

## NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.*

### MINUTES

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 5:00 – 6:30 pm

VIA MS TEAMS

#### Present:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV  
Cllr Peter Lambur, Councillor, DWV  
Chief Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh First Nation Band  
Sgt. Mark Maclean, West Vancouver Police Department  
Inspector Mike Bhatti, North Vancouver RCMP  
George Tsiakos, School Trustee, NV School District  
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee, WV School District  
Regional Addictions Team

#### Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison  
Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison  
Cristina Rucci, CNV Liaison  
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

#### Regrets:

Cllr Maureen Nicholson, Bowen Island  
Joanne Ronsley, Lions Bay Representative  
Dr. Alexandra Choi, VCH, North Shore  
Medical Health Officer

#### Guests:

Julie Zimmerman, Regional Lead

Sandra Vasquez, Housing and Outreach  
Manager, Canadian Mental Health  
Association, North and West  
Vancouver Branch

### 1. Welcome & Introductions (review Terms of Reference, meeting times)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

The Chair provided a brief background on the Committee, as well as an overview of the Committee's mandate, membership and meeting schedule.

New members were welcomed and introduced to the committee.

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

Trustee Dave Stevenson moved and Trustee George Tsiakos seconded  
To adopt the agenda.

**CARRIED**

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

Trustee George Tsiakos moved and Inspector Mike Bhatti seconded  
To adopt the June 9, 2021 minutes.

**CARRIED**

### 4. Election of Vice-Chair

As the Vice Chair, Nick Bell, was no longer serving on the Committee, members were requested to volunteer for the Vice Chair role.

Cllr Hanson moved and Trustee George Tsiakos seconded  
That Sgt. Mark Maclean be elected as Vice Chair of the Committee.

**CARRIED**

## **5. Discussion and follow up on Letter in Support**

As an introduction, information was provided that a letter to the federal government was previously prepared endorsing a motion from the committee in support of legalization and regulation of all illicit substances. On discussion, some suggestions were presented in terms of including some medical information in the letter. Some concerns were also raised on endorsing the motion without an opportunity for the members to take the proposed letter back for consultation with their areas of representation. Given the number of absent representatives, it was further suggested that it may be more beneficial to postpone the discussion and vote to the next meeting to ensure all representatives of the committee have a voice in this regard.

Cllr Hanson moved and Trustee George Tsiakos seconded

That the agenda item be adjourned for reconsideration at the next meeting in view of the absence of some of the representatives and to give an opportunity if anyone wishes to propose amendments to the letter.

**CARRIED**

## **6. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health**

Julie Zimmerman and Sandra Vasquez provided a presentation on the intersection of substance use and homelessness.

## **7. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting**

The following ideas were presented as possible discussion items for the next meeting:

- The motion with respect to legalization and regulation.
- A discussion on the presentation on the intersection of substance use and homelessness.
- Updates on the strengthening community services project/poverty reduction strategy/homelessness task force.

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

