

# SISTERING

## Sistering Advisory Council Meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Sistering, 962 Bloor St West  
6:00-7:30pm

### Call to Order Review Agenda and Minutes

#### Coldest Night of the Year

- All attending members are participating in some manner. Lots of excitement from members.
- Some members having difficulties maneuvering around CNOY website, trying to donate.
- Feedback was passed over to Wendy who suggested people contact the organization to relay their input.

#### Community Liaison Worker Update

- The job has been posted and closed
- Members were asked if anyone was interested in sitting on interview panel. Shelley offered to fulfill this request.

#### Extra Space for Spun Program

- Close to finalizing lease at old HR Block to transfer Spun across Bloor.
- 1300 square feet of store front.
- Spun will run 4 days a week which leaves options open for other days and/or evenings.
- Turn old space to program and office space.

#### De-escalating Training

- Priyanka to provide training to 14 Division Police.
- Member inquired if other community members can also attend this training. Pat to find out and get back to members.
- Members found the training to be very informative and helpful.

#### Conversation with Government re: Need for Shelters

- City promised 1000 shelter beds.
- Currently there are only 100 of the promised 1000.

- 28 beds at The Davenport Women's shelter have gone to youth however our understanding was these beds would be low barrier for women such as Sistering's women.
- A lot of our women have gone to other shelters but have returned due to **too many rules**.
- Need to have more real low barrier drop ins and shelters.
- Still huge need for shelter and housing that city is not providing.
- One positive outcome from Crystal's death is there is talk of getting a house in the east and west to provide services to women like Crystal.
- Julie Dzerowicz and Sean Gadon supporting and helping with connections.
- Sistering's house on Havelock has only 3 women staying in it and not being used effectively (too few women).
- Exploring other possibilities in area
- Other option is to buy current building and build up to match need.
- Number of counsellors were advocating trying to pass homelessness as an emergency but did not get this passed.
- The advocating focuses people's attention on the issue.
- Citizens seem to recognize the issue more than government or councillors do.
- Issue is receiving more attention from federal government than provincial government.
- Over 9000 from 5000 homeless in the past couple years.
- City is not providing adequate shelter

### **Tips for working with Street-Involved People**

Tips sheet to be held back for March meeting when higher attendance expected

**Adjournment: 7:30pm**