

NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:00 – 6:30 pm

In Person – District Hall, 355 West Queens

Present:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV
Cllr Christine Cassidy, Councillor, DWV
Cllr Alison Morse, Councillor, Bowen Island
George Tsiakos, School Trustee, NV School District
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee, WV School District
Dr. Alexandra Choi, VCH North Shore Medical Health Officer

Guests:

Dr. Michelle Brousson
Olu Oyeniran, Resident

Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison
Alison Gelz, DWV Staff Liaison
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

Regrets:

Cllr Jaime Cunliffe, Lions Bay
Chief Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Khelsilem, Council Chairperson, Squamish Nation
Sgt. Chris Bigland, West Vancouver Police Department
Inspector Vaz Kassam, North Vancouver RCMP
Heather Evans, CNV Staff Liaison

1. Welcome & Introductions

Committee members were introduced and welcomed to the committee.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Trustee Stevenson moved and Cllr Morse seconded
To elect Cllr Hanson as Chair.

CARRIED

Cllr Hanson moved and Cllr Morse seconded
To elect Trustee Stevenson as Vice Chair.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Agenda

Cllr Morse moved and Cllr Cassidy seconded
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of December 6, 2023, Minutes

Cllr Morse moved and Cllr Cassidy seconded
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

5. Financial Report – City of North Vancouver

The financial report will be brought to the next meeting.

6. Education and Awareness Campaign Update

Committee members were informed that the report and motion was brought to the District of North Vancouver Mayor and Council on January 8, and direction was subsequently sent to the Communications Department to begin work in partnership with Community Planning.

During the discussion, it was suggested that if there is interest from the school communities, an alternate approach could be taken wherein the education and awareness initiative would take place and aligned with the work at the school districts. In this regard, it was also suggested to consider the possibility of inviting Guy Felicella to talk about substance use at schools.

In terms of next steps, and as the District of North Vancouver Communications Department have received direction, committee members will be requested to provide the name of the Communication person from each of their areas. Once the names are received, an invitation for a meeting with the various communications departments will be sent out to begin brainstorming on ideas around the work, responsibilities, delivery and costs with respect to moving the initiative forward.

7. Vancouver Coastal Health Updates

Dr. Alexandra Choi, VCH North Shore Medical Health Officer provided an update on alcohol consumption and deaths and an update on the toxic drug crisis including the recent publication setting out recommendations on safe supply.

8. Short Term Care in Custody Project

Dr. Michelle Brousson provided an overview of work on a project, through the North Shore Division of Family Practice, wherein medical care was brought into the short-term custody cells in West Vancouver and North Vancouver. This was a two-prong project beginning with providing education to front line responders about opioid addiction and understanding withdrawal trauma of someone in police custody. The second part of the project was education on what could be done and possibly providing people with prescriptions to treat opioid addiction or use disorder. The idea was that, with informed consent, the person in custody could talk to a doctor on the phone and have a medical assessment and if appropriate have a prescription delivered to the cells so that they are not in withdrawal. In addition, a summary was provided of feedback and comments received from the police officers on the project.

9. UBCM Advisors Needed for Harm Reduction Community Guide

Committee members were informed that the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) were seeking local government staff to help update the Harm Reduction Community Guide that was originally released by the Ministry of Health in 2005.

10. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting

The following topics will be considered for the next meeting:

- Update on the education campaign
- Update on the North Shore Congress
- Continue discussion and update on alcohol slides and opioids
- Programming/services around drugs and alcohol in the school districts
- Safe supply prescriptions report

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.