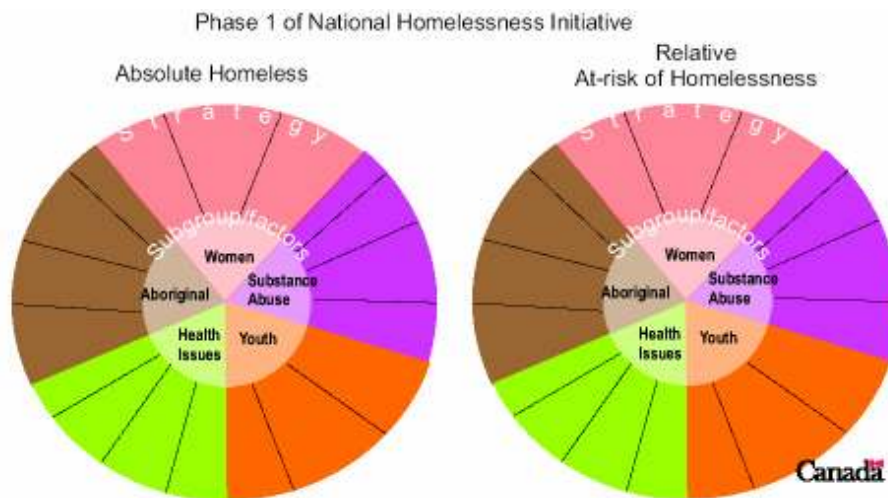
- A presentation on the transitional housing project that was completed by the Can-Am Native Urban Homes;
- A presentation to introduce the Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS);
- A presentation by the City of Windsor Social Services Department that shared how the municipality has been responding to homelessness and also to share their commitment to becoming the community entity for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding, and
- A planning exercise to, 1) identify needs of various homeless population groups, and, 2) to identify priority needs.

Small discussion groups were formed based on the definitions of population groups provided below. These definitions comprise the framework that is being used by the National Homelessness Initiative. The small discussion groups used the following questions to identify priority needs:

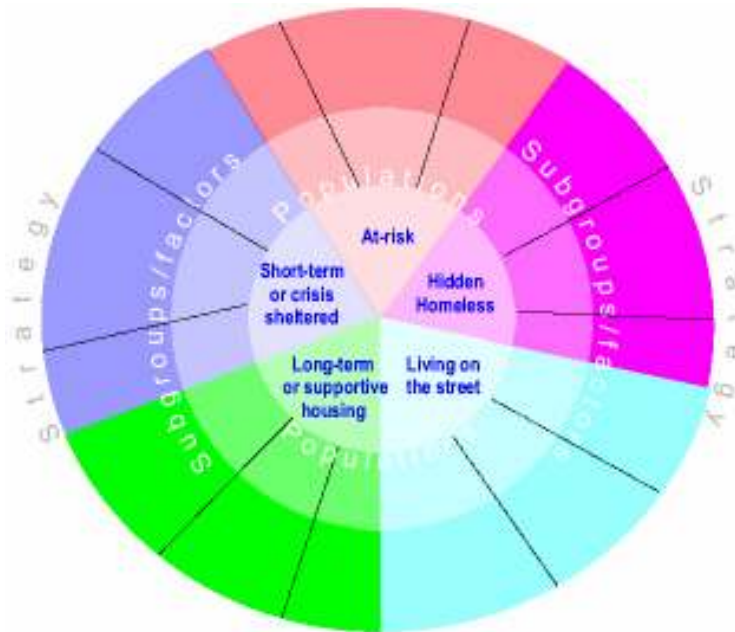
- What are the priority needs for each population group?
- What are the community strategies to address the priority needs?
- What are the expected results?
- How will you know you have achieved the results?
- How will you measure any results/changes?

DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESS/AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS POPULATION GROUPS

During the Supporting Community Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the National Homelessness Initiative employed a framework that was based on definitions of absolute and at-risk of homelessness groups in addition to various other contributing factors (such as mental health, substance abuse) and also other more specific population groups (such as women, youth and Aboriginal people). The diagram below provides an example of how the National Homelessness Initiative viewed homelessness.



For the Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS), the National Homelessness Initiative has provided a framework that is based on housing circumstances along a continuum. The diagram below and the accompanying definitions identify this new framework



| POPULATION GROUP | DEFINITION |
|--------------------------------|--|
| At risk of homelessness | Individuals and families who pay too high a proportion of their income for housing or who live in unacceptable housing or housing circumstances |
| Hidden Homeless | Individuals or families living in locations not intended for human habitation (e.g. abandoned buildings) and/or continuously moving among temporary housing arrangements provided by strangers, friends or family. |
| Living on the Street | Individuals or families living on the street who lack secured housing A subpopulation of 'living on the street' is the individuals/families that are chronically |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>living on the street. Individuals and families who, because of a lack of secured housing, live on the street for a predominant period of time over the course of a year. These individuals or families might access some services from time to time but will use available sheltering facilities on in exceptional circumstances (e.g. a very cold night). Many individuals chronically living on the street have challenges forming long term connections to services because of personal life issues or unsuccessful histories with the “system”</p> |
| <p>Short term or crisis sheltered</p> | <p>Individuals and families who are in and out of emergency and/or transitional housing and do not return once they transition to the next step in the continuum of housing, or once they secure stable housing</p> <p>A subpopulation of short-term or crisis sheltered are individuals/families who are episodically sheltered. Individuals and families who access shelters multiple times through the year seeking assistance, but who are not necessarily able or ready to form the long term connections necessary to move to housing stability.</p> |
| <p>Long term or supportive housed</p> | <p>Individuals or families with secured supportive housing, who may not have the necessary skills to live without some type of support (financial, advocacy, life management, etc.)</p> |

IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS BY POPULATION GROUP

The first step in the planning process was for the small groups to brainstorm the needs for each population group. The chart below lists the needs that were identified.

| Population Group | Identification of Needs |
|--------------------------------|--|
| At risk of homelessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing financial issues (1) ➤ Adequate OW/ODSP benefits ➤ Increase minimum wage ➤ Wage parity ▪ Knowledge of resources (i.e. training and employment opportunities, programs) (2) ▪ Affordable child care ▪ Supportive services to maintain housing and address life issues (3) ➤ Guidance regarding finances ▪ Government policies that continue homelessness (4) ➤ Eligibility/criteria issues (boarder policies in social housing, pets, 3 choice rule for central housing registry, start up costs) ➤ Eligibility of some programs – exclude working poor ▪ Stigma |
| Hidden Homeless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easier access to priority status on central housing registry waiting list ▪ Better identification of the population (Who are the hidden homeless?), some suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immigrant seniors who have been sponsored ➤ Aboriginal community ➤ Youth ➤ People disqualified from shelters ➤ People discharged from institutions (corrections and hospitals) ➤ Couch surfers ▪ Identifying where they access services – how do they access services when they have no fixed address ▪ How to address fear of system (government, CAS) ▪ Literacy is a barrier ▪ How to address life issues such as substance abuse, and working in sex trade ▪ Proliferation of crack houses ▪ Many are lacking personal identification – barrier to accessing other services – how do they find out about identification clinic ▪ Poverty issues – working under the table ▪ Addressing cultural norms for immigrants ▪ Mental health issues |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition youth – 16 and 17 years ▪ Education through services such as police, municipalities, outreach at hospital |
| Living on the street | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter (emergency, transitional, permanent housing) ▪ Supports (social and community) ▪ Financial assistance ▪ Substance abuse treatment ▪ Mental health care ▪ Education (available services – for clients and service providers) ▪ Room for exemptions (policy change) ▪ Health services ▪ Safety ▪ Food ▪ Basic needs (bedding, toiletries etc.) ▪ Storage for personal belongings ▪ Shower/bathing facilities ▪ Transportation |
| Short term/crisis sheltered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequate accommodations (1) ➤ Family shelter – second stage housing ➤ Youth transitional shelters ➤ County services – across the continuum ▪ Core funding for ongoing supports (2) ➤ Intense case management is needed ➤ Coordination of needed services ▪ Increased rates for social assistance – especially for singles (3) ▪ Transportation services – extend the eligibility criteria (4) ▪ Education/awareness of services (5) |
| Long term/supportive housed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing core funding for support staff ▪ Prevention ▪ Job placement options ▪ Helping hand programs (build self esteem, education/employment, empowerment) ▪ Education/public awareness re community services ▪ Youth who cannot return home ▪ Trustees for OW – make them legally responsible for decisions ▪ Host families for homeless ▪ Mentoring programs ▪ Assistance to maintain residences – rent and utilities ▪ Sending public information (evictions, utility assistance, rent bank) ▪ Publicizing 311/211 |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing needs such as child care, make it worthwhile to go to work ▪ Food coops and community gardens (farmer’s association, simple recipe books, teaching kids in school) ▪ Involve churches in providing services ▪ Community exchange (involve kids, remove stigma) |
| Youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth (at-risk) committees – planning mechanism to address all needs ▪ Shelter –safe and geared to age range ▪ Health care (STI testing, education, birth control/pregnancy) ▪ Substance abuse issues ▪ Addressing criminal activities (prostitution, steal to meet needs) ▪ Counseling (crisis and long term) ▪ Mental health care ▪ Addressing sexual identity issues- acceptance ▪ Preventative education (healthy vs non healthy relationships) ▪ Education – supportive, alternative methods, mentoring ▪ Range of employment needs (valued employment, life-skills, training for employment skills) ▪ Transitional housing ▪ Long term housing ▪ Common definition for youth ▪ Knowledge of resources – city and county ▪ Transportation |

PRIORITY NEEDS BY POPULATION GROUP

The second step in the planning process was for the small groups to identify the priority needs. The charts that follow outline the priority needs by each population group.

A. AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Address financial issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase in minimum wage ➤ Increase in OW/ODSP rates ➤ Wage parity issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lobbying levels of government ➤ Ensuring we have advocacy bodies in place | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regulation changes reflect current economies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People will be able to maintain accommodations ➤ Less use of food banks ➤ Decrease in use of emergency/transitional shelters ➤ Regulations will change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular collection of statistics ➤ Participation in programs |
| Knowledge in programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Retraining ➤ Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Multi-strategy life-skills approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More informed clients ➤ More people able to obtain employment (productive) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lower unemployment ➤ More housing | |

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Supportive Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Core funding ➤ Lobbying strategy ➤ Obligation by current service providers to minimize gaps ➤ Coordinate services among providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People obtain/maintain adequate housing ➤ Services are better able to refer/transition clients through programs (continuum) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients have success maintaining housing ➤ Less use of shelters ➤ Less use of transitional housing ➤ Appropriate use of services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase use of support services ➤ Less transient clients ➤ Less evictions |
| Government policies that compound issue of homelessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lobbying strategies at all levels of government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People obtain-maintain housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients have success maintaining housing ➤ Less use of shelters ➤ Less use of transitional housing ➤ Appropriate use of services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Change in policies ➤ Less people are becoming homeless ➤ Easier transition of people from shelters to permanent housing |

B. HIDDEN HOMELESS

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Identify the hidden homeless population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fund a research project/partner with University of Windsor ➤ Identify a community agency to take lead with this group ➤ Partner with municipal government and police | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better information on who are the hidden homeless, where do they live, and how come they are hidden ➤ Number of hidden homeless ➤ Current living situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community will now understand the issues for the hidden homeless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report ➤ Statistics collected from organizations ➤ Forum |
| Facilitate access for hidden homeless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outreach ➤ Education of homeless, workers, general population ➤ Ongoing support ➤ Consistent follow-up ➤ Culturally sensitive diverse outreach workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Locate the hidden homeless ➤ Establish trusting relationship ➤ Motivational interviewing ➤ Get them invested in help | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When people are no longer hidden ➤ Improved living standard ➤ Improved health ➤ Decriminalize the issue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statistics ➤ Agency reports |

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Systemic barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification issues ➤ Transition years (16 – 17 years) ➤ Communication issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Change policies to allow to facilitate receiving information (social assistance) ➤ Conquer identification barriers ➤ Establish a communication portal ➤ Empower government agencies to prevent people from going into hiding (working with them not against them) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better access ➤ Less hiding ➤ More access ➤ Less fear ➤ More communication ➤ People are willing to take risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When people are no longer hidden ➤ Improved living standard ➤ Improved health ➤ Decriminalize the issue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client feedback ➤ Agency feedback |

C. LIVING ON STREET

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Health care Showers Storage for belongings Food Transportation Substance abuse and mental health treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One stop mechanism to address range of needs ➤ Intensive case management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients needs will be addressed – meet them where they are at ➤ Operational efficiency ➤ Improved quality of life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will report that there needs are being met ➤ Clients will not have to travel throughout city to address varying needs ➤ Clients will report health is improved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tracking of participants – client feedback |
| Education of clients and service providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Educating people at early stages to avoid later stage issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better utilization and awareness of available resources ➤ Improved referrals to services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will report that there needs are being met ➤ Clients will not have to travel throughout city to address varying needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of education presentations ➤ The number of participants by type ➤ The number of referrals by service providers ➤ Client feedback regarding coordination of services |

D. SHORT TERM/CRISIS SHELTERED

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Ongoing supports for clients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Core funding to augment housing resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will find/maintain permanent housing ➤ Prevention of future crises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The cycle of homelessness will be broken for many people ➤ Less people accessing shelters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of people receiving supports ➤ Decrease in numbers of people accessing shelter ➤ Decrease in people living on street |
| Adequate accommodations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Family shelter ➤ Youth ➤ Second stage housing in city and county | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Build/acquire suitable accommodations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will find/maintain permanent housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will move from shelters to permanent housing ➤ Clients will maintain permanent housing ➤ Less people accessing shelters ➤ More available housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of additional units added to stock ➤ Decrease in shelter length of stay |

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Social assistance increases (especially for Ontario works – singles) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lobbying to increase rates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People will be able to secure/maintain housing ➤ Less reliance on food banks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decrease in evictions ➤ Less use of shelters ➤ More available money for people to meet their needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data collection ➤ Comparison of OW rates to average monthly rental rates |
| Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Broaden eligibility criteria to address issues beyond housing search – allow to travel to attend substance abuse meetings - prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People will be able to secure/maintain housing ➤ Prevention of crises ➤ People will be able to address life issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More stability in housing – less evictions ➤ Clients will report they are attending programs ➤ Clients will report improved quality of life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client feedback ➤ Agency feedback ➤ Data collection |
| Education/awareness of needs of homeless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Media partnerships ➤ Lobbying all levels of education ➤ Educating our youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased funding for supports and housing ➤ Continuum of care developed ➤ Increased awareness of issues at early age ➤ Reduction in homeless people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clients will know where to go for support/services ➤ Organizations will have stability to address broad needs of clients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of referrals to services ➤ Source of referrals ➤ Decrease in homelessness |

E. LONG TERM/SUPPORTIVE HOUSED

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Increased supportive housing units | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey of community agencies to determine needs and who is interested in developing this type of housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More people are supported in this type of housing ➤ Less reliance on short-term/crisis sheltered housing ➤ People maintain their housing stability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More supportive housing units are available ➤ People report they are receiving the level of support they require | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data collection ➤ Client feedback |
| Employment/Life-skills opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Central resource centre where workshops are available ➤ Housing options can be developed and promoted ➤ Ongoing supports – personal coordinator to links people with other programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People will be empowered to address their own needs ➤ People will have the tools needed to address needs ➤ Additional housing will be created | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People are maintaining housing ➤ People are reporting they are able to improve skills ➤ People are reporting they have been able to access employment ➤ People are participating in community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of people participating in employment and life-skills programs ➤ Client feedback ➤ # of new housing available ➤ Decrease in use of shelters |

F. YOUTH

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Involvement of youth to address own needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop youth at-risk committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better planned services for youth that meet their needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Committee will be in place ➤ Plans will be in place for youth services ➤ Community and organizations will respond to recommendations of youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plan to address youth homelessness |
| Safe youth shelter (with transportation built in for county youth) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding ➤ Identify locations ➤ Partnerships ➤ Lobby government ➤ Prioritize need through CAB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Less kids living on streets, hidden, and in adult shelters ➤ Healthier kids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduction in numbers of kids on streets ➤ Reduction in numbers of kids staying at adult shelters ➤ Kids are staying in school, working | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation ➤ # of kids using shelter decreased ➤ # of kids using transitional ➤ Decrease in drop out rate |

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Transitional housing – youth specific | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish locations in city and county ➤ Attach ongoing supports – case management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kids stay in school, get jobs ➤ Kids are accessing health services ➤ Kids get support required to address life issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kids moving to more stable housing ➤ Kids are able to address life issues ➤ Kids are able to re-unite or access permanent housing ➤ Kids stay in school – get jobs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decrease in drop out rate ➤ Client feedback |
| Transportation for city and county | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding for transportation ➤ Communication strategy so youth know what is available ➤ Have community centres in each town be identified as a safe place to ask for help and to provide transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth are linked with services ➤ Increased utilization of services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More youth, particularly homeless youth will use services ➤ Youth report they are receiving services that meet their needs ➤ Youth are able to receive services in their own community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth committees ➤ Evaluation of program ➤ # youth who use transportation and for what purpose |

| Priority Needs | Community strategies to address the need | What are the expected results? | How will you know you have achieved the results? | How will you measure any results/changes? |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Prevention of child abuse and mental health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding ➤ Education in schools and for parents ➤ Increase home-based prevention programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Less youth in crisis ➤ Families that are strengthened ➤ Healthier families that are supported to address needs of youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Less reports of youth abuse ➤ Less homeless youth living on street ➤ Less youth in Children's Aid care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evaluation of program ➤ Youth feedback ➤ Parents feedback ➤ Less youth who are homeless |

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

This report represents the proceedings of the 4th community forum to address the needs of the homeless and at-risk of homelessness in Windsor-Essex County. It should be noted that not all the needs can be met through the Homeless Partnering Strategy as this fund has specific criteria that would exclude some of the priorities. The Homeless Coalition will have to review the results of the identification of priority needs against the criteria of the Homeless Partnering Strategy to recommend those priorities that would match best with the available funding.

However, as in the past, this identification of priorities can also provide direction to the Homeless Coalition regarding coordination and advocacy for new resources and policy changes. Service providers are also encouraged to use the results to plan for services in their respective organizations.

The following are the next steps in the community plan process:

- The Homeless Coalition will review the results of the identification of priority needs against the criteria of the Homeless Partnering Strategy to recommend those priorities that would match best with the available funding;
- Social Services Department will submit a report to City Council recommending that the City of Windsor, Social Services Department become the community entity for Homeless Partnering Strategy funding.
- A memorandum of understanding is developed between the City of Windsor Social Services Department and the Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County.
- A request for proposal package will be prepared and distributed to the community once the community plan assessment update is approved by the National Homelessness Initiative and the plans are in place for the community entity.
- The community plan update template will be completed once the template has been received by the National Homelessness Initiative.

APPENDIX 1

List of Participating Organizations

AIDS Committee of Windsor
Amherstburg Police Service
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Windsor Essex
Can-Am Urban Native Homes
Child Abuse Prevention Council
City of Windsor – Housing Department
Crossroads Centre for Personal Empowerment
Conseil Scolaire District des Ecoles Catholiques du Sud-Ouest
Habitat for Humanity
Harmony in Action
Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County
Housing Information Services
IRIS Residential Inns and Services
Legal Assistance of Windsor
Mental Health Connections
Member of Parliament - Essex
Member of Parliament – Windsor-Tecumseh
Member of Parliament – Windsor West
Ontario Disability Support Program
Salvation Army
St. Clair College – Youth Employment Services
St. Leonard’s House
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Service Canada
Teen Health Centre – Street Health
The INN of Windsor
United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County
University of Windsor School of Social Work
Victim Services of Windsor and Essex County
Well-Come Centre for Human Potential
Windsor-Essex Children’s Aid Society
Windsor-Essex Community Housing Corporation
Windsor Essex County Health Unit
Windsor Homes Coalition
Windsor Lifeline Outreach
Windsor Police Services
Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women
Windsor Y Residence
Youth and Family Resource Network
YMCA

APPENDIX 2

Agenda

The Homeless Coalition of Windsor-Essex County

A 4th Community Forum: Setting Priorities

| Time Frame | Agenda Item | Presenter |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Welcome/Overview of Day | Liz Esposito, Chair Homeless Coalition |
| 10:10 – 11:00 | Community Analysis Where we were (March 2001) to where we are now | Colleen Mitchell Forum Facilitator |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Celebrating a local Best Practice | Elayne Isaacs Can Am Native Urban Homes Eric Hill |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | The Homelessness Partnering Strategy | Bill Devitt Regional Director Service Canada |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | LUNCH | |
| 12:30 – 1:00 | The Municipal Response to Homelessness | Mary Ellen Bernard Manager, Residential Support Services |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | Priority Setting Exercise Based on the information presented, and the experiences you bring to the table, use the framework provided to identify priorities for our community | Colleen Mitchell Forum Facilitator |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | Report Back | Colleen Mitchell Forum Facilitator |
| 2:30 – 2:45 | Wrap Up/Thank You | Chris Vickers Director, Windsor Y Residence |