

MHWG report – March 14, 2016

Present: Michael D. (Chair); Michael C; Florencia D.; Jim S (via phone)

1. Discussion was had around needing to know our 'starting point'.

**Recommendation:** City to provide update to MHWG on the status of any existing mental health initiatives, programs, or undertakings, including workplace accommodations.

2. Develop wording to ensure MHWG focus remains within the scope of ACCAC's municipal Mandate

**Recommendation:** ACCAC endorse the following at the working mission statement for the MHWG

*To identify and advise on the removal of barriers for people with mental health challenges or mental illness in accessing municipal services, facilities or employment; with a goal towards stigma reduction; increased access to services, and more effective service delivery*

3. MHWG recognized the need to identify as many potential 'partners' who may have insight or working knowledge of MH, and could provide recommendation of how the municipality could move towards accomplishing the mission of the MHWG. Members are encouraged to begin a running list of such partners. Florencia will communicate with exiting contacts to ask for any pre-existing lists.
4. MHWG to conduct online research looking for any other existing initiatives that could be adopted, in whole or in part.
5. Once sufficient information on initiatives and potential partners is available, MHWG to develop feedback mechanism(s) including a survey to solicit and prioritize recommendations to be included within the final report.
6. It is expected MH will be discussed with community members at the ACCAC 'open houses' slated for the fall. Discussion was held about the possibility of hosting a MH specific 'open house' geared more towards service providers and those with lived experience.
7. **Lastly all ACCAC members are encouraged to take part in the MHWG. This is a significant undertaking and shouldn't be achieved by only a handful of us.**