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City Council Meeting Hamilton Ontario Politics

City Council votes to amend the Opioid Action Plan

By **Stephanie Ribson** April 17, 2024

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Hamilton City Council amended the June 2023 Opioid Action Plan on Wednesday (April 10) after failing to receive any applications for funds from men's shelters in the city. The council initially assigned \$300,00 to pilot a safe consumption site within a shelter but reallocated the funds to Mission Services, the Salvation Army, and the Good Shepherd for harm reduction.

According to Mayor Andrea Horwath, the first step to tackling the opioid crisis in the city is to acknowledge that people's lives take many different paths.

"The addiction crisis impacts folks from all kinds of different circumstances," Horwath said. "We've got reports that show a number of drug overdoses are happening in homes. That indicates that we shouldn't rush judgment and that the crisis impacts many people."

The plan outlines three goals: lower the number of deaths associated with opioid use, reduce the harm associated with its use, and increase access to treatment options. The YWCA opened the first Safer Use Drug Space in Hamilton at Carole Anne's Place (CAP), a low-barrier, overnight drop-in centre for people who identify as women.

According to information on the YWCA website, the Safer Use Drug Space provides a secure and supervised environment within the building for women accessing CAP or the Transitional Living Program to use substances safely. The space operates in collaboration with Keeping Six, a community organization supporting people who use drugs, and HAMSMaRT, the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team.

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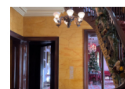
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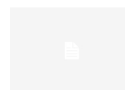
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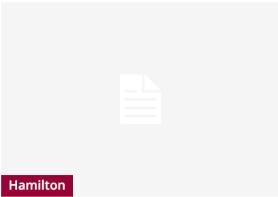
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