

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, June 7, 2023 5:00 pm
In Person – District Hall, 355 West Queens

Present:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV (Chair)
Cllr Nora Gambioli, Councillor, DWV
Cllr Holly Back, Councillor, CNV
Cllr Alison Morse, Councillor, Bowen Island
Cllr Jaime Cunliffe, Lions Bay
Sgt. Mark McLean, West Vancouver Police Department
George Tsiakos, School Trustee, NV School District
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee, WV School District
Dr. Alexandra Choi, VCH North Shore Medical Health Officer

Guests: Dr. Michelle Brousson
Cllr Shervin Shahriari, CNV
Cllr Don Bell, CNV

Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison
Lea Shepherd, DWV Staff Liaison
Heather Evans, CNV Staff Liaison
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

Regrets:

Cllr Michael Broughton, Lions Bay
Chief Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Khelsilem, Council Chairperson, Squamish Nation
Inspector Vaz Kassam, North Vancouver RCMP

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

Committee members were introduced and provided a brief introduction.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED By Cllr Back and seconded by Cllr Morse
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of March 9, 2023 Minutes

MOVED By Cllr Hanson and seconded by Cllr Cunliffe
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Vancouver Coastal Health – Updates and Discussion

Dr. Alexandra Choi, VCH North Shore Medical Health Officer provided a follow up from the March meeting in terms of overdoses and deaths due to the unregulated toxic drug supply as well as a follow up of actions and updated data. Some of the key highlights included information on the unregulated drug toxicity and the key messages on discrimination.

Committee members were requested to consider what they would like to see in terms of broader communication and campaign of the key findings. In this regard, it was suggested that as a first step, a small subcommittee be formed to discuss the framework and messaging for the initiative, as well as an approximation of costs, and bring this information back to the committee at the July 19 meeting.

MOVED, seconded and resolved

Cllr Holly Back form a subcommittee to create an awareness and education campaign, as well a budget, and report back to the Committee with a view to seeking local government support for the initiative.

CARRIED

The next committee meetings were scheduled for July 19 and October 4, 2023.

Dr. Choi also provided a presentation regarding alcohol and the related deaths associated to alcohol use, particularly as there are some municipalities moving towards opening up an increased number of sales locations and increasing density of alcohol sales.

5. North Shore Community Committee on Substance Abuse

Dr. Michelle Brousson reported that at the previous meeting, the North Shore Community Committee on Substance Use developed some ideas on what could be done in the local community to improve safety and brought forward the following community projects

- Establish safe inclusive spaces in public, including introducing public health guidelines particularly at what is done in community recreation centres, libraries, bathroom safety
- Prepare for overdoses in public spaces, particularly having AED's and Narcan kits
- Education on harm reduction for municipal employees, raising awareness, teaching overdose management, and how to use Narcan kits and on a larger scale, decrease shame and stigma.

It was noted that staff from each of the municipalities reviewed what was in place for their respective municipality and concluded that there was not anything specific or intentional in place but that some aspects of these goals are in place but more on an ad hoc basis.

Committee members indicated that education was a key aspect particularly through media, or an awareness campaign and would also decrease stigma and shame associated substance abuse.

It was also suggested that micro-messaging using personal social media networking could also be beneficial in terms of bringing awareness. In addition, a large ad campaign which could include the same message in various outlets including Facebook, washrooms, the RCMP Facebook site. In terms of safe injection sites, there is a peer support worker and trained in the street degree program.

Committee members were also informed that there are ongoing conversations within some municipalities of pilot projects of a legal and regulated distribution and in moving forward a guest speaker will be invited to the committee for further information.

6. Financial Report

This item was not addressed at the meeting.

7. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting

This item was addressed during the presentation.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 19, 2023.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.