

Low-Barrier Services for Women: Designing and Implementing 24-Hour Women's Drop-In Services

Hillary Keirstead
Policy Development
Officer, SSHA

Lindsay Windhager
Harm Reduction
Coordinator, Sistering



Shelter, Support and
Housing Administration

SISiTERING

Direction from City Council

Community Development and Recreation Committee consideration on October 28, 2013

CD24.7	ACTION	Amended		
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Shelter Occupancy Rates

Committee Decision

The Community Development and Recreation Committee:

1. Requested the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to include the feedback of the deputants speaking to this issue in the Housing Stability Service Plan report when it comes to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on December 4, 2013.
3. Directed the General Manager of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to consult with women's homeless service providers and stakeholders to review the feasibility of establishing a 24 hour safe drop-in for women and review existing services and available funding for Capital Improvements and report back in the Spring of 2014 on their consultation.

Listening to the voices of women

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The City of Toronto is hosting two sessions to hear feedback on options for a 24-hour drop-in or low-barrier shelter for women.

Place: Margaret's Toronto East Drop-in
323 Dundas St E
(southeast corner, Sherbourne at Dundas East)

Time: Thursday, February 20 12:30 - 2 pm
Open forum - everyone welcome to participate

AND Thursday, February 27
12:30 - 2 pm
Women only



Reporting on what we heard



**STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY**

Update on Feasibility of 24-Hour Drop-in Services for Women

Date:	January 7, 2014
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

AT-RISK HOMELESS WOMEN COULD GET NEW REFUGE

City report supports need for 24-hour drop-in space for sex workers and other vulnerable groups

BY **BEN SPURR**

JANUARY 20, 2014 7:22 PM



Police photograph of a man sought in connection with a string of downtown sexual assaults last month. Homeless advocates say such incidents are why Toronto needs a 24-hour drop-in space for women.

City Council consideration on June 10, 2014

CD29.1	ACTION	Adopted		Ward:All
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Feasibility of 24-Hour Drop-in Service for Women

City Council Decision

City Council on June 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2014, adopted the following:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to issue a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) in 2014 to establish community interest in operating up to two 24-hour low-barrier drop-ins for women, one in the east end and one in the west end of the City.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to report to the August 6, 2014 Budget Committee on the results of the REOI, feasibility of the service, and estimated program costs and tax impacts, with a view to have one or two 24-hour low-barrier drop-ins for women established no later than December 2014.

COUNCIL BACKS 24-HOUR WOMEN'S DROP-IN

Near unanimous vote brings urgently needed homeless facility closer to reality

BY BEN SPURR

JUNE 10, 2014 5:55 PM



Homelessness advocates who have spent months pushing for a **round-the-clock safe space** for women were encouraged Tuesday when council overwhelmingly backed a proposal to set up Toronto's first 24-hour women's drop-in.

Finding service partners

Service Guides

Information for SSHA Division Staff

Home is Where it Starts

Learn your rights and responsibilities as a social housing tenant; where to connect to services to help you remain in your home, gain access to subsidized or affordable housing, and get help if you are homeless. Also: information for housing service providers partnering with the City.

How Can We Help?



Homelessness Services

Street outreach, emergency and transitional shelters; help to find a permanent home.



Housing Services

Reach out before you lose your home. A range of ways to avoid eviction, remain steady in your housing, and connect to opportunity.



Subsidized Housing

The City manages subsidized housing provided by 240 community organizations. Homes for about 265,000 Torontonians, 45,000 in City-owned Toronto.



Solving Homelessness Together

More than 340 community not-for-profit agencies work with the City to help vulnerable Toronto residents find, keep and live in affordable and decent housing.

Contact Us

ssha@toronto.ca

[Divisional Contacts](#)

[Our Customer Service](#)

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Featured Information

[Request for Expression of Interest for 24-hour Women's Drop-in](#)

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division (SSHA) is seeking to identify one or more existing drop-in operators or agencies serving marginalized individuals to deliver 24-hour drop-in services for women, including transgender women, in the City of Toronto. SSHA is requesting interested agencies to submit a response to this [Request for Expression of Interest](#).

[George Street Revitalization](#)

Information about the redevelopment of Seaton House into a facility that will serve homeless, vulnerable and elderly individuals.

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[Open House Drop In Programs](#)

[Creative Programs](#)

[Friends Restaurant & Catering](#)

[Employment And Training](#)

[Women's 24/7 Drop-In Program](#)

[Community Mental Health Services](#)

[Mental Health & Justice](#)

[Concurrent Disorders Support Services](#)

Women's 24/7 Drop-in Program

Fred Victor's 24/7 Drop-in for women located in the Adelaide Resource Centre offers a warm, safe and welcoming space with access to health services on site.

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, staff welcome all women who come through the doors. The space makes available necessities such as food, rest, clothing, toiletries and hygiene products and other items. For a lot of the women who use the program, it is their only way to connect with other women and access services that uniquely meet their needs.



- find information about other Fred Victor programs
- get referrals to doctors, dentists, legal aid and other services
- participate in exercise, arts and crafts and other social recreational programming
- access seniors services
- use laundry and shower facilities



A Women's Place
Supporting women in extraordinary circumstances

WHAT WE DO WAYS TO GIVE GET INVOLVED EVENTS ABOUT US PRESS RELEASE & MEDIA

SUPPORT NOW

Drop Ins



WHAT WE DO

Drop In

Spanish

Support Services

Health and Wellbeing

Employment and Income

Sister Writes

Harm Reduction

Migrant Mothers Project

WRAP for Syrian Women

Chinese Women Group

Drop-In Program Calendar

[Book an Agency Tour](#)

[Book a Speaker](#)

THE NOOK



24/7 Drop In Model

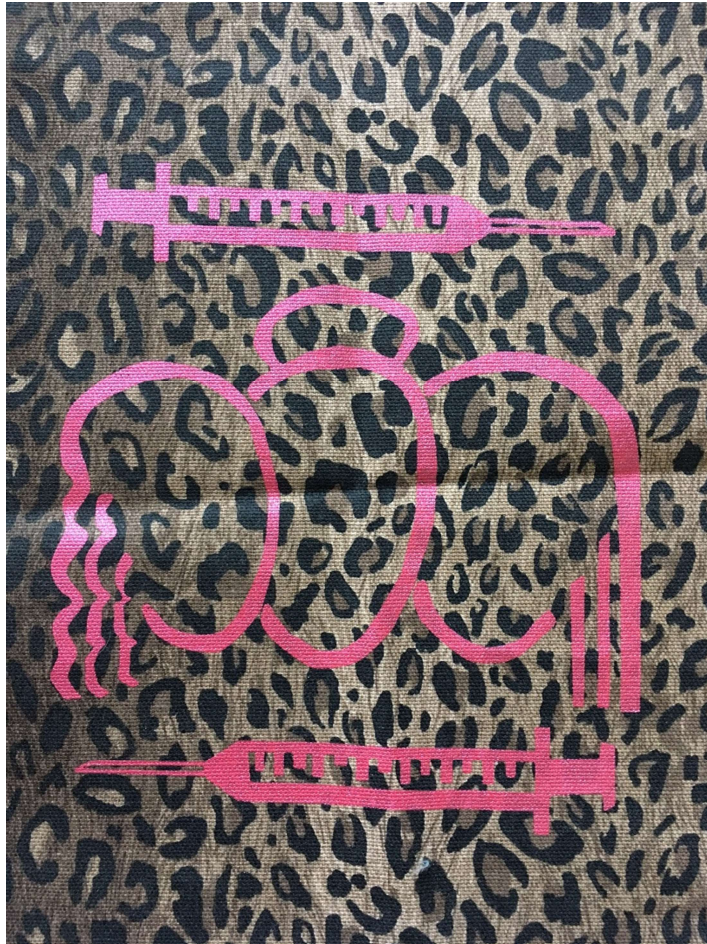
Low Barrier



Trauma Informed



Harm Reduction



Peer Programming



Questions?

Contact:

Hillary Keirstead
Policy Development Officer,
City of Toronto

hkeirst2@toronto.ca

416-392-0643

Contact:

Lindsay Windhager
Harm Reduction Coordinator,
Sistering

lwindhager@sistering.org

416-926-9762 ext. 253