

# Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions

## Terms of Reference

### **1.0 Background**

October 30<sup>th</sup> City Council received an update from staff on the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor's Round Table on Mental Health and Addictions that included the creation of a Task Force to address the urgent need for a continuum of care and supports for seriously addicted and mentally ill residents (SAMI) in Vancouver.

### **2.0 Purpose and Mandate**

The Task Force will help the City, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department and other related sectors, including Housing and Justice, to identify high priority, feasible actions that will address the continuum of needs of SAMI residents. The Task Force will be modeled after the best practice of the Four Pillars Coalition, recognizing the need to mobilize and involve key stakeholders and community.

### **3.0 Guiding Principles**

The Task Force will strive towards achieving population health outcomes for SAMI residents that are consistent with the goals of the City of Vancouver Healthy City Strategy including: access to housing, nutritious food, treatment and supports, employment and vocational opportunities as well as opportunities to become self-autonomous and feel connected to community by:

Building on existing evidence and best practice;

Inspiring innovation through collaboration and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders;

Supporting prevention based approaches that will address mental health and addictions issues early on and enhance recovery.

## **4.0 Objectives**

- 4.1 Identify options to deliver five recommendations made to the Province from the City, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver Police Department that include: -
  - Increase ACT teams targeted to seriously ill patients
  - Increase resources at BC Housing supportive housing sites
  - Enhance urgent care at a Vancouver Hospital for individuals in mental health crisis
  - 300 long term and secure mental health beds
  - Implement VPD/VCH rapid response teams for clients in crisis
- 4.2 Seek agreement on the range of options for supports, housing and other models of care that will help solve the crisis and serve the specific needs of the SAMI population
- 4.3 Identify information systems that are respectful of privacy and offer the greatest benefit to SAMI residents in accessing services and supports in a consistent and efficient manner
- 4.4 Mobilize assets and resources
- 4.5 Involve other key stakeholders and/or champions as needed

## **5.0 Membership**

- 5.1 The Mayor will Chair or designate the City Manager to act as the Chair.
- 5.2 Members of the Task Force will: be from the public, private and voluntary sectors; be broadly knowledgeable about, and influential in, their own sectors; have a history of collaboration and innovation; be able to mobilize assets for collaboration
- 5.3 The City Manager will appoint senior staff as required.

## **6.0 Procedures**

- 6.1 The first meeting will take place December 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- 6.2 Up to 5 meetings between December 2013 and July 2014.
- 6.3 Agendas, minutes and meeting material will be circulated prior to the meetings.
- 6.4 Recommendations will be developed for Council's consideration and final approval. Recommendations may also be forwarded to other levels of government and stakeholders.
- 6.5 City staff will prepare background materials, organize meetings and provide guidance to the committee members as may be necessary.

## **7.0 Funding**

- 7.1 The City will support the costs of coordinating the Task Force.