

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: PROPOSAL FOR HOSPITAL-BASED ADDICTIONS TREATMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Rock Chalifour at 2834 St. Catherine's Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5H4.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Vice President, Community and Strategic Services, Fraser Health Authority.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2002 January 23, received and adopted the *attached* report in response to correspondence sent by Mr. Rock Chalifour seeking the City's support for the development of a hospital-based program in the Fraser Health Authority dedicated to addictions treatment and research.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,
Chair

Councillor N. Harris,
Vice Chair

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE January 23, 2002
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE:17.906
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR HOSPITAL-BASED ADDICTIONS TREATMENT

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with contextual information for correspondence advocating hospital-based addictions treatment in the Fraser Health Authority catchment area (of which the former Simon Fraser Health Region is now a part).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to forward a copy of this report to Mr. Rock Chalifour at 2834 St. Catherine's Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5H4
2. **THAT** Council be requested to forward a copy of this report to the Vice President, Community and Strategic Services, Fraser Health Authority.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 2001 November 5, Council considered correspondence from Mr. Rock Chalifour seeking the City's support for the development of a hospital-based program in the Simon Fraser Health Region¹ dedicated to addictions treatment and research. Council referred the correspondence to the next meeting of the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, and requested that a staff report on the proposal be prepared for the Committee's consideration.

This report responds to Council's request.

¹In December 2001, the Provincial Government restructured the delivery of health services in British Columbia, and the Simon Fraser Health Region was subsumed under the Fraser Health Authority.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Mr. Chalifour and a group calling itself the Addiction Treatment Advocacy (ATA) are proposing that the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) develop and operate a hospital-based treatment program for substance abuse which will facilitate the re-entry of formerly addicted individuals into mainstream society. The program would achieve this goal by:

- providing detox services on demand to people requiring them;
- providing and/or facilitating access to a variety of in-patient and out-patient treatment options, which consider all facets of medical, psychiatric, psychological and social wellness;
- ensuring accessibility of services to those currently most under-served, including women, adolescents, the working poor, and those with dual diagnoses; and
- conducting research into the causes of and treatment options for addictions.

The proposal is modeled upon a program currently offered at Homewood Hospital in Guelph, Ontario. ATA is seeking support from a variety of sources to encourage FHA to explore funding partnerships with government and the private sector, and to take the first steps towards developing such a program in the Lower Mainland region.

3.0 CONTEXT FOR THE PROPOSAL

Two comprehensive reports on addressing addictions were released in British Columbia in early spring 2001: the Lower Mainland Municipal Association's (LMMA) *Regional Action Plan to Reduce the Harmful Effects of Alcohol and Drug Misuse*, and *Weaving Threads Together: A New Approach to Address Addictions in B.C.* by the Kaiser Youth Foundation's Addictions Task Group. The latter group was appointed by the Provincial government in late 2000 to examine the issues relating to alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and gambling addiction.

The LMMA *Action Plan*, which representatives from the former Simon Fraser Health Region participated in developing, acknowledges the importance of early intervention and treatment for addictions. It highlights a number of issues concerning the quality, availability, and accessibility in the region of alcohol and drug treatment and early intervention services, including:

- chronic lack in the region of both residential and non-residential treatment facilities;
- lack of services for people with a co-existing mental disorder;
- lack of services targeted specifically to women, and in particular drug-using pregnant women;
- inadequate treatment resources for youth;
- lack of services in schools;

- lack of effective outreach services;
- lack of support for recovering individuals;
- lack of treatment in prisons; and
- lack of community-based treatment for offenders.

The Action Plan outlines a goal of developing a continuum of care throughout the region for people who suffer from a substance misuse problem. To achieve that goal, it calls for community-based service delivery, government funding for demonstration projects in three as-yet unnamed local municipalities, municipal elimination of any municipal regulations which might serve as obstacles to treatment, and Provincial action to address needs for early intervention, outreach, detox, support for recovery and long-term residential treatment.

The Addictions Task Group Report stresses the importance of a comprehensive addictions strategy which focuses on prevention and intervention. The Report's recommendations focus on processes rather than programs, and envision the various regions of the Province taking responsibility for deciding how best to meet the broad health needs in their area. The Report also recommends the creation of a statutory body known as the British Columbia Addiction Council to advise on government policy, and the creation of the British Columbia Centre for the Advancement of Addiction Knowledge and Practice.

The former Provincial government accepted the recommendations of the Addictions Task Group when its Report was released in March 2001. Before leaving office, it announced a \$10 million endowment to create the above-mentioned Centre. That commitment is being honoured by the current Provincial government, and the endowment is in trust while the Centre is under development. While the Centre is likely to have a head office in either Victoria or Vancouver, it is intended more as a "virtual" centre, with researchers and policy makers around the province linked by technology. Work is also underway at the provincial level to develop a framework for implementing the other recommendations of the Addictions Task Group.

As for addiction treatment services which are currently available, there are a variety of detox and in-patient and out-patient addiction treatment services and facilities throughout the Lower Mainland that residents of the Fraser Health Authority region may be able to access. Some are operated by the Province, some by non-profit agencies (often on contract to the Province) and some by the local health authorities. Fraser Health Authority currently operates the following in-patient addictions treatment facilities which serve the former Simon Fraser Health Region:

- Maple Ridge Treatment Centre, a 55 bed facility offering intensive therapy, counseling and support during an individual's thirty day stay. As the program does not include detox services, individuals must undergo the detoxification phase of their rehabilitation before entering the facility. Follow-up in the community is provided once the thirty day program has been completed. The treatment facility is a provincial resource, and accepts referrals from all over British Columbia.
- Maple Cottage Detox in New Westminster, a 15 bed detox centre with an average two day stay. Maple Cottage is a regional resource, and accepts referrals from all over the Lower Mainland.

In the Burnaby area, the full responsibility for adult addictions services will be assumed by the Fraser Health Authority² as of 2002 March 31. When contacted by City staff for reaction to the Addiction Treatment Advocacy proposal, the Authority's Vice President of Community and Strategic Services advised that if the Health Authority had additional resources to devote to addictions treatment, it would favour increasing out-patient treatment programs over in-patient programs. He noted that the trend in addictions treatment over the past twenty to thirty years is to out-patient care, given that about 90% of people requiring treatment for addictions can be successfully treated in the community, while continuing to hold a job, participating in the life of their family, and/or otherwise carrying on in a functional way with their lives. The remaining 10% do require in-patient programs, either because their lives are in such disarray that they cannot function or because they do not have an appropriate home environment to help stabilize their lives.

4.0 SUMMARY

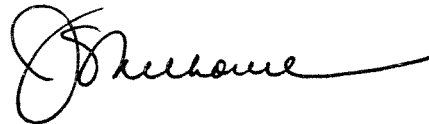
The proposal from Addiction Treatment Advocacy for Fraser Health Authority to develop a hospital-based treatment program for substance abuse can be seen as promoting one component of a desired continuum of services for those suffering from substance abuse and addiction. Many other types of addiction treatment services are also required to make the continuum a reality.

In March 2002, the Fraser Health Authority assumes full responsibility for addictions services in its catchment area - a response, in part, to the Addiction Task Group's recommendation regarding regional decision-making. The LMMA *Action Plan*, which

² This responsibility will be passed on from the Ministry of Health. Responsibility for addictions services for children and youth will remain with the Ministry for Children and Family Development.

advocates a full continuum of substance abuse services, is one source of information about addictions service needs that will help to inform the Authority's decision-making as it identifies priorities, and seeks funding - whether from government, the corporate sector, or elsewhere - to establish and/or maintain services. In future, research conducted by the British Columbia Centre for the Advancement of Addiction Knowledge and Practice will also be available to assist health authorities in setting health service priorities.

It is recommended that Council be requested to forward a copy of this report to Mr. Chalifour, and to the Vice-President of Community and Strategic Services, Fraser Health Authority.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

BLS/
BLS/JS/mw

cc: City Manager