

All Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Addictions Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members: Tom Osborne, Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Bernard Davis, Sarah Stoodley, Joedy Wall, Jim McKenna, and Lela Evans (connection issues)

Officials: John McGrath, Gillian Sweeney, Niki Legge, Maggie O'Toole

1. All Party Committee discussed stakeholder engagement. Secretariat to arrange for a schedule of presenters. Length of presentations was also discussed to optimize meeting time including potential for two presentations per meeting. Engage NL survey will soon be ready to launch. The Committee will review online before the launch.
2. Presentation – Ms. Tina Olivero provided a presentation for the Guardians of Recovery Foundation. A Recovery Plan was provided to members for their review. Discussion focused on questions related to the Portugal Model, British Columbia's recent announcement restricting drug use in public spaces, and the Alberta 24/7 model. Sober living homes were also discussed. Question was raised to the presenter about what three things government should do to address addictions. Response was to make sure everyone is admitted when they present to emergency with a mental health or substance use issue; add addiction to the Mental Health Act; and create an all roads to recovery model.
3. Other business included two motions to the table (which carried) to look at the soon-to-be former-Waterford site and whether it would be suitable for a rehabilitation centre similar to Grace and Humberwood Treatment Centres; and to look at the pros and cons of the Alberta Model and Portugal Model.
4. Minutes approved from February 26, 2024.
5. Action Items
 - Secretariat to send out the link for the Engage NL survey for the Committee's review.
 - Secretariat to provide statistics for Grace and Humberwood Treatment Centres.
 - Secretariat to arrange a meeting for Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services and Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss suitability of the Waterford to be used for in-patient addiction services similar to Grace and Humberwood Treatment Centres.
 - Secretariat to prepare pros and cons of Alberta Model and Portugal Model; and arrange for Alberta mental health and addictions to attend an All Party Committee meeting to discuss their province's model.