

Rutland Residents Association meeting with Canadian Mental Health Assoc. Team who will be managing McCurdy Place.

Lynn and Sharlene met with the Canadian Mental Health Team to talk about McCurdy Place before it's public opening. Here are some facts:

- * The residents will be a mix of people of different ages, over 17, who do not have substance use problems, and people who are already working on recovery. Those who do not have substance use problems may for instance have a glass of wine with their meal. For this reason it is not strictly "dry" housing.
- * Each resident who needs it will have a wellness plan in place and available services will be geared toward individuals on a case by case basis with options to adjust as needed.
- * If someone lapses in their recovery there will be discussion and counseling, they will not just be shown the door. If they no longer wish to work on recovery different housing will be found for them.
- * One floor (17 units) is dedicated to youth 17 -24. Several of the youth will be transitioning out of provincial care. McCurdy Place is offering the much needed support of transitional housing for this age group so they don't end up homeless.
- * There will be a minimum of two staff on at all times. In addition there will be daytime in house supports and counseling for mental health, recovery from substance use problems, and life skills. The additional supports at McCurdy Place are more than other supportive housing in the community.
- * There is a dining area on the main floor that can double as a lounge/recreation area for everyone. A recreation/occupational therapist will be offering in house programs.
- * The main floor has a beautiful kitchen with commercial size freezers providing breakfast and dinner. The CMHA will also be able to create meals here to provide to other CMHA clients in the community.
- * The residences are bachelor suites with a kitchenette and cupboards, a two-burner stove top, sink, refrigerator, and a full bathroom. There is a small room for storage possibly for a bike and other belongings, as well there is a separate small clothes closet.
- * Each floor has a laundry and there is a laundry room on the main floor.
- * There is a lounge/meeting room on each floor.
- * There is a bike area that is locked and has cameras on it 24/7.
- * No weapons on the premises.
- * Pets within reason are permitted. Residents must sign a "pet agreement" with CMHA in advance regarding pet care. There is also a fenced dog run/kennel.
- * Visitors: The supportive housing policy is that CMHA manage the number and times guests are welcome in the building. McCurdy Place is meant to be a safe haven for the residents so guests are controlled by the staff at the front door. Right now, all our buildings are pretty much closed to non essential visitors under the provincial health orders.
- * The building is secure and each person will be buzzed in from the office after visually verifying who they are.
- * There will be additional security for the building and premises 24/7 for (at least) 6 months after which the need to maintain this level of security will be assessed.

* If there are problems in the greater neighbourhood related to a resident of McCurdy Place the managers will work with the police or bylaws or other agencies to address the problem dependent on the situation.

* The first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting will happen in early to mid-March. Neighbourhood letters that will include information about McCurdy Place and CAC applications will be mailed out mid to late next week (mid-February) to addresses in the area surrounding McCurdy Place. BC Housing and CMHA Kelowna will select 5 community members for the CAC.

Our Impressions:

Both Sharlene and I realize that McCurdy Place is a reality and that CMHA have worked creatively with other stakeholders to make it acceptable for the neighbourhood. It is a place to live with an aim to provide support and services for people in their journey of recovery as well as helping people without substance problems have a safe place to live. This is a new model and hopefully one that works for both the neighbourhood and the residents of McCurdy Place.

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