



## BOARD REPORT

REPORT No.: 2023-10

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

SUBJECT: ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT ANNUAL UPDATE

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### RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

### REPORT SUMMARY

To provide the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an annual update on advocacy and engagement activities initiated by the Board and/or Administration.

### BACKGROUND

The Board approved an Advocacy & Engagement Policy & Procedure in September 2021, by Resolution 21/58.

The purpose of the Advocacy and Engagement Policy and Procedure is to establish a clear and consistent framework to guide TBDSSAB with the planning, implementation, and tracking of advocacy and engagement activities.

### COMMENTS

The table below summarizes initiatives undertaken in 2022. Highlights from 2022 include:

1. Housing & Homelessness Funding

In early 2022, a position paper on Housing and Homelessness funding was presented in delegation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting the amalgamation of multiple funding programs and the flexibility to allow for increased capital expenses. In April 2022, the province announced the new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) that replaced the former Community Homelessness Prevention Initiatives (CHPI) and combined it with two other funding streams, while allowing for capital expenses.

## 2. Transitional & Supportive Housing

Positive outcomes from delegations with members of government at ROMA and AMO conferences. Funding changes to HPP, along with one-time SSRF funding, made it possible to develop funding partnerships that led to the addition of transitional and supportive housing options into the service system.

## 3. Inclusive Organizational Culture

2022 was a big year for Inclusion, especially through consulting work done as part of the Situation Analysis with Blue Sky, as well as implementation of an internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee comprised of staff from all divisions. This engagement lays the ground work for positive outcomes in years to come.

Advocacy Topics	Activities
<p><b>1) Advocacy related to Board Governance</b></p> <p>DSSAB Legislation</p> <p>Indigenous Board Representation</p>	<p>Policy advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">DSSAB Legislation</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">Indigenous Board Representation</a> (PDF)</li> </ul> <p>Public Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue Sky Situation Analysis information gathering activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>2) Child Care &amp; Early Years Programs:</b></p> <p>Before and After School Program Delivery</p> <p>Child Care Workforce Development</p>	<p>Policy advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">Before and After School Program Delivery</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">Child Care Workforce Development</a> (PDF)</li> </ul> <p>Public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement from the Chair: ECE&amp;CCW Appreciation Day 2022</li> <li>• Participation in 2023 Ontario-wide ECE Campaign Planning</li> </ul> <p>Community Collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCEYP Advisory Table</li> </ul>
<p><b>3) Social Assistance Programs:</b></p> <p>Increases to Social Assistance rates</p>	<p>Internal Change</p> <p>Going to Work program developed and position added</p> <p>Public Engagement</p> <p>Posters &amp; Outreach to Muni Partners</p>

<p>Employment Opportunities</p>	<p>Policy Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">Social Assistance Rates</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• AMO 2022: <a href="#">Increases to SA Rates</a> (PDF)</li> </ul>
<p><b>4) Housing Supports</b></p> <p>Supports for Tenants: MH&amp;A Support &amp;/or Supportive Housing</p>	<p>Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement re: National Housing Day</li> </ul> <p>Local Service System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announced funding for 63 Transitional/Supportive housing beds</li> </ul> <p>Formal Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter of Support: Giwaa on Court (Funded in 2022)</li> <li>• Letter of Support: Faye Peterson Second Stage Housing</li> </ul> <p>Community Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPP Advisory Table</li> </ul> <p>Policy Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">MH&amp;A Support for Tenants</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• AMO 2022: <a href="#">Supportive Housing Strategy</a> (PDF)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5) Homelessness Outreach / Supports</b></p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Funding &amp; Allocation</p>	<p>Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement re: National Housing Day</li> </ul> <p>Community Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Forum, October 4/5, 2022</li> </ul> <p>Local Service System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Outreach Funding Partnerships</li> </ul> <p>Policy Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROMA 2022: <a href="#">Homelessness Prevention Funding</a> (PDF)</li> <li>• AMO 2022: <a href="#">HPP Funding &amp; Allocation</a> (PDF)</li> </ul>
<p><b>6) Inclusive Organizational Culture</b></p> <p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion &amp; Reconciliation</p>	<p>Internal Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEI Table created</li> <li>• Gender neutral rest rooms in intake area</li> </ul> <p>Reflective Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconciliation education offered to all staff and added to new staff orientation</li> <li>• Recognition of awareness days/months internally with learning opportunities, including: Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, Indigenous History</li> </ul>

	<p>Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Pride Month, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>Public Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client-facing interactive display for NDTR</li> <li>• Traditional ceremony incorporated as standard practice for events</li> </ul> <p>Formal Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters of Support for TBIFC in support of funding for friendship centres</li> </ul>
<p><b>7) Mental Health Awareness</b></p>	<p>Internal Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented 'Not Myself Today' workplace mental health campaign</li> </ul> <p>Reflective Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health First Aid training for All Staff</li> </ul> <p>Public Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal &amp; External statements with information about mental health supports related to triggering events</li> </ul> <p>Community Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in Rockin' Recovery community event</li> </ul>

### STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Related to: Strategic Direction – Advocacy: Advocate for our local, flexible solutions.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no financial implications related to this report.

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that the annual Advocacy and Engagement update be received as presented.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS**

None

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