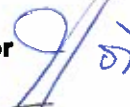




**TO:** Mayor J. Lehman and Members of Council **File: D18-SHA**

**FROM:** Janet Foster, BAA, MCIP, RPP, City Centre Revitalization Coordinator 

**NOTED:** R. Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng.   
General Manager of Infrastructure, Development & Culture  
Carla Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer 

**RE:** Social and Health Related Services – Shared Facility

**DATE:** April 30, 2012

This memo provides a status update, information and progress related to the shared facility initiative for social and health related services.

On March 21, 2011, Council passed Motion 11-G-061, **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCED SERVICE PROVISION THROUGH A SHARED FACILITY – SOCIAL AND HEALTH RELATED SERVICES** which directed staff to discuss opportunities for enhanced service provision through a shared facility in an alternative location with proximity to the downtown core and to report back.

On June 8, 2011, the City of Barrie and Simcoe County sponsored a community symposium that was attended by more than 100 stakeholders. The symposium featured the Cambridge Shelter Corporation known as "Bridges", which is an "Under One Roof" model.

Led by the David Busby Street Centre (DBSC), with representation from the City of Barrie and County of Simcoe, a Committee was formed to investigate the opportunity of a shared facility for social and health services that would reduce the impacts of poverty and homelessness in an inclusive environment. Through collaboration among social service agencies to locate in one common facility will allow for a cross agency case management approach for the hard to service population, reducing the barriers to service, including transportation barriers, providing a non-judgmental holistic approach to those dealing with life circumstances, reducing the impact of poverty and homelessness, providing training opportunities, housing options and support, and economic solutions to organizations through cost sharing and reduction in health care visits.

To date there are 14 social service organizations who have expressed an interest in, or are committed to, the project, including agencies such as Canadian Mental Health Association, Barrie Out of the Cold, YMCA Simcoe/Muskoka, Barrie Housing, John Howard Society and Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres. The shared facility will require accommodation for approximately 75,000 square feet of floor space.

Through application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the DBSC was successful in receiving SEED funding in the amount of a \$10,000 grant for the project in order to retain a consultant to undertake a feasibility business plan. In addition, the DBSC and the Canadian Mental Health Association have submitted a collaborative application for a Trillium Foundation grant to hire a Project Manager to assist in navigating the project. A decision on the funding is expected in July 2012.

Aileen Carroll, former City Councillor, Cabinet Minister and MPP and MP, recently joined the DBSC Board of Directors and is actively involved in the project. Salter Pilon Architectural Firm has made this facility project the company's community project and will be sponsoring their services rendered. Rick Jones, former Chair of the Alliance to End Homelessness and former principle of the Jones Planning Consulting Group has also volunteered his services for planning related matters and fundraising.

The proposed location of the shared facility is 137 John Street, which is the site of a former manufacturing operation. The building is known as the Risdon building and is located at the southwest corner of John and Anne Streets. The site is approximately 5 acres in size, includes parking and is transit supported. The site is currently zoned General Industrial EM4 which would not permit all of the intended uses. A rezoning application is anticipated to be filed in the near future which would propose to introduce additional uses on the site, with the scheduling of the public meeting targeted for June 11, 2012.

The DBSC will assume the Head Lease of the facility with other service providers leasing from Busby. The DBSC has entered into a "Letter of Intent" to lease the proposed 137 John Street site with conditions on rezoning and fundraising. Renovations to the building are targeted to begin in November 2012 for spring 2013 occupancy for the initial phase.

Fundraising will be a key component to this project being successful. The DBSC has already engaged many of the City of Barrie's Service Clubs and faith groups in fundraising efforts for this project.