

310 Division Street Community Liaison Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 8, 2026

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Location: 600 William Street, Cobourg, Boardroom

Attendees

Facilitators:

- Beth Bellaire, CLC Chair

Community Members:

- Daniel Gaito
- Erisa Katono
- Liz Greaves
- Raeanne Deschamps
- Rob James
- Sheri Syer
- Donna Pogue
- Rev. Ruth Wilkinson
- Janice Byer, Cobourg Police Services
- Theresa Rickerby

County Representatives:

- Bill Smith

Delegates:

- Christian Harvey, Executive Director, 310 Division Street

Regrets:

- Catherine White
- Chloe Craig
- Emma Taylor, Northumberland Hills Hospital Community Mental Health (maternity leave)
- Meaghan Macdonald, Board Chair, 310 Division Street
- Shawn Senecal, NHH Community Mental Health
- Tracey Tink, DBIA
- Carolyn Rutherford, Community Health Centres of Northumberland CLC, Vice-Chair

Meeting called to Order

- Meeting called to order by CLC Chair

Acknowledgement

- Selected CLC member provided the land acknowledgment

Meeting Objectives & Agenda Overview

- Updates from 310 Division and the County – Christian Harvey, Bill Smith
- Subcommittee updates
 - Education & Awareness – Beth on behalf of Carolyn Rutherford
 - Communications – Erisa Katono, Raeanne Deschamps
- Minutes from August 2026 CLC meeting approval

Shelter Updates

- Community 101 meeting (referenced in shelter's July 2026 Progress Report) - meeting took place in July; report on outcomes will be distributed to CLC members for their information
- Homelessness Leadership Team will submit questions to mayoral and council candidates rather than arranging a mayoral debate on housing and homelessness
- Clarification was made that people are not permitted access to the shelter unless they are from Northumberland County
- See attached 310 Division Progress Report for January – September 2026 for additional updates/information

County Updates

- Project with Trent University Community Research Department has been approved; a student researcher will be selected to work with the CLC educational and outreach efforts re the shelter, the warming room and homelessness on best practices.
- A request for proposal to OrgCode Consulting for a homelessness master plan has proceeded; expected 6-month project timeline that will include distribution of survey to the community and presentation with recommendations to County Counsel
- Cobourg By-law fined a community member for distributing sandwiches to homeless individuals downtown
- Announcement regarding future warming room plans to be released by end of this week

Community Feedback & Group Education

- Email communication received from Cobourg resident on Sept 8, 2026, in which feedback/concerns are expressed and questions raised regarding CLC and shelter operations; CLC members reviewed this content in tonight's meeting; Beth and Christian will respond to the resident (with whom they've had prior contact in response to earlier communications)

Subcommittee Updates

- **Subcommittee – Communications**
 - September CLC newsletter draft shared with members for review/feedback; to be distributed/posted this month
- **Subcommittee – Education and Awareness**
 - Liz Greaves represented the CLC at the Splash of Hope event held in Victoria park in August

Unfinished Business

- Not applicable

Final Discussion & Next Steps

- Krystyne Gillispie has resigned from her CLC membership
- Next CLC meeting, scheduled for October 6, 2026, will include a review of the committee's mandate, original and moving forward

Closing Remarks & Adjournment

- Acknowledgement and thanks to all in attendance

Who We Serve

A Look at Shelter Stays, January – September 2026

46

beds, running at capacity

178

shelter stays since Jan 2026

126

individual people served

23 days

median length of stay

49%

came directly from being unsheltered

27%

of clients returned for a later stay

How Long Do People Stay?

Across 131 completed stays this year, **the median length of stay is 23 days** — most people move through in under a month. The average (53 days) is higher because a smaller group of long-term stayers pull it up; one stay lasted 433 days. This gap is normal for shelters and reflects two different populations being served: short-term crisis stays and longer-term stays for people who have nowhere else to go while they wait on housing. **The 46 people currently in the shelter have been there an average of 144 days (median 114) so far** — a reminder that point-in-time counts understate how long stays really run, since long stays are still in progress.

Length of stay	Share
0 – 7 days	24%
8 – 30 days	38%
31 – 90 days	16%
91 – 180 days	14%
180+ days	8%

Who Is Staying With Us?

Average age at intake is 44–45, with the largest groups in their late 30s through mid-50s. Indigenous clients make up about 17% of stays (compared with roughly 3.1% of Northumberland County's overall population), and about 19% of clients identified as living with a disability.

Age at intake	Share
18 – 24	6%
25 – 34	12%
35 – 44	31%
45 – 54	33%
55 – 64	15%
65+	4%

Where People Come From

Almost half of everyone who came to the shelter this year (49%) arrived directly from being unsheltered — sleeping outside, in a tent, in a vehicle, or on the street. The large majority (81%) found their own way to the shelter rather than being referred by another agency, and most (68%) rely on social assistance (Ontario Works or ODSP) as their income source.

Turned Away: The Other Side of Full Capacity

Running at capacity means people get turned away. Between January and August 2026, we recorded 524 turn-aways when no bed was available — that is, 524 instances of someone being turned away, not 524 different people. Because the same person can be turned away more than once, this number reflects repeated need, not a unique headcount. It averages to about 66 turn-away instances per month, ranging from roughly 32 (June) to over 100 (April). This is the direct, visible cost of operating a 46-bed shelter for a community that needs more.

Month (2026)	Turn-aways
January	85
February	93
March	45
April	106
May	55
June	31
July	36
August	68

Each count is the number of turn-away instances that month, not the number of unique people.

August 2026 Snapshot

A closer look at a single month shows what "running at capacity" looks like day to day.

53	45.7	68
total clients served in August	average nightly occupancy	turn-aways (times someone was turned away)

6	24
service restrictions issued	residents over 50 years old

Beyond a bed, August also included:

- 14 applications submitted to 4th Floor Transitional Housing
- 2 residents supported through completing their taxes
- 8 referrals made to mental health and/or addiction services
- Weekly trips to the food bank for residents