



COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 19 November 2024

Subject: Healthier Together Airdrie Update and Action Plan

Directorate: Community Services

Issue:

Council is being presented with an update on the Healthier Together Airdrie (HTA) collaboration between the City of Airdrie, Alberta Health Services and community partners to improve health and wellbeing of residents.

Policy / Council Direction:

The Healthier Together Partnership was presented to Council on [February 6, 2023 Healthier Together Airdrie](#) and on [October 3, 2023 Healthier Together Airdrie](#). Council has provided their support for AHS and City staff to pursue the development of a collaborative approach to health promotion.

Background:

Healthier Together Airdrie is a collaboration between Alberta Health Services (AHS), City of Airdrie and community partners to improve the health outcomes of Airdrie residents. The aim of Healthier Together Airdrie is not to duplicate the work already being done – either by AHS or the City – but to build on previous and ongoing work and collaborate more closely.

In October 2023, the Healthier Together Airdrie working group (AHS and Community Services) presented information about an Alberta-based approach to developing and implementing evidence-informed actions that will lead to improvements in the health and well-being of residents. To mobilize residents and community groups to become champions of their own health and well-being, it is critical that they are engaged in actions and decisions that affect them. Council was informed of the 9-12 month plan to engage with City departments, community organizations, and other public institutions to share information and data, and build awareness and engage residents through various means to gather their input on how they influence their own health.

In the last year, AHS has hired a Health Promotion Facilitator to lead the way in bringing people together, understanding the local context, developing and prioritizing the Healthier Together Airdrie Action Plan. In collaboration with the City and community partners,

- Community input and feedback were gathered from residents at various community events from January to September 2024
- An online survey (community data) was conducted to learn about what residents would consider priorities for creating a healthier Airdrie
- Local experts in health and wellness, City departments, citizens and community organizations were formed as the Action Group Planning Team. They reviewed the community data and input to identify two main action areas to implement for Healthier Together Airdrie.

The representatives of the Action Group Planning Team (Jordan Furness, City of Airdrie; Alejandra Gutierrez, resident; and Nasra Hussein, Health Promotion Facilitator) are here to present to Council the results of the year-long community engagement and priority actions of the Healthier Together Airdrie. The object is to address needs raised by residents by building on community assets and City initiatives and not duplicate what exists. By layering a health lens on City and community initiatives, effective and low-cost activities can be easily integrated in the daily lives of residents. For example, one of the key needs raised by residents is affordable and accessible recreation and activities. Walking is a free, accessible way to be physically active. A well-promoted and planned walking series targeted at all residents regardless of age, SES, mobility levels and race/ethnicity is being planned. This includes supporting seniors and persons with disability with poles for pole-walking, story walks for children/youth, and land learning/history walks.

A key goal for Healthier Together Airdrie is to better understand how information is effectively spread across the community and who is receiving information through which channels. This information will help inform improvements to Healthier Together Airdrie communications so that we can better reach underserved populations, and this information can be shared with our partners so that they tailor their communications to more effectively reach their target populations. An Evaluation Team from AHS is involved in measuring the impacts of these activities and to ensure that the Healthier Together Airdrie is able to adapt to changing needs.

Healthier Together Airdrie is excited to continue to engage with residents through the implementation of the Action Plan for the next 9-12 months. The committee will return to Council with an update on progress and evaluation results.

Council Committee Routed Through:

N/A

Administration Recommendation:

That Council accepts the, "Healthier Together: A Report to Council on Healthier Together Airdrie's Action Plan" for information."

Alternatives/Implications:

N/A

Budget Implications:

AHS has committed and provided \$85,000 for two years to help promote, plan and implement Actions will have positive impacts on health outcomes of residents.

Communications and Engagement:

The City's Corporate Communications Team and AHS are working together to promote the Healthier Together Airdrie Actions via City and community channels. A high level Communication Plan has been appended to the Healthier Together report outlining the goals, target audience and key messages to inform the community of Healthier Together Airdrie activities and initiatives.

Recommendation:

That Council accepts the, "Healthier Together: A Report to Council on Healthier Together Airdrie's Action Plan" for information."

Clay Aragon, Manager Culture, Heritage and Events

Staff Presenter:	Jordan Furness
External Presenter:	Nassra Hussein, Alejandra Gutierrez
Department:	Community Services
Reviewed by:	
Attachments:	#1: Healthier Together: A report to Council on Healthier Together Airdrie's Action Plan