

**City of Port Colborne
Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee**

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Committee Room 3-City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

Pages

1. Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair call the meeting to order. Vice chair to deliver land acknowledgement.

1.2 Roll call

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Disclosures of Interest

4. Approval of Minutes

1

5. New Business

Chair to welcome new vice chair Karine Ohanion

6. Business arising from the minutes

6.1 Region-TOES Code of Conduct follow-up

6.2 Health care update

6.3 Transportation update; options for health care access

6.4 Lodging house bylaw update

7. Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion

8. Action Items

9. Next meeting

Thursday, Feb. 5

10. Adjournment

City of Port Colborne

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date	Thursday, September 11, 2025
Time	1pm
Location	Committee Room 3-City Hall 66 Charlotte St., Port Colborne ON L3K 3C8
Members present	<p>Lori Kleinsmith, chair, Health Promoter, Bridges Community Health Centre</p> <p>Adrienne Harper, vice-chair, Health Promotion and Foundational Standards Division, Public Health and Emergency Services, Niagara Region</p> <p>Kim Simons, Support Services Director, Anchors Away</p> <p>Phil Licskai, District Commander, Niagara Regional Police Service</p> <p>Joanna Mataya, Executive Director, Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet</p>
Members absent	<p>Christine Clark-Lafleur, Executive Director, Port Cares</p> <p>Vicki Doidge, Director of Legal Services, Niagara Community Legal Clinic</p> <p>Brendan Nicholson, Manager, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, Niagara Region</p>
Staff present	<p>William Steele, Mayor</p> <p>Tim Hoyle, City Councillor</p> <p>Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Port Colborne</p> <p>Rachel Tkachuk, Chief Executive Officer, Port Colborne Public Library</p> <p>Genevieve-Renee Bisson, Senior Community Engagement Officer, City of Port Colborne</p> <p>Danny Rodgers, Chief Building Official, City of Port Colborne</p> <p>Gail Todd, staff liaison</p>

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

On behalf of members and staff assembled, A. Harper presented a Land Acknowledgement

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved By A. Harper

Seconded By P. Licskai

That the Agenda of the Sept. 11, 2025 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

Agenda amendment:

Moved By A. Harper

Seconded By P. Licskai

The chair suggested moving New Business, Item 6.1, be moved up in the agenda to allow guest speakers to deliver their presentation before Item 5, Business Arising.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved By J. Mataya

Seconded By A. Harper

That the minutes of the June 5, 2025 meeting of the Social Determinants of Healthy Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Lodging House bylaw update

D. Rodgers, the city's new Chief Building Official, is the new bylaw manager, currently being brought up to speed on ongoing issues.

Members shared ongoing complaints and concerns of which they are aware firsthand and also seeing on socials. Caseworkers from Port Cares and Bridges know residents as they are clients of both or either agency.

D. Rodgers requested comment from as many agencies as possible, even if as consultants, only. The chair, and-or staff liaison will reach out to Port Cares, Niagara Regional Housing, and the Community Legal Clinic.

5.2 Healthcare committee update

Geneviève-Renée Bisson, senior community engagement officer, reported the healthcare committee had met seven times since the last meeting of the SDOHAC, and had two meetings with the Ontario Health Team.

The city's healthcare committee has also heard from a variety of health care experts who spoke on their areas of expertise. The committee will meet biweekly until December. The direction aligns with the mayor's original committee a year ago.

Niagara's Chief Medical Officer of Health is scheduled to speak with the committee Sept. 22. The Port Colborne Health Coalition and one other spoke to the committee during a public delegation meeting Aug. 27.

CAO B. Boles attended a PC Health Coalition meeting to outline the aggressive progress of the city committee and address public concerns. He will attend again Oct. 9.

As a result of all the meetings, Ms Bisson said there was now a list of what is needed when the Urgent Care Centre closes in 2028. The committee is aiming really high, she said, but we will not have the status quo.

By November, there will be another round of public engagement, with an open house scheduled for Nov. 5, and a report by December.

A developer has proposed a new build, with a medical centre included. It is one of several options.

CAO Boles said he has meeting with the CAO and board chair of Niagara Region Transit, as public transportation is a key component of any new health care delivery structure.

Mayor Steele noted the City and the Region are in better shape now than a year ago, when we were desperate for family doctors. There are now 39 doctors needing patients.

Ms Bisson commended the Region's rock star physician recruiter, Jill Croteau, adding the Region's economic development department could include health care and physician availability in its marketing plan.

5.3 Transportation public engagement update

As Niagara Transit has a public engagement campaign underway, and several members left the meeting for 3pm commitments, the transportation update is deferred to next meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Human trafficking prevention

Dave Augustyn, Policy Consultant, Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region, and Mariam Khayinza, Project Coordinator at Tools of Empowerment for Success [TOES Niagara], presented the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking endorsed by Niagara Region in July 2025.

The Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention is a collaborative initiative by [TOES Niagara](#) and Brock University to make the Niagara Region inhospitable to human traffickers. Developed with community input and based on ECPAT International's [model](#), the Code provides guidelines and training for key sectors, including hospitality, tourism, law enforcement, education, and government, to recognize and prevent sexual and labour exploitation. The goal is to create a collective, survivor-centered approach to protect vulnerable groups and foster a safer community and tourist destination.

Presentation attached.

The SDOHAC supports the code, in principal, and will submit a recommendation to city council to endorse the code as requested by Niagara Regional Council.

Businesses will be asked to be signatories to the code and will require training and support.

Before a request of council endorsement, CAO B. Boles will deliver a verbal report to council, outlining any budget ramifications and enforcement implications. A letter from the SDOHAC may be requested by council.

Mr Augustyn and Ms Khayinza offered training, including protocols for reporting, and options for victims for trafficking.

Mr. Augustyn said Port Colborne is a leader on many fronts; this could be another.

P. Licskai said he is 100 per cent in support of any resources to bolster public awareness of human trafficking.

7. Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion

Deferred to next meeting due to lack of time.

8. Action items

Regarding the Code of Conduct to prevent human trafficking

Before a request of city council endorsement of the code, CAO B. Boles will deliver a verbal report to council, outlining any budget ramifications and enforcement implications. A letter from the SDOHAC may be requested by council.

Regarding the lodging house bylaw

CBO Danny Rodgers requested input from as many agencies as possible, even if as consultants only. The SDOHAC chair and-or staff liaison will reach out to Port Cares, Niagara Regional Housing, and the Community Legal Clinic to submit comments or present at next meeting.

9. Next meeting

Thursday, Nov. 6 1pm.

10. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3pm.

Chair

Staff Liaison