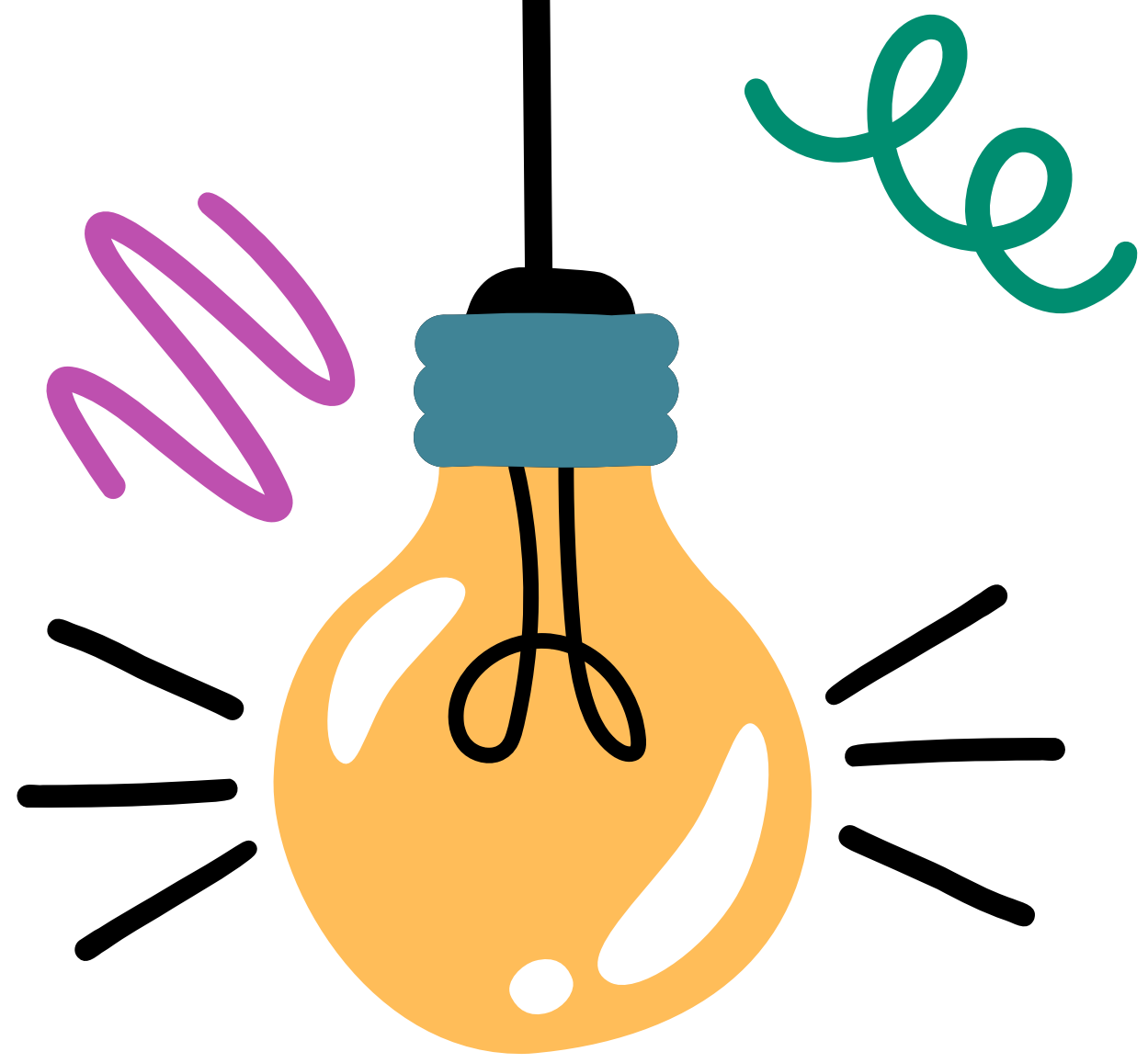
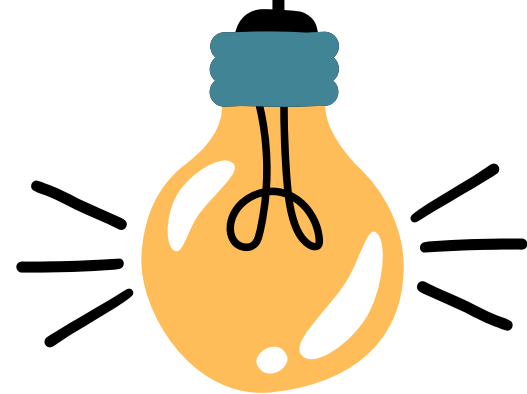


**MAXIMIZING THE
IMPACT OF POLICY
ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

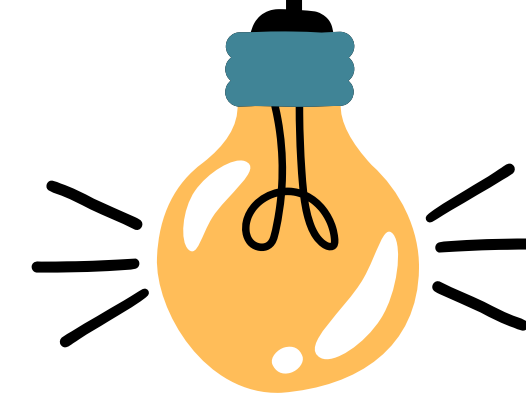
**IN THE HOUSELESS
SERVING SECTOR**



Kim Ritchie (she/her) BSW, RSW
Olivia Mancini (she/her) BA, BSW, MSW, RSW
Jeffrey Black (he/him) BA, BSW, MSW, PhD(s)



TODAY'S AGENDA



1 Learning Objectives

2 Group Goals

3 Convening A Call to
Action

4 Engaging with Media

5 Press Release

6 Delegations

7 Opinion Pieces

8 What's Next?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To construct advocacy and campaign strategies for social change
- To demonstrate how to challenge prevailing narratives to reduce stigma and maximize the impact of policy advocacy efforts
- To acquire knowledge in the implementation of harm reduction models within shelter settings





HAMILTON HARM REDUCTION WORKING GROUP GOALS



WHO WE ARE

- Advocacy group addressing areas that are causing harm in the shelter system

OVERARCHING GOAL

- Harm reduction measures in shelters

MAIN GOALS

- Implement safer use spaces in shelter
- Remove all service restrictions related to substance use and carrying harm reduction supplies

CONVENING A CALL TO ACTION

Local Issue



Increase in
drug
poisoning
deaths in
shelter

Stakeholders



People with
lived/living
experience,
homeless
serving
sector, other
social service
providers

Process

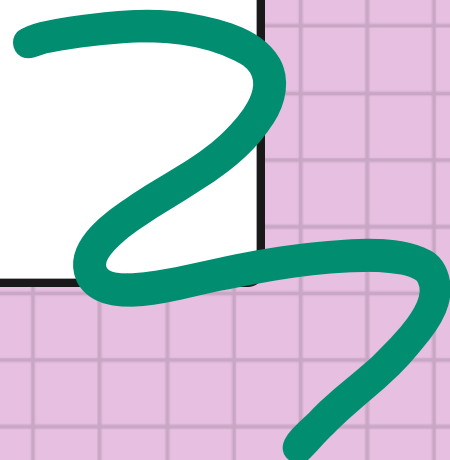


- Letters & meetings
- Media strategy
- Delegations
- Opinion pieces

Outcome



- Creation of Opioid Action Plan
- Contribution to standards



ENGAGING WITH MEDIA



KEY POINTS:

- Be prepared – Simple key messaging with data to back it up
- Know your audience
- Be confident – You are the expert!

HAMILTON REGION

Advocates call for supervised drug-use site at Hamilton shelter after deaths

Initiative would save lives amid toxic drug supply on city streets, they say



By Teviah Moro Spectator Reporter

Saturday, December 10, 2022 | 3 min to read

PRESS RELEASE



STRATEGY:

- Start with a strong headline and compelling lead paragraph

Include Quotes:

“We are experiencing a health and housing crisis worsening in real-time. This requires us to necessarily change policies and service standards to respond with the deepest level of care to reduce harm and save lives.”

Nrindr Nann, Ward 3 Councillor, City of Hamilton

DELEGATIONS



KEY POINT:

- Familiarize yourself with specific delegation policies and protocols with your local municipal government prior to participating in a delegation

**5 minutes
or
750 words**

**Strategy: Build
relationships
with city
councillors**

OPINION PIECES



KEY POINT:

- Writing for public education offers a means to connect with a broad audience and influence public opinion through compelling storytelling

Word Limit:

**600–750
words**

Strategy:

**Personal
stories**

SETTING INTO “MOTION”



CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Board of Health: February 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR A. Wilson

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N. Nann

Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework

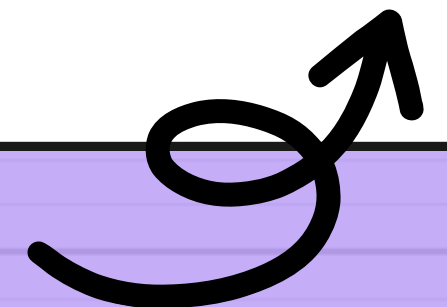
WHEREAS, [The geographic analysis of opioid-related deaths across Ontario](#) shows that larger urban centres, including Hamilton, exhibited the largest increase in both rates and in the absolute number of cases of opioid-related deaths during the pandemic;

- (d) That an 18 month pilot be implemented to provide a supervised consumption site in a men’s shelter by Housing Services through a Call for Applicants, for a total cost of \$667,000 and that the cost of \$120,000 for 2023 be funded from first from any Healthy and Safe Communities departmental levy funded surplus, then from Public Health Services Reserve (112219), and that the costs of \$547,000 be included in the 2024 and 2025 Tax Operating Budget.

STEPS TAKEN



- Held meetings with key stakeholders
- Co-drafted motion with city councilors
- Delegation at Board of Health meeting
- Motion was passed
- Met with external consultant to provide feedback for opioid response plan



OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE!



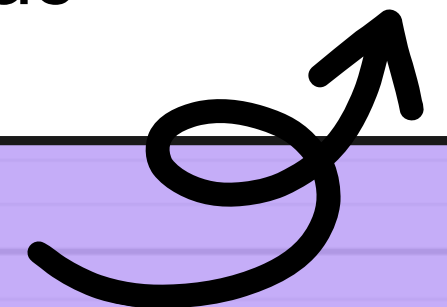
Reasons for Service Restrictions

Category	Description	Duration
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Repeated breaches of Shelter ExpectationsName calling/bullying including racism, sexism or any discriminatory languageAccessing Restricted AreasSubstance use on property and/or possession	2 hours off property
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Repeated breach of Level 1Verbal threat of harm or violence (No immediate intent assessed)Smoking insideFilming on property	24 hours off the property
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On-going predatory behaviorOn-going drug traffickingOn-going discriminatory harassment (example: racism)Second breach of smoking insideSecond breach of substance use on property	2 – 15 days off the property at managers discretion
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ViolenceSexual AssaultArsonImmediate threat and/or use of weaponsBreaking into locked areas and resident roomsSerious Property DamagePulling Fire Alarm	At least 15 days off the property or longer at managers discretion (length decided on case by case basis, and reviewed every 3 months)
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical violence or attempt to physically harm staff	At least 15 days off the property or longer at managers discretion (length decided on case by case basis, and reviewed every 3 months)

STEPS TAKEN

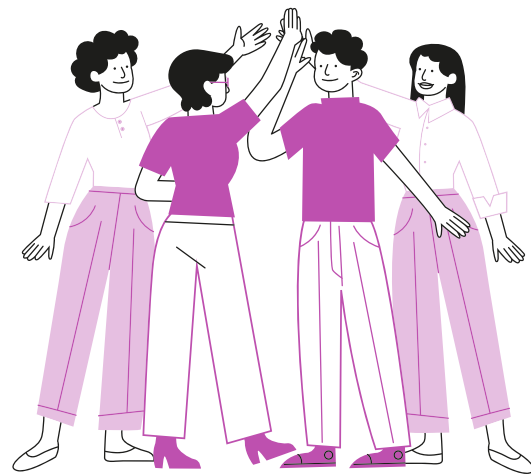


- Environmental scan of service restriction policies in other shelters
- Research on best practices for implementing safer use spaces in shelters
- Provided feedback on shelter standards





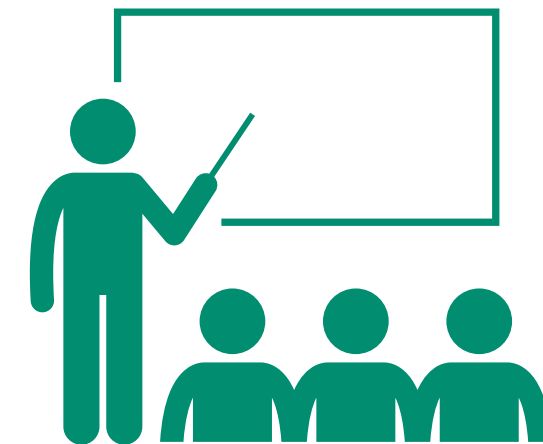
WHAT'S NEXT?



Continue to meet as a working group and engage with key stakeholders



"How to implement harm reduction policies and practices in shelters" guide for service providers



Developing a "Harm Reduction 101" workshop for shelter staff



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Getting to Tomorrow. (2022, May 16). *Harm reduction is not just a hashtag: Hamilton dialogue report*.
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Mancini, O. (2022, December 22). *Local harm reduction and drug policy organizations call for harm reduction measures in Hamilton shelters*.
<https://gettingtomorrow.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CDPC-Hamilton-report-2.1.pdf>

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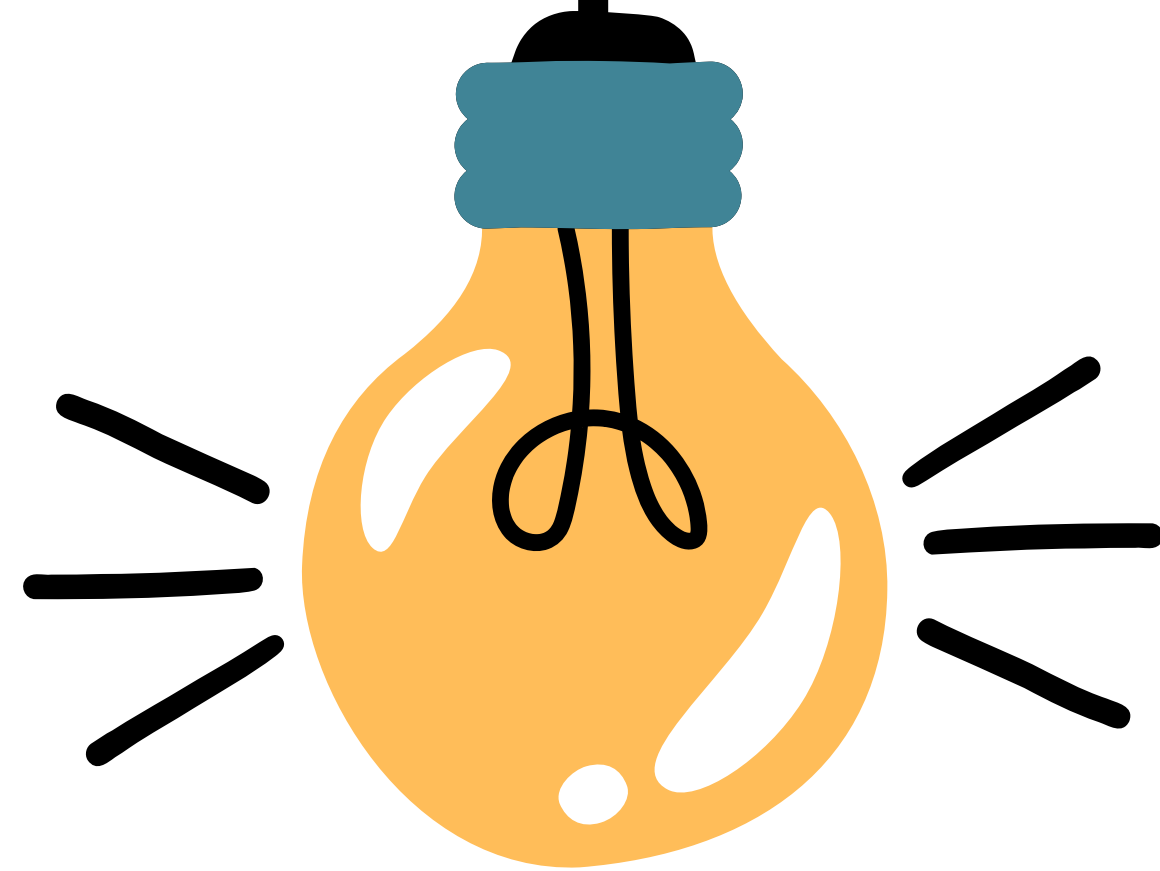
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THANK
YOU



Kim Ritchie: kim.ritchie1@gmail.com

Olivia Mancini: olivia_mancini4@hotmail.com

Jeffrey Black: blackjj2@mcmaster.ca