

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 7-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in the Cabernet Room, Quality Hotel Parkway Conference Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario, on April 18, 2005, commencing at 1:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Angelone; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Goulbourne; Harry; Trombetta.

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health Program; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Laflamme, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

57. Niagara's Strategy for Tackling Obesity

Councillor Timms, Committee Chair, thanked Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Ellen Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention for the excellent program presented regarding Niagara's strategy for tackling obesity. Councillor Timms thanked Regional Chair Partington for seizing the issue and moving forward with it. Appreciation was also expressed to Dr. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health for speaking on her "Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives" report.

The agenda and contact information on the Leadership Roundtable Members was distributed to Committee and a copy of the resolution on "obesity" developed at the Roundtable.

Following discussion of the resolution, it was:

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

WHEREAS, an epidemic of overweight and obesity is threatening Niagara's health; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, almost one out of every two adults in Niagara was overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, between 1981 and 1996, the number of obese children in Canada between the ages of seven and 13 tripled; and

WHEREAS, this is contributing to a dramatic rise in illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension and some cancers ; and

WHEREAS, we are now living in 'obesogenic' environments: communities, workplaces, schools and homes that actually promote or encourage obesity; and

WHEREAS, as a society we have lost the balance between the energy we take in and the energy we expend, which is key to a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, Ontarians are faced with more food choices, more processed foods, and larger food portions, we have engineered physical activity out of our lives, replacing it with remote controls, computers and video games; and

WHEREAS, our generation is the most sedentary in history; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Municipality of Niagara has just established the Regional Chairman's Leadership Round Table on Obesity Prevention; and

WHEREAS, in Niagara, only 38% of adults aged 20-24 and 34% of adults aged 45-64 are active or moderately active; and

WHEREAS, in Niagara, 51% of adults aged 18-64 are either overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Municipality of Niagara has dedicated \$2.6 million to date toward the creation of recreational trails to support an environment for physical activity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of Niagara Council, as the Board of Health, support the content of and urging action on the Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives report; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and area municipalities with a request for their support.

Carried.

Dr. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health, commended Regional Chair Partington, the Region of Niagara and its Public Health Department for their leadership in tackling the issue of "obesity", noting the Niagara Region is one of the first Regions/municipalities to do so.

58. Local Public Health Capacity Review

Dr. Williams provided an update on the government of Ontario's plans to review local public health capacity, with respect to the governance, delivery and reinvestment in public health in Ontario. The Capacity Review Committee has been formed to advise the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care on options to improve the configuration and function of the local public health unit system

In response to how the Capacity Review Committee will achieve alignment and coordination with initiatives such as LHINS, Dr. Basrur commented that they will be looking outside the scope of LHINS for further partnerships with municipalities, primary care and other non-government organizations. The review is part of a larger transformation agenda for healthcare in Ontario.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report MOH 1-2005, April 18, 2005, respecting Local Public Health Capacity Review, be received for information.

Carried.

59. Community Mental Health Program:
Early Psychosis Intervention Partnership Opportunity

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PHD 22-2005, April 18, 2005, respecting Community Mental Health Program: Early Psychosis Intervention Partnership Opportunity, be received.

That the Community Mental Health Program enter into a flow-through funding and partnership agreement with St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre to provide Early Psychosis Intervention Services in Niagara.

Carried.

60. Inspection of Migrant Farm Worker Housing

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 23-2005, April 18, 2005, respecting Inspection of Migrant Farm Worker Housing, be received for information.

Carried.

61. Distribution of Information on Alternatives to the Use of Pesticides for Domestic Cosmetic Purposes

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 24-2005, April 18, 2005, respecting Distribution of Information on Alternatives to the Use of Pesticides for Domestic Cosmetic Purposes, be received.

That the Public Health Department develop educational material promoting the precautionary principle of prudent avoidance of exposure to pesticides and advocating alternatives to the use of pesticides for domestic, cosmetic purposes, and

That this material be disseminated to the public in combination with a Public Works grass cycling promotion campaign.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

62. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Communication PHSC 27-2005 from Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit (March 29, 2005) regarding its Board's resolution respecting Safe and Reliable Source of Drinking Water be received.

Carried.

63. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That the following communications be received:

PHSC 28-2005 Councillor Beth Pater, Chair, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health (Feb. 23, 2005) regarding its Council's resolution requesting the Province require mandatory annual vaccination against influenza for all healthcare workers in Ontario through legislation.

PHSC 29-2005 Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health (April 18, 2005) regarding Mandatory Annual Vaccination against influenza for Health Care Workers.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:25 p.m. to meet again on Monday, May 9, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk/
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy