Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number:	**HH2022-002**
Meeting Date:	April 5, 2022
Title:	**2021 Homelessness Enumeration Report**
Author and Title:	Michelle Corley, Human Services Manager, Housing

Recommendation(s):

That Report HH2022-002, **2021 Homelessness Enumeration Report**, be received for information; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

In March 2021, the Province of Ontario mandated Service Managers to conduct a homeless enumeration and create a By Name List (BNL) of people experiencing homelessness. As a progressive community with a well developed coordinated access system, the City of Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton (CKL-H) has met the BNL mandate since 2017.

During the week of September 13th, 2021 the City lead our third enumeration exercise. Previous enumeration exercises took place in 2016 and 2018. The 2021 enumeration was conducted as a combined Point in Time Count and Registry Week to get a snapshot of homelessness in the community and connect those who we identified to the homelessness system.

Rationale:

By the end of the enumeration exercise, we had identified 184 households experiencing homelessness in CKL-H. During the week of September 13th – 17th we connected and completed surveys with 82 households.

The chart below outlines the results of the September 2021 enumeration exercise along with comparisons to the previous enumeration exercises we have completed in 2016 and 2018.

Demographics of Registry Weeks by Year	2016		2018		2021	
	Kawartha Lakes	Haliburton County	Kawartha Lakes	Haliburton County	Kawartha Lakes	Haliburton County
16-24 years old	21	6	8	10	9	1
25-59 years old	46	15	34	17	49	9
60+ years old	19	4	4	2	8	1
16-24 years old	24%	24%	17%	34%	14%	9%
25-59 years old	53%	60%	74%	59%	74%	82%
60+ years old	22%	16%	9%	7%	12%	9%

(*) 77 individuals total who have provided an age and a location in Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton during the 2021 enumeration exercise.

The Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI SPDAT) is used to identify the type of supports a household might need to exit homelessness. Those that score low (1-3) on the VI SPDAT likely need little to no supports to resolve their homelessness. Those that score moderately (4-7) likely need time-limited case management and financial supports to exit homelessness, those that score high or very high (8+) likely need permanent supportive housing. Specifically, in Kawartha Lakes, 88 or 71% of households are in need of permanent supportive housing. In 2018, the number of individuals who scored 8+ accounted for 67% of total Registry Week Respondents.

Level of Acuity Kawartha Lakes	Youth (16-24)	Youth Led Family	Adult	Family	Senior (60+)	Total	(%)
Low (0-3)	1	1	0	2	3	7	6%
Moderate (4-7)	3	0	17	4	5	29	23%
High (8-11)	6	1	34	5	2	48	39%
Very High (12+)	4	4	23	8	1	40	32%
Total	14	6	74	19	11	124	100%

Level of Acuity Haliburton County	Youth (16-24)	Youth Led Family	Adult	Family	Senior (60+)	Total	(%)
Low (0-3)	0	0	0	0	1	1	3%
Moderate (4-7)	0	0	7	2	2	11	28%
High (8-11)	3	0	6	5	4	18	45%
Very High (12+)	3	0	2	5	0	10	25%
Total	6	0	15	12	7	40	100%

Given the rising increase in acuity of those currently facing homelessness, additional supportive housing opportunities are needed to successfully house these individuals.

Reasons for increases in homelessness

The underlying causes of Homelessness are complex and multi-faceted. Through local qualitative and quantitative data we are able to measure and know what challenges are being faced by those experiencing homelessness in our communities.

The most notable reasons for homelessness locally have connections to the following:

1. Lack of affordable housing – measured by the following:

   a. Increase in market rents - Since 2018 we have seen average market rents increase by the following:

Year	Room	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
2018	$541	$952	$1,291	$1,432
2021	$705	$1,278	$1,660	$1,989
Increase %	30%	34%	29%	39%

   b. Increase in the wait time for Community Housing – In 2019 we estimated that waiting times for community housing had increased from three to five years in length to up to seven years in length. We now estimate that Community Housing wait times have increased up to 10 years or longer.

   c. Slow progress towards achieving Affordable Housing Targets – By the end of year two of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, we have yet to see any affordable rentals developed since the establishment of our Affordable Housing Targets, which aims to see 1,280 units created by 2029.

2. Impacts related to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

   a. Increase in housing market – The average resale price of a home in Kawartha Lakes rose by 118.5% since 2018. This increase has created a favourable market for investors to sell their rental properties, resulting in several households being displaced.

   b. Increase in mental health illness and addictions – Through the data we collected during the enumeration exercise, along with other qualitative data, we have seen an increase in those struggling with mental illness and addictions.

Next steps

The increasing level of complex needs in folks experiencing homelessness is something staff, along with community partners, are exploring over the next few months. Additional health resources and supports are needed to help meet the needs of our homeless population while they are homeless but also once they have an opportunity to be housed in a supportive housing program. The need for long-terms supports for these individuals and families are best addressed through collaborative partnerships between the City, the housing provider and various community health agencies. The political structure in Ontario creates a disconnect between housing and health programs, with policy and program development in each area occurring in separate provincial ministries, with little to no coordination. Continued advocacy at a provincial level continues to be needed more than ever to address the significant need for appropriate funding and supports to build more supportive housing.

The need for additional supports and programs for those with complex needs has also been identified within the recently adopted Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan has adopted four priority areas:

- Mental Health and Addictions
- Housing
- Poverty
- Youth

These priority areas were established based on results of the data analysis and lived-experience input that the committee reviewed and received.

The 2021 enumeration report (Attachment A) provides an overview of the results of the enumeration exercise, along with the combined snapshot of everyone known to be experiencing homelessness as of September 17th, 2021.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities:
This report aligns with the Strategic Priority of an Exceptional Quality of Life, and specifically the goal of Improving the health and well-being of residents.

Consultations:

Homelessness System Coordinator
Data Analysis Coordinator

Attachments:

Attachment A -2021 Homelessness Enumeration Report

Adobe Acrobat
Document

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