

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 6-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on April 4, 2005, commencing at 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Almas; Angelone; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Harry; Redekop.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Biscaro, Acting Director, Population Health; Ms. Coppola, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Miron, Corporate Health Services Manager; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Noel, Data Analysis Coordinator; Ms. Ott, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Seguin, Health Promoter; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

43. Effects of Snowstorm

Councillor Timms, Committee Chair, inquired as to whether there was any health impacts related to the unexpected snowstorm this past weekend. Dr. Williams advised that she has not received any statistics to that effect.

JOINT REPORTS
**(Joint Reports can be located behind
the Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book.)**

44. Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)
At Regional Headquarters

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 16-2005, April 4, 2005 (HR 10-2005, March 29, 2005) respecting Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) at Regional Headquarters, be received.

That a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) be installed at Regional Headquarters, representing a cost of approximately \$5,000.00.

Carried.

45. Overview –“Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara’s Children”

Ms. Biscaro, Director, Population Health, advised that Early Years Niagara (EYN) will be launching its “Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara’s Children” on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 8:45 a.m. at the Community Services Building at 3340 Schmon Parkway. The media have been invited to attend and the Regional Chair will be presented with the document at that time. Members of Committee are invited to attend and the document will also be made available to them.

Ms. Noel, Health Promoter, advised that the “Snapshot” document highlights how well Niagara’s youngest citizens are faring, and identifies areas where Niagara is well serviced. Also identified are the gaps that need to be addressed in order to meet the goal of providing optimal conditions for early childhood development. The Snapshot consists of three sections: Early Learning and Care, Safety and Security and Health and Wellness.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 20, 2005, April 4, 2005 (COM 37-2005) respecting Overview – “Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara’s Children” be received for information.

Carried.

46. Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval
For Public Health Capital Project ZGR0502
- Ambulance & Related Equipment and Public Health Capital Project
GR0303 – Ridgeway Area Land Ambulance Building

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report PHD 21-2005, April 4, 2005 (CSD 50-2005, March 30, 2005) regarding Request for Capital Budget and Financing Approval For Public Health Capital Project ZGR0502- Ambulance & Related Equipment and Public Health Capital Project GR0303 – Ridgeway Area Land Ambulance Building, be received.

That the budget allocation from the approved 2005 Public Health Capital Budget in the gross amount of \$850,000 and net amount of \$425,000 be approved for Capital Project ZGR0502 – Ambulance & Related Equipment;

That the budget allocation from the 2005 Public Health Capital Budget in the amount of \$430,000 be approved for capital Project ZGR0101/GR0303 – Land Ambulance Building – Ridgeway;

That the long-term financing (1-5 years) of \$425,000 for Capital Project SGR0502 – Ambulance & Related Equipment be approved;

That the long-term financing (1-10 years) of \$430,000 for Capital Project ZGR0101/GR0303 – Land Ambulance Building – Ridgeway be approved; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (continued)

47. Dental Health Month – April 2005

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 17-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Dental Health Month – April 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

48. Bill C-206: An Act to Amend the Federal Food and Drugs Act To Provide Warning Labels Regarding the Consumption of Alcohol

Committee discussed the issues related to warning labels on alcoholic beverages and the possible impacts on Niagara's VQA wine industry. Also discussed, was the issue related to strengthening provincial alcohol monopolies and the means for discouraging the expansion of alcohol distribution. Committee requested the exact wording of the Bill that is relevant to this report. The question was also asked that "if the alcohol product is manufactured in Canada with warning labels attached, does the product still require a label once exported outside of Canada". Information on the position of the wine and alcohol industry with respect to Bill C-206 was also requested. Committee members commented that a broad educational strategy is the most effective approach to the prevention of alcohol-related harm to consumers and asked that this message be emphasized in the letter to the Federal Government. Dr. Williams advised that a further report will be available in May.

(Please refer to attachments to the Public Health Services Committee minutes for response to some of the requests noted above.)

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 18-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Bill C-206: An Act to Amend the Federal Food and Drugs Act to Provide Warning Labels Regarding the Consumption of Alcohol, be received; and

That Regional Council send a letter to the Standing Committee on Health in support of Bill C-206, the proposed amendment to the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

Carried.

49. Update Regarding Niagara's Strategy for Tackling Obesity

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 19-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Update Regarding Niagara's Strategy for Tackling Obesity, be received for information; and

That a resolution supporting the report Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives, be prepared and forwarded to the Leadership Roundtable and Regional Council, as the Board of Health, for consideration.

Carried.

Dr. Williams apprised Committee of the agenda related to the Leadership Roundtable and Community Luncheon to be held on Monday, April 18, 2005. The Roundtable is to begin at approximately 7:30 a.m. with a media event followed by the Community Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario Street. The PHSC meeting on April 18th will be held in the Montebello Room of the hotel at 1:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

50. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the following communications be received and dealt with as noted in these minutes:

- PHSC 23-2005 Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister (February 15, 2005) advising that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide the Regional Niagara Public Health Department with one-time funding in the amount of \$29,441.00 in 2005 to assist Niagara's local integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) implementation activities.
- Received.
- PHSC 24-2005 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Meeting Notes, March 8, 2005
- Received.
- PHSC 25-2005 P. Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer (March 4, 2005) regarding Safeguarding Socially Responsible Consumption of Beverage Alcohol.
- Received and referred to staff for consideration with the follow-up report on Consumption of Alcohol.

PHSC 26-2005 Resolution from the Sudbury & District Board of Health (February 17, 2005) regarding Advocacy for Provincial Health Care Worker Influenza Immunization Legislation.

--Received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

51. Avian Flu

Dr. Sider apprised Committee of the Avian Flu, noting there are many species affected throughout China and the flu now appears to be transferring to animals. In Viet Nam and Cambodia there have been confirmed cases in humans. There is increased concern by all Health Associations (Internationally, as well) and the situation is being closely monitored. Due to the seriousness of the situation, Pandemic Planning has been undertaken.

52. alPHa Conference

Councillor Timms reminded members of Committee of the alPHa Conference to be held on April 21st and 22nd at the Holiday Inn Toronto Yorkdale.

53. LHIN Bulletins

Committee was advised that a contract position has been arranged with the Niagara Health System, Community Care Access Centre and the Public Health Department to ensure the continued distribution of LHIN Bulletins and other information related to the LHINs. This person will be located in the Public Health Department.

CLOSED SESSION

54. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to property matters.

Carried.

55. Interim Accommodation
Public Health Department
Accreditation Process

An update was received on the Interim Accommodation for the Public Health Department and its impact on the Accreditation Process.

56. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:10 p.m. to meet again on Monday, April 18, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. at the Quality Hotel Parkway, Convention Centre, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines in the Montebello Room.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy