



**HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**  
Strong Core Healthier Lives

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**Neighbourhood Liaison Table (NLT)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2026**

Attendees: Joel MacLeod (Chair), Simone Atungo (HUCCHC), Tiffany Toplin (HUCCHC), Monika Abdelmaseh (De dwa da dehs nye>s), Kim Ritchie (Lived Experience), Mathieu Payette (Resident), Jonathan Garyfalakis (Resident), Joda Eisenberg (Resident)  
Regrets: Norm Buckley (Resident), Susan Boyd (Hamilton Public Health)

Meeting Notes: J. MacLeod

Location: 276 Aberdeen Ave, Coach House

1. Welcome

- i. J. MacLeod, the Chair, called the meeting to order and began by reading the land acknowledgement.
- ii. The Chair further advised the table that Sonia Taylor, a resident representative on the NLT, has resigned her position and will no longer be participating in the NLT.
- iii. It was agreed that HUCCHC will revert to the previous NLT selection process or put out a new call for applications to fill the gap at the table.

2. Co-Chair Selection

- i. The Chair reintroduced the point from the previous meeting, that a resident Co-Chair still needed to be selected.
- ii. The residents declined to do so. M. Payette reiterated that due to time constraints, he is unable to serve as chair. J. Eisenberg and J. Garyfalakis declined as well.
- iii. The election of the resident Co-Chair will be deferred to the next meeting.



## HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

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### 3. Terms of Reference

- i. The Chair moved on to discuss the revised Terms of Reference. In addition, all NLT participants are required to sign the Participant Agreement and a new Conflict of Interest Declaration that had been previously distributed.
- ii. It was suggested that the approval of the Terms of Reference be deferred to the next meeting.

### 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- i. J. Eisenberg and J. Garyfalakis both stated they would not be signing the Participation Agreement or the Declaration of Conflict of Interest documents. They mentioned that this was due to the content in the documents which they classified as “legalese” and not written in clear, plain language.
- ii. S. Atungo advised that both documents were vetted to ensure the use of clear and simple language. She noted that the documents are standard requirements for participation at the advisory tables and are aligned with parameters outlined in similar materials provided by the funder. In light of the legal proceedings currently underway between Concerned Kirkendall Ltd. and the City of Hamilton regarding the zoning related to the Residential Treatment Site location, the use of a Declaration of Conflict of Interest was identified as a prudent measure. This is intended to support transparency and clarity in participation and to help ensure the integrity of the Neighbourhood Liaison Table process.
- iii. J. Eisenberg and J. Garyfalakis, reiterated that they do not intend to sign the documents and mentioned that they were disappointed with the conduct of HUCCHC regarding engaging the residents in the HART Hub Treatment and Recovery Services and program implementation process to date.
- iv. S. Atungo re-emphasized HUCCHC’s commitment to openness and transparency, and that the documents were needed to ensure that the table could function openly and effectively considering the legal



## HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

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challenge that now had to be considered. It was noted that participation at the table is contingent upon the signing of the required documents.

- v. J. Garyfalakis reiterated that, from the outset of his engagement with HUCCHC leadership, he has maintained a strong position, along with the residents he represents, that the Residential Treatment and Recovery Services should be located elsewhere and not established in his community. He also noted that he previously mentioned that a legal challenge will commence to ensure the facilities are not established at the Aberdeen Avenue location.
- vi. S. Atungo noted that she did not recall a reference to a potential legal challenge during the initial meeting with J. Garyfalakis and HUCCHC's Executive Director. She also shared that she appreciated learning more about the community's concerns and expressed the view that, if all parties remained committed to working through the initial challenges using a collaborative approach, it would support more constructive dialogue and help build mutual understanding moving forward.
- vii. K. Ritchie stated that she was dismayed and concerned about the strong biases towards the people with mental health and addiction challenges who need the Treatment and Recovery services being expressed by J. Eisenberg and J. Garyfalakis . She mentioned similar facilities located closely to the Aberdeen site, such as Womankind and Wayside have operated for years without any negative impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood. She stated that she believed that J. Eisenberg and J. Garyfalakis were simply ignoring the facts and evidence to support the need for the facilities and was disappointed by the sentiments they were expressing towards people who are some of the most vulnerable residents in the Hamilton area.

### 5. Community Engagement Session

- i. S. Atungo mentioned that the next Community Engagement Session will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be a virtual meeting in



## HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

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consideration of the weather during the winter months. She asked the group for ideas of any specific topics that should be covered. No ideas were put forward at this time.

### 6. Overview of the Residential Treatment Site Model

- i. T. Toplin led an educational session and provided an overview of the Residential Treatment and Recovery Model, as promised from the previous meeting. She emphasized the proven evidence behind the model and highlighted how it was utilized to design the Treatment and Recovery program.
- ii. It was mentioned that the Ministry of Health's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the success of the HART Hub Treatment and Recovery program will be shared with NLT members. Additional performance indicators related to program impact on the community/neighbourhood will be developed in collaboration with the NLT, as input from this table is essential.
- iii. M. Payette emphasized the importance of conducting a longitudinal evaluation study (e.g., at 3, 6, 9, 12, and 18 months) to measure program outcomes and effectiveness.
- iv. A robust discussion was had by all who participated.
- v. T. Toplin was unable to complete the presentation during the allotted time. It was agreed that the presentation will be added to the agenda for the next NLT meeting.

### 7. Conclusion

- i. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.