



Community Wellbeing Advisory Board (CWAB) AGENDA

MEETING NO. 09
MONDAY, May 26, 2025
2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
CULVER ROOM (CITY HALL MAIN FLOOR)

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Melissa Shouting (Virtual)	Appointed Member; Indigenous community representative
VACANT	Appointed Member; Indigenous community representative
Heather Oxman (Co-Chair)	Appointed Member; At-large community representative
Seth Adema (Virtual)	Appointed Member; At-large community representative
Cheryl Patterson	Appointed Member; At-large community representative
Sharon Yanicki	Appointed Member; At-large community representative

Non-Voting Members

Andrew Malcolm (Co-Chair)	City of Lethbridge administrative representative <i>General Manager, Community Social Development</i>
Kayla Podrasky	Community-based organization representative <i>Director of Homelessness Supports, Lethbridge Housing Authority</i>
Joseph Palasthy (Virtual)	Engagement and Program Officer, Government of Canada <i>Federal Representative</i>

Regrets:

Kelly Smith	Appointed Member; Indigenous community representative
Robin Walker	Appointed Member; Indigenous community representative
Anastasia Pavlova	Appointed Member; At-large community representative

City of Lethbridge Staff

Ivan Ho	Community Social Development; Programming Specialist Development
Aidan Peacock	Community Social Development; Grant Technician/Administrative Support
Danielle Lenaour	Community Social Development; Contract Coordinator Development
Matthew Pitcher	Community Social Development; Housing Solutions Coordinator

Presenter(s):

Matthew Pitcher	Community Social Development; Housing Solutions Coordinator
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CALL TO ORDER

1. OPENING REMARKS

Presenter(s): A. Malcolm

The Co-Chairs called the meeting order at 2:01 PM

The Board Secretary reviewed attendance and confirmed quorum.

The Co-Chair respectfully acknowledged that we are gathered on the lands of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains and paid respect to the Blackfoot people past, present and future while recognizing and respecting their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to the land. The Co-Chairs offered respect to the Métis and all who have lived on this land and made Lethbridge their home.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Materials were provided to members via email in advance of meeting.

Presenter(s): A. Malcolm

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the CWAB approve the agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Materials were provided to members via email in advance of meeting.

Presenter(s): A. Malcolm

The motion was moved and amended.

THAT the CWAB approve the amended minutes of its April 28, 2025 meeting.

The amendment corrects a typographical error in the Engagement Strategy Update discussion, where 'He' was mistakenly referenced instead of 'She'.

CARRIED

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

4. Land Banking for Housing and Use of Unassigned Buildings

Presenter(s): M. Pitcher

Earlier in the year, S. Yanicki shared an article of the City of Calgary incentivizing the building of affordable housing units by selling plots of land below market to non-profits. Also, earlier in the year, H. Oxman and R. Walker met to discuss the idea of using unallocated/unassigned spaces in schools, churches, and/or commercial buildings for services to other populations. Materials were circulated to the advisory board prior to meeting today, and today administration will present on what's currently been worked on to help inform a discussion with CWAB.

Discussion on Land Banking:

M. Pitcher added that Land Banking, Donation, and/or sale below Market Value are an effective way to kill two birds with one stone:

- Resource a project so there is a municipal contribution to show in grant applications
- Secure land for a project that is appropriate for a project

H. Oxman inquired if there are potential options in advocacy funding for housing projects. M. Pitcher responded to this inquiry that there are plenty of avenues we can look at for advocacy funding in housing projects.

H. Oxman inquired if the University of Lethbridge land could be potentially donated by the institution or owner of the land around. A. Malcolm mentioned they (University of Lethbridge) are exempt from zoning rules and will see if there are any potential opportunities for future projects.

M. Pitcher clarified that the Land Banking strategy provides a high level framework/approach, it does not add to our inventory/land stock to utilize, just outlining what the general approach is and what are the priorities of getting it up and running.

H. Oxman noted that there are plenty of empty/large units in Lethbridge. She commented that it would be interesting to redevelop that as a potential housing facility. Robin Walker has the idea of looking at empty commercial facilities (i.e., old Sobeys on the south side of Lethbridge or Civic Centre off Stafford Drive)

Discussion on Unallocated/unassigned spaces:

S. Yanicki noted that the problem we are trying to solve is the lack of available housing for high priority population groups with other priority populations still having issues. She added that the fully housed population with disabilities presents challenges (i.e. accommodations) and should consider which priority population should be included and how do we get them effective outcomes.

H. Oxman proposed in potentially creating a committee for this process of Land Use Bylaw or Land Banking or seeing if the advisory board should wait and come back at our next meeting to dwell on this information.

A. Malcolm proposed that the advisory board dwell on this and then bring an update back to the committee in January 2026 of potential opportunities on Land Use Banking/Bylaw.

H. Oxman agreed to come back to next month's meeting with a motion that CWAB supports Land Banking with the request to share the presentation slides with the advisory board, including those who were unable to attend this month's meeting to provide feedback/review.

S. Adema agrees to sit on the proposition and articulation to wait and see what happens.

M. Shouting is taking the same approach as there is a lot of uncertainty. She added that if we explore options, that there is equal opportunity for resources and review of easily accessible location in the Downtown core of Lethbridge (i.e. Blackfoot Resource Hub is looking into empty units/land currently).

5. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Update

Presenter(s): A. Malcolm

Discussion:

Questions were circulated around the reason why advisory board members did not vote on the motion before the deadline. Indicated reasons for not voting before the deadline were due to being out of office or wanting to discuss at this month's meeting.

M. Shouting inquired that if we go up to 10%, how does this change the total amount for next year? I. Ho responded to this inquiry that up to \$240,000 (10%) would potentially be added to the allocation of previously approved FCSS funded service providers increasing in 2026. He added that we want to take the advisory board's recommendation into account through this process.

S. Yanicki mentioned that we need to include wage levels that meet basic needs in Call for Proposals moving forward.

A. Malcolm proposed that service providers applying for future Call for Proposals would need to include a rationale by email (one page response) for what they would use the additional up to 10% towards their project. He continued his discussion with wanting to see the next evaluation fall under the advisory board's commitment date. He mentioned that administration will bring back a table laying out all information regarding the potential 10% in FCSS funding for the advisory board to review at the June meeting with a resolution to be presented.

6. Engagement Strategy Update

Presenter(s): D. Lenaour

Engagement Strategy draft will be circulated with advisory board members to review and provide their feedback before June 6 through SharePoint when the final version gets posted.

Discussion:

A. Malcolm mentioned that we want to come back as a group to review the engagement strategy at the end of this year and review how we met the goals of this strategy and find areas for improvement moving forward.

M. Shouting mentioned that we are not working with Indigenous communities enough with not enough proposed advancements with conversations solely around homelessness and housing. She added that we need to focus our efforts more on the Indigenous community with this process and noticing not enough spaces/voices at the table.

A. Malcolm proposed that we can create a greater focused scope towards Indigenous funding and incorporate this with the engagement strategy in the remaining months of 2025. He added that the 2026 Call for Proposal presents a great opportunity for this. The engagement strategy is to ensure that we are engaging in the correct conversations and working on avoiding turnover of our advisory board to continue this conversation with greater focus in implementing it effectively instead of solely identifying it.

7. CWAB SharePoint Site

Presenter(s): D. Lenaour

CWAB SharePoint site will be circulated to the advisory board for review and provide their feedback with benefits/barriers with potentially utilizing it moving forward. The site would include posted agenda items and minutes, shared documents for data reporting purposes etc.

Additionally, the advisory board had proposed the option of cancelling our regular CWAB monthly meetings in June, July and August to meet for a full day retreat to focus on a couple bigger discussion items:

- Indigenous/Two-Eyed Seeing Approach
- Utilizing data

This proposition was in favour of all attending advisory board members. A. Malcolm noted that administration will look at dates in the month of June to facilitate this full day meeting and report back to the board once it has been determined.

8. Terms of Reference Update

Presenter(s): A. Malcolm

The following motion was presented:

THAT the CWAB approve that an appointed representative from the Lethbridge Housing Authority is an ex-officio to the Community Wellness Advisory Board because it serves the most at risk population and it has unique housing expertise that is valuable to this committee.

CARRIED

The motion was moved and seconded.

NEXT MEETING

9. Next Meeting

- **Engagement Strategy**

Review any updates/comments and approve final version

- **Data**

Adjournment

Presenter(s): Andrew Malcolm

The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.