



**METIS URBAN HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF  
SASKATCHEWAN INC.**

*PO Box 430, 176 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Battleford, Saskatchewan S0M 0E0  
PHONE: (306) 441-8080 FAX: (306) 937-7669  
Email: muhas@sasktel.net Website: www.muhas.ca*

**BATTLEFORD'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND  
HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, October 30, 2017, 1:00 pm  
Room 102 – Don Ross Centre  
St. Thomas Drive, North Battleford, SK**

**Attending:**

- Liana Clinton (Metis Urban Housing Association of Saskatchewan Inc.)
- Herb Sutton (City of North Battleford)
- Dan Villeneuve (Battlefords Indian & Metis Friendship Centre)
- Kerry Reimer (Lighthouse)
- Phyllis Lennie (Lighthouse)
- Don Windels (Lighthouse – Saskatoon)
- Julie Huestis (Transitional Living)
- Constable James Fenrich (RCMP)
- Gary Nolin (Community Safety and Well Being)
- Nicole Whitton (Battle River Treaty 6 Wellness Dept)
- Donna Weber (Ministry of Social Services)

**Updates:**

- 20,000 Homes Initiative to be brought back to BAHAAH table for review
- Point in Time Count
  - Completed September 20, 2017
  - Friendship Centre misplaced their surveys
  - Not sure if the count is usable due to inconsistency
- Lighthouse Assisted Living has a new Manager – Kerry Reimer
- Dan Villeneuve brought further concerns forward regarding units that are unfit for tenancy
  - City is addressing safety issues
  - Lighthouse housing locators, Friendship Centre support workers, fire inspectors, safety officers, etc. – interagency committee

- Developing a checklist for what to look for in terms of safety and suitability
  - Coalition to advocate on behalf of tenants to put pressure on the landlords
  - If a situation is considered 'Elevated Risk' then it can be sent to the HUB (updates not possible after that due to privacy concerns)
  - The onus is on the tenant to report safety issues/concerns but many may not due to fear of losing their housing
- A Place to Call Home Presentations
    - Friendship Centre and Lighthouse both interested in participating
    - Hard to house individuals can attend presentation in order to access affordable housing to gain knowledge as to their rights and responsibilities as renters
    - Quizzes, scenarios, templates provided
    - Attendees receive a certificate and can put it on an application for housing
    - Liana Clinton to look into how P.A. is getting buy-in from landlords
- **Housing First Processes - Intake**
    - Lighthouse Assisted Living – Phyllis Lennie
      - Currently there are 60 Housing First clients - 40 housed, 20 with open applications
      - Client comes in looking for housing
      - Phyllis performs an assessment of their personal background and history, past housing situations, where they see themselves in the future, short-term/long-term goals, what support they feel they would need to be successful in achieving those goals (information forwarded to Friendship Centre for after care)
      - SPDAT form is completed (Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) to assess mental health, physical condition, addiction issues, answers determine a score out of 17 (a score of 8-17 is high priority)
      - An Identification # is assigned to the client in the HERIN Housing First tracking software
      - Data entered in the HERIN program can include: when they started searching for housing, when they were housed, how did they lose their housing, etc.
      - HERIN tracks clients for 24 months though some clients may need extended support
      - If the client is interested in detox/rehab, the Lighthouse mobile assistance unit or Battle River Treaty 6 Health Centre can take them
      - Care packages are put together for basic needs – toiletries, cleaning supplies, socks, etc.
      - Furniture may be acquired if needed
      - If the client hasn't been able to access food bank resources, a care package may be provided until a social services cheque comes in

- **Housing First Processes - Aftercare**

- Battlefords Indian Metis Friendship Centre – Dan Villeneuve
  - Assessment information is transferred from Lighthouse
  - Client agrees to 24 months of aftercare
  - After 24 months, the client graduates
  - If clients need more support at the end of 24 months, they are reissued a new HERIN ID # for another 24 month cycle but may graduate at any point if they feel ready
  - Regular home visits are casual and scheduled on a weekly basis
  - Calendar of events is dropped off to client during home visit – scheduled activities include drop-in days for talking circles with an elder for discussion/cultural guidance, painting, reading, computers, television, sweetgrass/sage-picking in the community, cooking classes (Fridays), life skills coaching, budgeting, weekly food planning/shopping, field trips, etc.
  - Home visits include assessing the environment for cleanliness or areas where the client may need some assistance (Friendship Centre can come help with cleaning, fixing small issues, yard work, etc.)
  - Home visits may be cut short due to intoxication and clients are not allowed in Friendship Centre vehicles if under the influence
  - If condition of premises or client is deteriorating, Friendship Centre staff may casually ask if they want to talk or invite them to the Friendship Centre for further support
  - It is up to the tenant to open the door for a home visit or make changes to their lifestyle
  - Some clients may disappear, go no-contact, or move out of the area for a period of time before ending up back at the Lighthouse

- **Transitional Housing**

- Housing application goes the Board, or Board President, for review/discussion
- Clients must agree to specific stipulations – I.e. may not imbibe alcohol on the property
- No aftercare is provided
- 18 months maximum tenancy
- After 18 months, transitional housing will work with the client to apply for new housing and can move safely
- The 18 month maximum may be extended for specific reasons, I.e. a medical issue
- Landlord can stipulate that a tenant receive required medication daily at the Lighthouse – health nurse can approach psychiatrist, request warrant from a judge, injections may be required or involuntary admission to hospital may be an option

- **Housing First – Social Services**
  - Housing First applications to Social Services are the same as any other application
  - It helps for Social Services to know if there are supports that they could assist with
  - Clients sign a consent form at the Lighthouse which can be faxed over to Social Services in order to open the line of communication between the Lighthouse and Social Services
  - A case plan is developed with the goal of the client becoming more independent – medical appointments, motivation and encouragement for job applications, additional schooling, or encouragement to take the next steps in moving forward
  - Clients may face long wait times for application information, as well as barriers such as addictions, mental health concerns, negative past history with certain workers, etc – Lighthouse and Friendship Centre are looking into providing advocacy (volunteers with lived experience?) and support to clients to help navigate Social Services processes
  - Some individuals at the Lighthouse are receiving Social Services benefits and still utilizing Lighthouse services that the Lighthouse will not receive funding for
  - If a tenant is evicted, they must approach Social Services to secure new housing – allotment is then charged as an overpayment
  - Client is responsible to provide information to Social Services and disconnect any services
  - An individual applying for Housing First can't apply for Social Services while still on reserve, they must transfer to the community first
  - Social Services can provide a letter of guarantee that a rent cheque is coming to a landlord but they can't confirm that a move form has been submitted – this can leave the landlords in the dark for an extended period of time but landlords can fax a copy of the move form themselves to Social Services before sending them off with the original copy to submit to Social Services
  - Individuals transferring from on-reserve to off-reserve must be actively seeking long-term shelter to apply for Social Services – if initiative is not taken to secure housing, the individual may be referred back to the reserve to develop a long-term plan before re-applying
  - Many off-reserve individuals have been displaced, ostracized, etc. and lacking the capacity to navigate systems – advocacy would be helpful here as well
  - **Donna Weber, Kerry Reimer, and Julie Huestis to meet and discuss issues of clients double dipping, as well as hard to house transitioning from on-reserve to off-reserve, after Donna Weber meets with Jason Yew in November**
  - **A process will be developed in the future to disseminate social services on-reserve/off-reserve processes so that front line workers understand how to navigate the system and help provide advocacy to vulnerable individuals and those who are hardest to house**

- **Home Takeover Discussion**
  - Tenants can experience issues with home takeover due to friends or family over-staying their welcome and not respecting the tenant's space
  - Housing First or leasing policies may not give the RCMP any license to remove an unwanted occupant
  - If an initial call to complain of home takeover to the RCMP detachment is unsuccessful, you may consider calling the Crime Prevention/Crime Reduction unit (Herb Sutton, Jane Kenny, or James Fenrich) – may not receive an immediate response but after a few days, there may an effort to meet with the tenant and assess their needs
  - Dan Villeneuve, Friendship Centre, looking at developing a Guidebook on Home Takeover for the community and front line workers including options for tenants, information on cultural aspects, and community specific aspects of home takeover
  
- **Improvement Opportunities**
  - Landlords being held accountable to provide safe and suitable housing, onus on tenant to report issues
  - Landlords not carrying through on commitments (i.e. promising a unit but then taking another cash offer instead of waiting for a cheque from Social Services)
  - Support/advocacy for individuals having difficulty navigating systems
  - Support/advocacy for individuals refusing support, going no-contact
  - Support/advocacy for individuals during and after the eviction process
  - Communication between Social Services and the housing providers – front line workers experiencing a lack of information regarding systems and processes at Social Services, delays with move form/letter of guarantee, difficulty processing individuals transitioning from on-reserve to off-reserve, individuals utilizing Lighthouse services while receiving Social Services benefits
  - Resources for tenants experiencing home takeovers
  - Provision of training/certification for hard to house individuals on the renter's rights and responsibilities and getting buy-in from the landlords in the community
  
- **Next BAHAH Meeting to be held:**
  - **Tuesday, November 28, 2017**
  - **1:30 pm**
  - **Friendship Centre**