

# COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

HYBRID - COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND MICROSOFT TEAMS

400 Main Street SE

### PRESENT

Councillor R. Chapman (Chair) (Voting)  
Councillor D. Belyk (Voting)  
Mayor P. Brown (Voting)  
Deputy Mayor H. Spearman (Non-Voting, then Voting) (via MS Teams)  
D. Ansah (Non-Voting)  
T. Spahmann (Non-Voting)

### STAFF

K. Weinberger, Director Community Safety & Social Services  
B. Tomlinson, Team Leader Municipal Enforcement  
J. Bayly-Atkin, Senior Legislative Officer/Committee Clerk  
K. Morrison, Legislative Officer II  
N. Parkinson, Legislative Officer I  
K. Rushford, Recording Technician

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and confirmed that quorum has been met for this meeting.

## 2. DIRECTOR'S BRIEF (verbal only)

K. Weinberger, Director Community Safety & Social Services, advised that Administration has been in meetings with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety to go through what we need to do for a new bylaw for a new committee for the municipal police advisory group. The governance model will need to be in place by March 1, 2025. The new committee will be led by citizen members and will set police priorities, financial plans and annual staffing plans for the City of Airdrie. Outcomes of those decisions will go directly to Council. Administration is looking at a seven member board, and the Minister can add two provincial positions.

A question was asked about capacity at the municipal policing building. Director Weinberger advised that there is capacity. In about five years, the Rural members will move out of the building, which will free up about 36 spaces for staff.

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Regular Meeting of November 12, 2024

**2024-CSSS-039**

**Moved By** Councillor Belyk

That the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee adopts the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2024 as presented.

**Carried**

#### **4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

##### **4.1 Southern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society (Jerry Cook, CEO, and Amy Carlson, Assistant Director of Regional Operations, Southern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society)**

Mr. Jerry Cook, CEO, Southern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society (SARVSS), provided the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee with information regarding SARVSS.

Concern was raised about the expectations for volunteer advocates. Mr. Cook advised that SARVSS understands the difficulty and will be upfront with volunteer advocates about the expectations. They will be recruiting for volunteers in the next few weeks. They will also be looking at what to do in the future if they cannot meet the goals of the volunteer advocate program. Options are online and telephone services.

It was asked how SARVSS will ensure that volunteers are adequately trained and retained so there isn't a gap in services. Mr. Cook advised that a comprehensive recruitment, training and retention strategy will be developed, including 80 hours of training upfront, follow-up training, and mutual support by operating in pairs. SARVSS is pleased to have a core of former ADVAS volunteers that they can draw upon. A comment was made that most volunteers with Calgary Police Services are retired with previous related experience, or are younger people that want to use this volunteering as a stepping stone to get into policing or social work.

A question was asked about the distribution of staff across the region. Mr. Cook advised that the Government of Alberta did go through modelling. The number of current cases was a factor, as was available space for a physical presence in detachments.

A question was asked about prioritization of court over crisis calls. Amy Carlson, the SARVSS Assistant Director of Regional Operations, advised that court services are mandated as the first priority for SARVSS. There are a lot of partner agencies that can assist with crisis situations. Victims will be asked if they want assistance from SARVSS.

Ms. Carlson advised that SARVSS has a CanTalk account for translation services and the cost has been built into the budget.

It was asked whether it is a mandate of the new organization to establish a relationship with the RCMP on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Cook advised that they are committed to building relationships with RCMP detachment members. An open house was held recently for RCMP members to meet SARVSS staff. Ms. Carlson advised that they are working to develop lines of communication so there is an open door policy for RCMP members to meet with the navigators at any time. They have also been working on having the navigators do engagement with RCMP members in the community.

A comment was made that the Minister indicated that Airdrie would not see a difference in service. With ADVAS, the time of day didn't matter, but SARVSS resources are only available 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Airdrie community has grown to expect those services. Mr. Cook advised that the issue is using the navigators to provide after-hours crisis response. If navigators go on-call at night, they will not be available during the day for court duties, which SARVSS is mandated to provide. SARVSS is committed to providing the level of service this community expects and deserves and are committed to having a solution to this problem over the next 3-6 months. Ms. Carlson advised that extensive volunteer engagement will be needed to provide 24 hour service. They want to provide volunteers with wrap-around services including comprehensive training, a second layer of support on crisis calls, debriefing process after crisis calls, and resources across the region.

A comment was made that ADVAS teams met regularly with the social support service groups in our community. Mr. Cook advised that SARVSS recognizes that community engagement is critical. Engagement is happening with agencies throughout the region. Mayor Brown offered that if SARVSS needs Council to help with community engagement, to please let Council members know.

## **MEMBER LEAVES MEETING**

Mayor Brown left the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Deputy Mayor Spearman took over as the third voting member.

Concern was raised about the burnout of full time staff after 3-5 years. Mr. Cook advised that building culture is very important to the team and they are working to provide a supportive structure for their frontline workers. The organization cannot assess beyond the first year or two and are working with the Government of Alberta to establish a Year 3 budget.

It was asked whether the eligibility and client access policy will be available to clients. Mr. Cook advised that the policy will be available to full time staff and the RCMP. Ms. Carlson advised that it is within the Year 2 or Year 3 target to have policies available online.

It was asked whether SARVSS has started actively recruiting volunteers. Mr. Cook advised that the initial focus was to get ADVAS volunteers to come over. The next priority is recruiting, but they want to have everything in place before they do that. Director Weinberger confirmed that the City has offered that SARVSS can use the City's website for recruitment opportunities while they develop their website.

Concern was raised that the Government of Alberta disbanded Victim Services without having something ready for a seamless transition. Director Weinberger advised that from a City perspective, Airdrie has not experienced gaps during the transition.

### **2024-CSSS-040**

**Moved By** Councillor Belyk

That the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee accepts the Southern Alberta Regional Victim Serving Society update presentation for information.

**Carried**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

There are no items.

**6. AGENDA REPORTS**

6.1 RCMP - Q2 Update (Brad Tomlinson, Team Leader Municipal Enforcement and S/Sgt Chris Zanidean, RCMP Detachment)

**2024-CSSS-041**

**Moved By** Deputy Mayor Spearman

That the Community Safety and Social Services Standing Committee accepts the RCMP Q1 update presentation for information.

**Carried**

**7. ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL**

There are no items.

**8. UPDATE OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

There are no items.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

There are no items.

**10. ITEMS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

There are no items.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Councillor Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

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Committee Chair

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Committee Clerk