

Task Force for the Elimination of Poverty Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Heritage Room, City Hall

Present:

Members: Mayor Don Iveson (Co-Chair), Bishop Jane Alexander (Co-Chair), Councillor Ben Henderson, Councillor Amarjeet Sohi, Justin Archer, Jeffrey Bisanz, , Mark Holmgren, , Zahra Somani, Sarah Eadie, Sandra Huculak, Maria Mayan, Janice Melnychuk, Yvonne Chiu, Tiffany Linke-Boyko, Eugene Ip, Brenda St. Germain, Fiona Cavanaugh, Joseph Doucet, Kate Chisholm

Guests: Deanna Williams, Catrin Owen, Corinne Saad, Katie Soles, Sue Heuman, Carolyn Davis (for Gord Johnston, GOA Human Services), Renee Vaugeois and Maigan van Glessan (John Humphrey's Youth Action Project Team) Scona High School Global Initiative Team (Alex MacRae-Makorov, Daniel Walsh and Isabella Nikolaidis)

COE Staff: Lyall Brenneis, Kate Gunn, Patricia Waismann, Ward Antoniuk, Lucenia Ortiz, Bin Lau, Judy Downey

Regrets: Anne Smith, Daniel McKennit, Louis Francescutti, Minister Heather Klimchuk, Carman McNary

Minutes

Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mayor Don Iveson called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. ■ Mayor Iveson welcomed guests from the John Humphrey Youth Action Project Team and Scona High School Global Initiative Team. ■ The January 21, 2014 minutes, with corrections noted, were approved. ■ Motion to change the order of the agenda items was approved. The Youth in Action Project and the Scona High School Global Initiative presentations were moved to agenda items #1 and 2 respectively. 	
2. Youth in Action Project (YAP) Presentation - John Humphrey Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Youth in Action Project (YAP) is a partnership initiative between the John Humphrey Centre for Human Rights, Young Diverse and Proud and EndPovertyEdmonton to engage youth at risk about their experience of poverty and their ideas about solutions. This 6 month project has culminated in a report and recommendation by the youth that focuses on the four pillars of human rights. Some highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Justice - change existing penalties for summary offences (jaywalking, LRT tickets) ▪ Security - implement sensitivity training for law enforcement and bylaw officers ▪ Freedom - revitalize 211 functionality and accessibility 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dignity -host a day to celebrate dignity and highlight stories of poverty and resilience ■ The recommendations were well-received by the Task Force and it was noted that a number of the recommendations align closely with and support those of the Working Groups, particularly of the Justice and Democratic Participation Working Group. ■ Thanks from Mayor Don Iveson on behalf of the Task Force for this work, which will inform the EPE plan. 	
<p>3. Scona High School Global Initiative Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scona High School's Treehouse Project tackles poverty both locally and globally. It involves raising awareness and funds to build an eco-lodge in Ecuador with Change for Children and to support Bissell Centre's Housing Options Program (HOP). ■ The aim is to raise \$200,000 to support the two projects. Ways the Task Force can support this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spread the word through the TF networks, donate, bike ▪ Facilitate connections to the local businesses and organizations ▪ Create a sustainable movement to end poverty ■ The students will support the work of the Task Force by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Helping to share the EPE work within the youth sector ▪ Participating in the EPE engagement activities in Spring ■ The Task Force recognized the leadership from this initiative and supports them in engaging other schools in a movement to end poverty. ■ Task Force members offered suggestions to effectively promote their initiative such as facilitating media connections, participation in the March 19 event i.e. speakers or bikeathon participants, space for networking activities and potential connections with business. ■ Thanks from Mayor Don Iveson and Bishop Jane Alexander for this articulate presentation and for their energy and dedication to ending poverty both globally and locally. 	<p>ACTION: Individual Task Force members to work directly with the student leaders on these suggestions.</p>
<p>4. Co-Chair's Updates</p> <p>Mayor Iveson provided the Task Force members with an overview of how EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) is moving forward in building the EPE plan. He confirmed that the Task Force will provide a report to City Council Committee on September 14. The work of the Task Force will be accomplished using a two stage approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stage 1 -The Task Force, building on the idea generation of the working groups this past 7 months, will deliver a strong EndPoverty Edmonton Plan in September 2015, complete with background, history, measures, consultation and actions as planned. ■ Stage 2- Following successful approval of the Plan by Council in September, the full development of the implementation of the approved plan and actions will commence. A complete 	

implementation plan, with timelines, costs, roles and steps, will be brought forward to Council in Quarter 1, 2016.

Mayor Don Iveson, in closing, reinforced that this is a good news story. He acknowledged that the implementation elements have challenged the working groups and reassured everyone that the detailed work done by the many Working Groups and Round Tables will not be lost. It will strongly inform the work on implementation post September 2015. He encouraged all in this critical phase to continue to shape this bold plan to end poverty in our city, benefiting from the time remaining to build in creativity and a strong foundation.

Discussion:

- Discussion on the challenges of ending poverty in a generation (our vision) and the need to think about solutions in bite size pieces and identify priorities in the final implementation plan.
- Discussed prioritization and two key dimensions: resources and mandate/jurisdictions. It is important to sequence actions at a high level, identify urgent areas of needs and those actions that can be considered quick wins as well as those that that will bring about systemic, long term change.
- Recommendations or actions maybe organized according to a number of criteria, one key set being: aspirational, foundational and quick wins.

5. Next Steps: Discussion on Sorting and Organizing Recommendations

Mayor Don Iveson introduced Katie Soles, consultant, to provide the updated critical path toward the completion of the EPE Plan.

- Katie Soles presented an overview with milestones of the step-by-step process for February to September 2015.
- A key focus on this critical path is how recommendations from the Working Groups and Round Tables will be sorted, consolidated and organized.
- Another consideration will be the ways to share these ideas for validation as part of the April/May consultation for validation. This will be shared and discussed at the March 18 Task Force meeting.
- Key dates ahead:
 - March 13 Working Group (WG) Co-Chairs Showcase Forum where all WG recommendations will be presented
 - March 18 Task Force to discuss recommendations that have been initially sorted and organized from the March 13 meeting. Discussion on the plans for public consultation will occur at this time

Discussion

- Initial sorting of the recommendations should address duplication, alignment and clarity.
- City staff (Project Team) with Consultants will format recommendations from all groups and round tables for consistency and clarity for presentation to the March 13 showcase and

subsequently as needed for the March 18 th meeting.	
<p>6. Updates from Round Tables and Committee</p> <p><i>Aboriginal Round Table</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completed Aboriginal engagement with over 60 participants that involved large group discussions, individual interviews including taking photos by Aboriginal community members themselves about their perception and experiences of poverty. ■ Work is underway to compile engagement findings and develop recommendations for March 13th showcase. <p><i>Information and Research Round Table</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continuing the work on Data Analytics as a tool to generate data. This is analysis that is relevant to a number of aspects of poverty elimination work. ■ Developing a phone app in conjunction with Open Edmonton, similar to sflink in San Francisco, that allows people to search for shelter, food and other services. ■ Developing a report on updated poverty measures to be presented at this meeting. <p><i>Communications and Engagement Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ February 23 Business Sector engagement in collaboration the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce is planned and promoted to local media. ■ An initial community EPE website has been set up, with the launch of a full site planned for late March. It will provide information as well as opportunities to interact, share ideas and link to social media conversation. Social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook) continue to grow. ■ A more detailed public engagement plan is being prepared for Task Force presentation March 18, which includes diverse engagement and validation of actions by those with lived experience of poverty, key sectors and Edmontonians more broadly. 	
<p>7. Updated Poverty Measures</p> <p>Dr. Deanna Williamson, member of the Information and Research Round Table, presented the Round Table's report on the Updated Poverty Measures.</p> <p>The report noted the centrality of income in describing and explaining poverty. It acknowledged that the multidimensional measures of poverty still remain to be tested and fully developed; that there were challenges encountered by other jurisdictions in data collection. It also noted that further work may be needed to explore other multidimensional measures of poverty.</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>ACTION: Create a sub-group with members from IRRT, Task Force members and experts in this field to examine an approach around multidimensional</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Concerns were shared that defining poverty with a focus on income will ignore the other aspects of poverty, and lead to measures that ignore these other core aspects of poverty. ■ Aboriginal perspectives and research on poverty need to be incorporated into measures of poverty. ■ Discussion around the complexity of defining and measuring poverty, as it is a human experience and experienced differently by all individuals. It is a challenge to simplify such a complex issue. 	<p>measures of poverty. This group will report to the Task Force in the spring.</p>
<p>8. Wrap Up Bishop Jane Alexander closed the meeting noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EndPoverty Edmonton is on the cusp of new critical and exciting work as it moves into the consolidation of recommendations, public consultation and refinement of its ideas and plan for September 2015. This next phase will be energizing and challenging as the Task Force moves ahead strategically to articulate its plan to end poverty in Edmonton in a generation, using the extensive idea generation of the past fall and winter as a strong foundation. ■ The commitment of the Task Force and its Round Tables to this work has been strong. The intensive idea generation of the 7 working groups and their members from September through March has been a central building block to the Task Force's building of its plan. ■ Thanks were extended to excellent guest presenters this evening. ■ The next monthly Task Force meeting is on Wednesday, March 18 at the Councillor's Board Room, 2nd floor. City Hall. 	
<p>7. Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. ■ Next Task Force meeting: March 18, 2015 ■ Location: Councillors Board Room, City Hall 	