

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>

"Hall, Tiggy" <tiggy.hall@vancouver.ca>

"Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

Date: 11/23/2018 4:35:48 PM

Subject: Mayor's Opioid Emergency Task Force Update

Attachments: Council Memo -Opioid Task Force - Nov 23 2018.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo provides an update regarding the Mayor's Opioid Emergency Task Force and includes the following:

- Terms of Reference, budget and membership for the Mayor's Opioid Emergency Task Force with a focus on preventing overdose deaths in Vancouver;
- Summary of the City of Vancouver's role in the Opioid Crisis to date;
- Next steps including a survey to the Task Force to identify action items for the City, and a meeting on December 6th to provide advice on prioritization;
- Input gathered will inform the report back to council on December 18, 2018.

Thank you,
Paul

Paul Mochrie | Deputy City Manager
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MEMORANDUM

November 23, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director Social Policy
Tiggy Hall, Administrative Assistant, Office of the GM ACCS

FROM: Sandra Singh
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Mayor's Opioid Emergency Task Force Update

This memo provides Mayor and Council with the Terms of Reference, budget and membership for the Mayor's Opioid Emergency Task Force with a focus on preventing overdose deaths in Vancouver. A report back to Council will be provided on December 18 or 19, 2018.

Background

Since April 2016, when the Province declared a state of emergency, Vancouver has lost almost 1,000 lives to overdose deaths – 326 lives have been lost this year to date. On November 14, 2018, Vancouver Mayor and Council approved a motion to create an emergency task force to accelerate immediate actions the City could take under the Vancouver Charter to prevent overdose death.

The City of Vancouver's Role in the Opioid Crisis

Under the City's jurisdiction, various approaches have supported immediate action to date:

- Data Monitoring – Providing weekly data on VPD overdose death data and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service overdose calls;
- Funding for additional medic unit for Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services;
- Funding Community Projects, Programs and Events;
- Funding Peer Community Responders Employment Support
- Funding Innovative Drug Checking Technology
- Leadership at Local and National Levels on Drug Policy Reform

The Last report update to Council summarizes some of the most recent work to date, including Council approvals for the expenditures of the \$3.5M contingency budget on the overdose crisis: (<https://council.vancouver.ca/20180417/documents/rr1b.pdf>).

Terms of Reference & Budget

Terms of Reference for the Task Force are referenced in Appendix A. The Terms of Reference reflects staff's understanding of the intent of the Mayor's motion and provides for a \$10,000 budget (Source: Mayor's Office) to allow for inclusive participation in the Task Force.

Membership

The Task Force membership will be made up of Vancouver Community Action Team members (see Appendix B), Sarah Blyth (Overdose Prevention Society), Karen Ward (Person with Lived Experience), Patricia Daly (VCH Chief Medical Health Officer), Mark Tyndall (Executive Medical Director of BC Centre for Disease Control), Libby Davies, members of local First Nations and the City's People with Lived Experience Advisory.

Next Steps

The Task Force will be solicited via survey to identify action items for the City and will meet on December 6, 2018 to provide advice on prioritization.. This input will inform the report back to Council on December 18, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" and the last name "Singh" clearly legible.

Sandra Singh
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services
604.871.6858 | sandra.singh@vancouver.ca

Appendix A – Mayor’s Opioid Emergency Task Force Terms of Reference

1.0 Background

Almost 1,000 overdose deaths have occurred in Vancouver since 2016 when the Province of British Columbia declared a public health emergency. The vast majority of these deaths are due to the flood of opioids into the local illegal drug market. In response to this ongoing crisis, on November 14, 2018, Vancouver Mayor and Council approved a motion to create an emergency task force which will produce a report regarding further actions the City of Vancouver can undertake to prevent residents from overdosing and dying.

2.0 Purpose and Mandate

The purpose of this task force is to develop recommendations for Mayor and Council to consider by which to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths. Recommendations are to apply to the City’s immediate jurisdiction as determined by the *Vancouver Charter* and related bylaws, with information or recommendations outside the scope of this local authority transmitted to other levels of government.

3.0 Guiding Principles

The Task Force will include the expertise and equitable participation of people with lived experience in the process and ensure a safe, inclusive, and collaborative space of mutual respect, transparency, and confidentiality for all participants. It will also acknowledge the importance of culture as medicine to reflect the ongoing spirit of reconciliation.

4.0 Objectives

The Mayor will produce a report for review by Council on December 18, 2018. The report will prioritize actions to prevent overdosing and overdose deaths, identify funding resources for action implementation and evaluation, and take into account current City expenditures on this issue – including the 0.5 per cent property tax increase approved by council in 2016.

5.0 Procedures

The Mayor will lead the consultation process. Invited participants will first identify priority actions to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths. These actions will then be compiled and resubmitted to participants for priority ranking. A report back to Council on December 18, 2018 will include quick actions that can be implemented under the City’s jurisdiction and authority.

6.0 Participants

Participants will include the Vancouver Community Action Team (CAT); Indigenous leaders and community members; people with lived experience; health, addictions research, housing and service operations providers and experts; City staff; first responders; and other identified community members. City staff will prepare background materials, conduct research and analysis, organize meetings and provide guidance to the committee members as needed.

7.0 Funding

In addition to staff time, up to \$10,000 from the Mayor’s office budget will be used to facilitate the participation of people with lived experience, those with low income, and those with Indigenous ancestry.

Appendix B – Vancouver Community Action Team Membership

Co-Chair – Mary Clare Zak, City of Vancouver

Co-Chair – Chris Van Veen, Vancouver Coastal Health

Organization	Members
Atira	Caithlin Scarpelli, Anne M’mithiaru
BC Association for People on Methadone (BCAPOM)	Al Fowler
BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS)	Thomas Venables, Andrew Kang
City of Vancouver	MaryClare Zak
Culture Saves Lives	Patrick Smith, Robert Williams
First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)	Riley David, Delaram Farshad
Lookout	Jana Saskaki, Kier MacDonald
Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)	Yolanda Drost
Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction (MSDPR)	Dave Jagpal, Karen Spears
Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (MVAEC)	Colter Long
Moms Stop the Harm (MSTH)	Deb Bailey
Overdose Prevention Sites/PHS Community Services	Ronnie Grig
Portland Hotel Society (PHS) Community Services	Susan Alexman
Providence Crosstown Clinic	Scott MacDonald, David Napio, Lianne Gladue
RainCity Housing (RCH)	Sean Spear
Sister Space/Atira	Janie Picard
Street Saviors	Ryan Vena, Janice Vanderspek
Transit Police	Julien Ponsioen
University of British Columbia (UBC)	Tribesty Nguyen
Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)	Monika Stein, Jennifer Prest, Chris Van Vaeen, Jeremy Kalicum (OER), Rebecca Thomas (OER), Shannon Riley (OER), Reka Gustafson, Mark Lysyshyn, Laurel Jebamani, Elizabeth Holliay
Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)	Laura Shaver (also BCAPOM), Dave Hamm
Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee	Kevin Wilson, Tyler Moore
Vancouver Police Department (VPD)	Bill Spearn
Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society (WAHRS)	Shelda Kastor, Melissa Steinhauer, Malcolm Tournngeaw