



CITY OF
Lethbridge

COMMUNITY SAFETY STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date of Meeting May 12, 2022

Subject Palix Foundation - Memorandum of Understanding

Submitted By Councillor Campbell, Vice Chair – Community Safety Standing Policy Committee

Recommendation from Community Safety Standing Policy Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Palix Foundation, University of Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to promote the implementation of the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative.

Vote:

In Favour: 3-0 (Unanimous)

Public Speakers at the Meeting: None

Public Submissions: None

Referred back to the Community Safety Standing Policy Committee of June 9, 2022.

Councillor Parker:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Palix Foundation, University of Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to promote the implementation of the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative.

Prior to a vote on the Main Motion, the following motion was presented:

Councillor Paladino:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council allow the member of the public to address Council on this matter.

In Favour: Mayor Hyggen, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Paladino, Councillor Parker

Opposed: Councillor Carlson, Councillor Middleton-Hope

..... **CARRIED**

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Prior to a vote on the Main Motion, the following Referral Motion was introduced:

Councillor Parker:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this item be referred back to the Community Safety Standing Policy Committee of June 9, 2022.

In Favour: Mayor Hyggen, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Carlson, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Middleton-Hope, Councillor Paladino, Councillor Parker

..... **CARRIED**

Submitted By Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, Chair – Community Safety Standing Policy Committee

Recommendation from Community Safety Standing Policy Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Palix Foundation, University of Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to promote the implementation of the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative.

Vote:

Absent: Councillor Parker

In Favour: 3-0

Public Speakers at the Meeting: None

Public Submissions: None

Submitted By Michael Boh, CWSS Manager

Purpose

To submit the proposed Memorandum of Understanding to the Community Safety SPC for City Council approval.

Recommendation(s)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Safety SPC recommend that City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Palix Foundation, University of

Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to promote the implementation of the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative.

Summary

- A foundational principle of the [Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy](#) (CWSS) is achieving individual and family wellbeing. This same principle is shared by the Palix Foundation who created and delivers the [Alberta Family Wellness Initiative \(AFWI\)](#). The primary goal of the AFWI is to improve outcomes in health and wellbeing for children and families. To accomplish this goal, the foundation recognized the critical gap that exists between current scientific knowledge about brain development, mental health, and addiction and what is actually done in policy and practice.
- This memorandum of understanding is to formalize a collaboration between the Palix Foundation, University of Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to promote the implementation of the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative.

Strategic Alignment

- [City Council 2022 Action Plan – Healthy and Diverse](#): Prioritize health-supporting developments and the wellbeing of all residents.
- [Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy](#): The work of the CWSS focuses on holistic wellbeing and community-derived solutions tailored to Lethbridge's social landscape.
- [Corporate Strategic Plan – Partnership Excellence](#): We will enhance existing partnerships and establish new ones with key partners both out in the community and within the City of Lethbridge as an organization.

Background and Prior Decisions

- [February 10, 2022: Community Safety SPC](#) received a presentation facilitated by the Palix Foundation regarding the Brain Story & resiliency scale. The presentation was received for information.
- The Alberta Family Wellness Initiative (AFWI) was launched in 2007, but its roots go deeper. In 2004, the [Palix Foundation](#) (then the Norlien Foundation) set out to improve child and family health and wellbeing across Alberta. As the initiative progressed, it expanded its mandate and agenda.
- The University of Lethbridge has been a leader in completing scientific research for the AFWI, and the City of Lethbridge has facilitated what is actually done in policy and practice by funding practical application-based programs in Lethbridge. Lethbridge's community has also been a leader in promoting the AFWI.
- Lethbridge has the highest per capita number of individuals that have completed the Brain Certification Story course. Lethbridge Police Service has recently implemented a policy that staff must complete this course.
- To achieve individual and family wellbeing, preventative methods are required and the AFWI is key to achieving this goal.

Analysis and Options

- Approval of this collaboration will accelerate our goal of achieving individual and family wellbeing in our community.
- Embedding the AFWI's Attributes within the City of Lethbridge will foster greater understanding of brain development, mental health and addictions. Integrating this foundational understanding will facilitate effective service delivery and response to Lethbridge's diverse community.
- Should the MOU not be approved, the City continues as is.

Implications

Community/Citizen

- Leveraging the AFWI's Attributes is another mechanism to enhance community wellbeing through education while strengthening partnerships with key organizations;
- Greater public understanding through capitalizing upon public engagement and communications to disseminate the AFWI Attributes through City means.

Financial

- No anticipated cost associated with leveraging the AFWI Attributes, as the City will look to embedding the Attributes in existing processes, projects and initiatives.
- Further, the Brain Story certification is a course offered at no cost.

Risk

An MOU ensures this work continues and provides the parameters to do so; without an MOU, this work could lose focus or be stalled.

Corporate

- Impact to the corporation is not anticipated; however, efforts to center the AFWI Attributes may occur internally (e.g. assessing how a business unit might begin to embed the Attributes to their practices).
- Our Corporate Strategic Plan will be supported by way of greater corporate understanding and knowledge about the intersection of social determinants of wellbeing and healthy brain development.

Engagement

- On February 10, 2022, a condensed Brain Story community session was held. With 350 registrants and 221 attendees, the event highlights interest in learning more about the intersection of social determinants of wellbeing and healthy brain development.

Implementation and Communication Plan

- Once the MOU is approved, the City of Lethbridge will begin to execute disseminating and leveraging the AFWI Attributes within existing programs and processes, while identifying other opportunities where the AFWI may be beneficial.

Attachment(s)

- Attachment 1: Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Approvals

City Treasurer: Darrell Mathews

A/City Solicitor: Adam Faust

Department Director: Michael Fox

City Manager: Lloyd Brierley