



City Council Committee Report

Date: 17 May 2011

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager, City of Kenora
Fire and Emergency Services**

Re: Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora supports the Kenora Drug Strategy, Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force in its entirety.

Background: The Kenora Drug Strategy is a comprehensive action plan describing how the community will work together to prevent and reduce the incidence of substance abuse and its impact on the total community, as well as preserve the community's quality of life and future. The Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force envision a community free of problems associated with the harmful effects of substance use. To reduce the harm caused by substance use the Task Force will work collaboratively with our community to improve overall health and to protect those from harm related to substance use and abuse. The Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force have established the following eight goals to facilitate this process: 1. Implement a comprehensive strategy 2. Identify substance abuse prevention as key to a sustainable community. 3. Obtain sustainable resources. 4. Advocate for coordinated services, increased communication and harmonized action. 5. Address service gaps and maximize services. 6. Provide information and support. 7. Build awareness. 8. Provide a continuum of enforcement options.

The Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force have a Four Pillar Approach to dealing with the issues of drug abuse/addiction. The Four Pillar Approach is a best practice model for ensuring a Drug Strategy is comprehensive and coordinated. Integration and coordination are key elements within and across the pillars. The Four Pillars are Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Enforcement.

Prevention refers to interventions that seek to prevent or delay the onset of substance use as well as to avoid problems before they occur. Prevention is more than education. Harm Reduction refers to interventions that seek to reduce the harms associated with substance use for individuals, families and communities. It may include, but does not require abstinence. Treatment refers to interventions that seek to improve the physical, emotional and psychological health and well-being of people who use or have used substances (and sometimes their families) through various psychosocial and psychopharmacological therapeutic methods. Enforcement refers to interventions that seek to strengthen community safety by responding to the crimes and community disorder issues associated with the importation, manufacturing, cultivation, distribution, possession and use of legal and illegal substances.

Budget: N/A.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Municipal Memo, Portal, and Media.