

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2/6/2024 8:51:26 AM

Subject: VCH grant report - messaging

Good morning Mayor and Council,

In response to Councillor Dominato's question below regarding this morning's [VCH grant report at Council](#), please see some key messages should you wish to speak to media on this matter, in the event funding is approved. As always, you are welcome to refer media to media@vancouver.ca and our team will triage responses with partners.

- Mental health and substance use challenges affect residents from all corners of the city, regardless of age, race, sex, or income.
- Vancouver City Council recognizes the significance of these issues and has approved a substantive 2024 grant to support the second year of implementation of this program, taking a proactive approach to supporting people experiencing mental health crises for better outcomes both for themselves and the broader community.
- Today's funding approval will assist in providing support for individuals facing more severe mental health issues, some of whom also grapple with substance use and are frequently unhoused or living in shelters, single room occupancy hotels (SROs), or supported housing. This investment is a crucial component of an integrated approach that aims to bolster Vancouver's frontline mental health response, strengthening it further.
- Since Council approved funding for this project in February 2023, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has made significant strides in adding new resources. VCH has taken a thoughtful, phased approach to adding new resources to ensure they make the most significant impact to our City. With this approach and alongside challenges in hiring capacity and labor market availability, VCH continues to make progress in enhancing services.
- For further inquiries regarding VCH's hiring or specifics of their budget allocation, please contact VCH Public Affairs.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ám̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.