



## **MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE**

**Information previously distributed / Information distribuée auparavant**

**TO: Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit**

**DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa**

**FROM: Dr. Vera Etches,  
Medical Officer of Health  
Ottawa Public Health**

**Contact:  
Erinn Salewski, Manager  
Community Operations  
613-580-2424 ext. 13738  
Erinn.Salewski@ottawa.ca**

**EXPÉDITEUR : D<sup>re</sup> Vera Etches,  
Médecin chef en santé  
Santé publique Ottawa**

**Personne ressource :  
Erinn Salewski, gestionnaire  
Opérations communautaires  
613-580-2424 poste 13738  
Erinn.Salewski@ottawa.ca**

**DATE: November 18, 2020**

**18 novembre 2020**

**FILE NUMBER: ACS2020-OPH-HPP-0008-IPD**

**SUBJECT: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – Interim Report**

**OBJET : Plan de sécurité et de bien-être dans les collectivités – Rapport provisoire**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Ottawa Board of Health about the City of Ottawa's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan interim report and provide an outline of Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) role in the plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

A Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan is meant to create community-wide commitment to collective actions and to create positive outcomes by addressing key

social priorities, root causes of crime, social disorder and ill-health, with shared goals and multi-sectoral partnerships. In accordance with the *Safer Ontario Act, 2018*, Ontario municipalities must prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being plan. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for completing these plans is currently under review and the Ministry of the Solicitor General will work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to determine a new deadline, to be set by regulation.

On October 28, 2020, City Council approved the priorities for Ottawa's CSWB Plan, as outlined in the [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – Interim Report](#). At this time, staff anticipate presenting Ottawa's final CSWB Plan to the Community and Protective Services Committee and Council for approval in Fall 2021.

The development of Ottawa's CSWB Plan follows both the [Provincial Planning Framework](#) as well as the six-step development approach outlined in the Council-approved [Community Safety and Well-Being Roadmap Report](#) (ACS2019-EPS-GEN-0011).

The City's role is to develop partnerships and coordinate this collective impact plan, with future actions under the Plan to be undertaken by the most appropriate department, service, partner or agency. This means the City of Ottawa may have some actions they are accountable to carry out and that the city will not assume all responsibility for the Plan's implementation. Further, the Plan will not duplicate any work already underway but rather, it will complement, leverage, and build on work already occurring.

As approved by Council in the 2018 Governance Review Report, the Crime Prevention Ottawa Board of Directors, of which Dr. Vera Etches is a member, is serving as the Advisory Committee for Ottawa's CSWB Plan and was consulted in identifying the Plan's proposed priorities.

OPH is a member of the CSWB Advisory Committee, Steering Committee and Working Group, and contributes to the Plan through a variety of initiatives and programs. Most notable is OPH's work on mental health, anti-racism, health of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities, and work with neighbourhoods with less advantage, such as is being advanced in the COVID-19 response. OPH-led initiatives, research and programs that inform the CSWB Plan and approach include but are not limited to:

- [Mental Health of Ottawa's Black Community Research Study](#);
- [Ottawa Community Action Plan: Comprehensive Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy – Focus on Opioids](#);

- Ottawa Public Health's Community Engagement Team;
- [Ottawa Public Health Reconcili-ACTION Plan](#);
- [Protecting Our Community's Health | Ottawa Public Health's 2019-2022 Strategy](#)
- [Status of Mental Health in Ottawa During the COVID-19 Pandemic report](#).

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the interim report was to get Council's approval for the Plan's priorities prior to staff undertaking the next steps in the Plan's full development. In addition, the interim report presented the work completed in the first two phases of the CSWB Plan's development, namely data analysis and environmental scan and identification of the Plan priorities. It also provided the results of the first phase of public engagement, which supported the determination of the CSWB Plan priorities. Finally, the report outlined the revised timeline for developing the remaining CSWB Plan components.

There were initially five recommended priorities based on feedback collected during the engagement activities. These include one process priority that will support and integrate actions undertaken within four action priorities, as described in further detail in the report. The priorities are not listed in any particular order of importance.

Process Priority:

- a. Integrated and Simpler Systems.

Action Priorities:

- b. Discrimination, marginalization and racism;
- c. Financial security and poverty reduction;
- d. Housing; and
- e. Mental well-being.

The above-noted priorities were identified as both the most meaningful to the public and stakeholders, as well as the most effective for addressing root causes of crime, social disorder and harm in the first edition of the CSWB Plan, as noted further in the report.

On October 15, 2020 the Community and Protective Services Committee approved the addition of a sixth priority to address gender-based violence and violence against women.

Given that the Plan is both a foundational strategy and a long-term journey that will

address existing community safety and well-being issues, it is intended to be a living document that can respond to emerging issues that arise in the future. The ongoing COVID-19 response reiterates the importance of a comprehensive and robust CSWB Plan to support the community.

OPH's work is anticipated to directly support at least several of the priorities identified, with mental well-being as a specific area of focus. During the engagement period, feedback showed themes about the need for increased awareness of available programs and services, support through all stages of mental health crisis, counselling and harm reduction support, social support and personal safety. When discussing mental well-being, respondents noted the inter-connection of mental health and substance use. Based on the co-morbidity of substance use and mental health, as described in the report, substance use will be included as a component of the mental well-being priority. Social isolation will also be considered when developing action items to support mental well-being.

OPH's mission is to work with our community to improve, promote and protect the health and well-being of the people of Ottawa. The CSWB Plan aligns with the [OPH strategic plan](#) goals to “Drive Innovative approaches to mental health and substance use” and “Healthy Communities by Design.”

## **NEXT STEPS**

The CSWB interim report outlines the Plan's intent and steps for strategies, evaluation and performance, implementation, approval of final CSWB Plan, and public and stakeholder engagement. OPH will continue to support the Advisory Committee, Steering Committee, Working Group and public engagement activities.

OPH will also continue to be involved in the Plan's next steps and OPH's contributions will be reported through the CSWB Plan mapping exercises and OPH Strategic Plan update reports.

Dr./ D<sup>re</sup> Vera Etches  
Medical Officer of Health/ Médecin chef en santé Publique  
Ottawa Public Health/ Santé publique Ottawa