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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the St. Catharines Child Care Centre, 179 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, on Monday, February 9, 2004 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Gabriel; Katzman; Marshall; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services: Mr. Bakewell, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Child, Cost Analyst; Ms. Horner, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Martin, Supervisor, St. Catharines Child Care Centre; Mr. Tarajos, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

14. Children's Services

Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Community Services, commented that this meeting was the first of the "theme" meetings which is intended to provide Committee with a better understanding of the Children's Services Division and the services provided.

Ms. Reid introduced Ms. Rosemary Martin, Supervisor of the St. Catharines Child Care Centre, who welcomed Councillors to the centre and offered to provide a tour of the centre following the meeting.

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, provided an overview of the Division, highlighting its Mission "*Support and advance the well-being of individuals, families and communities of Niagara*" and its Vision "*Ensure*

access to a coordinated, diverse range of affordable quality services and supports for young children and families". The Director also outlined the Division's Objectives which are linked to Council's Business Plan.

Ms. Heidebrecht presented a Historical Perspective pre Local Service Realignment and post Local Service Realignment and its impact on Directly Operated Services and Administration. Committee was also apprised of the Division's Challenges and Priorities and Business Process Changes. Ms. Horner, Manager, Children's Services highlighted two initiatives the "Pro-Kids Initiative" which provides recreation/cultural opportunities for children and youth, birth to 18 years for eligible families and the 'Early Literacy Initiative' for children birth to six years of age. (A "Let's Talk! Let's Read! Pamphlet was circulated.) Mr. Tarajos, Manager, Children's Services, highlighted the Children's Services Direct Operations that include: 5 Regional Child Care Centres and 1 Home Child Care Program. The client groups served are low income working poor, social assistance and those with special needs. The operations promote strong Community Partnerships and supports Regional Priorities.

15. Children's Services: Overview of Services,
Priorities, and Challenges

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 06-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Children's Services: Overview of Services, Priorities, and Challenges, be received for information.

Carried.

16. Business Process Changes – Children's Services

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 07-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Business Process Changes – Children's Services, be received for information.

Carried.

17. Pro-Kids Initiative – Providing Recreation/Cultural Opportunities
For Children/Youth 2003 Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 08-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Pro-Kids Initiative – Providing Recreation/Cultural Opportunities for Children/Youth 2003 Annual Report, be received for information.

Carried.

18. Early Literacy Initiative 2003 Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 09-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Early Literacy Initiative 2003 Annual Report, be received for information.

Carried.

19. Directly Operated Child Care Centres and
Home Child Care Program 2003 Year End Report

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 10-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Directly Operated Child Care Centres and Home Child Care Program 2003 Year End Report, be received for information.

Carried.

20. Renewal of Contracts with Medical Directors,
Long-Term Care Facilities

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 11-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Renewal of Contracts with Medical Directors, Long-Term Care Facilities, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into agreements with the following Medical Directors

for a further three-year term for the period November 1, 2003 to October 31, 2006.

Dr. J. Adams	Upper Canada Lodge
Dr. M. Ali	Sunset Haven/Rapelje Lodge
Dr. J. P. Davidson	The Meadows of Dorchester
Dr. D. Henry	Gilmore Lodge
Mr. E. Gomez	Northland Pointe
Dr. T. Wong	Linhaven

Carried.

21. Amended 2003 Ontario Works Service Contract
Ministry of Community and Social Services

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 12-2004, February 9, 2004, respecting Amended 2003 Ontario Works Service Contract Ministry of Community and Social Services, be received.

That the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the Amended 2003 Ontario Works Service Contract (Amendment 11) with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Provincial Subsidy = \$349,257/Net Expenditure = (\$92,785).

Carried.

MINUTES

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Budget matters relating to the Public Health Department, as his spouse is employed by the Department, and he therefore took no part in the discussion or voting on those matters.

22. Report 3-2004

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report 3-2004, minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting of February 5, 2004, be received.

Carried.

(Report 3-2004 is behind BRC tab in Blue Book.)

OTHER BUSINESS

23. Stemming the Tide - Conference

Conference information was distributed respecting "Stemming the Tide" – How public opinion, public policy and business leadership contribute to a Nation fit for children. The conference is to be held March 10th and 11th, 2004 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Those wishing to attend should contact Gail Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

24. **EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION**

Councillor Hildreth, Chair, and Members of Committee, thanked Rosemary Martin and staff of the St. Catharines Child Care Centre for hosting the meeting and providing an opportunity for members to view their excellent facilities.

Ms. Reid expressed her appreciation to the Children's Services team on their focus on excellence and the outstanding portfolio they presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, February 23, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Niagara Regional Housing Boardroom, 3350 Schmon Pkwy., St. Catharines.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Acting Regional Clerk