

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct17_2023

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Supportive Outreach Services program update

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an update about the status of the Supportive Outreach Services program.

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

Report

In budget 2023, Council approved the development and implementation of Supportive Outreach Services (SOS). This wholistic, community-based, prevention and early intervention program aims to reduce non-urgent mental health calls to police and ambulance services (2023-CDI-1).

An approved amendment to the budget in February 2023 made allowance for an increase in dollars, as received from federal grant funding, to support a youth service stream as part of SOS.

Working closely with community and health partners, SOS will provide ongoing case management, wrap-around supports and direct service, while also utilizing a multi-agency Community Collaborative Table with the end goal of diverting non-emergency calls from law enforcement and emergency and medical services. Service delivery plans for both youth and adults will be developed specific to each participant to ensure the service they receive best addresses their needs.

Now fully staffed, this program commenced service in September 2023 and will continue to evolve through developmental evaluation, including feedback from participants and partners as well as those with the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy partnership tables.

Council and Committee History

February 28, 2023	Council approved: THAT an amendment to the Family and Community Services budget to increase funding for the Supportive Outreach Services program by \$1.814 million to fund the extension of the program to include Pathways for Change, to be funded from federal grant contributions, be approved.
November 24, 2022	Council approved: THAT Council Driven Initiative 2023-CDI-1 Supportive Outreach Services (2023), as set out in the 2023 Council Driven Initiatives document, be added to the operating budget, to be funded from municipal taxes.
July 5, 2022	Council approved: THAT informed by the research and analysis conducted, Administration recommends Option 2: Supportive Outreach Services as the most efficient and effective response to crisis mental health in Strathcona County.

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Associate Commissioner: Jason Chance, Community Services

Lead Department: Family and Community Services

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March 22, 2022 Council approved: THAT by the end of July 2022, Administration prepare a report for Council's consideration with options and recommendations to develop a crisis response approach to mental health calls in Strathcona County.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Financial/Budget: No change to existing budget

Legislative/Legal: Future support to establish common integrated service agreements with partner organizations

Interdepartmental: Family & Community Services, RCMP & Enforcement Services

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Communication Plan

The Government of Canada reserves the right to make the first media announcement.

Enclosure

1 Supportive Outreach Services program update presentation