

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 2:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Co-Chair, PHSC; Baty, Vice Chair, PHSC; Hildreth, Co-Chair, CSC; Marshall, Vice Chair, CSC; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas, Angelone, Bailey, Katzman, Marshall, Mastroianni

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner of Community Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Middleton, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Cunnane, Director Emergency Services; Mr. McQueen, Director Administration; Mr. Ventresca, Director Seniors Services; Ms. Rix, Manager Chronic Disease; Ms. Alfieri-Maiolo, Manager Healthy Babies; Ms. Jugley, Manager Community Mental Health; Ms. Stewart, Manager Community Services; Mr. Laflamme, Manager Health Protection Promotion; Ms. Biscaro, Director Population Health.

Guests: Ms. Dean, Niagara Compassion Society, Mr. Dean, Niagara Compassion Society, Mr. Mernagh, Niagara Compassion Society.

PRESENTATIONS

34. Niagara Compassion Society
Developing a Locally Developed Drug Strategy

Matt Mernagh, Niagara Compassion Society presented the following key points relating to the Compassion Societies' views and goals:

- The Niagara Compassion Society is a non-profit group dedicated to supplying affordable, medical-grade cannabis to patients throughout the greater Niagara Region and to promote research into the use of medicinal marijuana
- Many people suffering from incurable diseases in the greater Niagara area currently use cannabis to alleviate their conditions

- NCS has been founded to ensure the safety and quality of their medication, to monitor use, and to track patient welfare
- Compassion Societies goals are advocacy, outreach and legitimacy
- The Compassion Society is requesting the Committee to initiate a drug strategy, tailored for the Niagara Region, that encompasses harm reduction

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That the presentation by Niagara Compassion Society be received, and;

That the Committee not participate in "Developing a Locally Developed Drug Strategy".

Carried.

OPERATIONS
(STATUS REPORTS)

35. Request for Capital Budget Allocation and Financing Approval for the 2006 Community Services Capital Program

COM 11-2006 (CSD 28-2006)

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report COM 11-2006 (CSD 28-2006), February 21, 2006, respecting the Request for Capital Budget Allocation and Financing Approval for the 2006 Community Services Capital Program, be received for information, and;

That a capital budget allocation in the gross and net amount of \$500,000 be approved for the Community Services Capital Program as submitted in the 2006 Capital Budget and summarized in Appendix 1.

That approval be given to fund the projects with \$500,000 from the Capital Levy Reserve Fund.

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

Carried.

(Please note that Report COM 11-2006 (CSD 28-2006) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

36. Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
AAC 1-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report AAC 1-2006, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held on February 7, 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES
(STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY)

37. Family and Children's Services of Niagara
Niagara Region Public Health Department and
Niagara Health System Protocol
PHD 14-2006

Ms. Angela Alfieri-Maiolo, Manager Healthy Babies and Ms. Anne Biscaro, Director Population Health, presented a brief overview of Family and Children's Services of Niagara, Niagara Region Public Health Department, and Niagara Health System Protocol and answered Committee questions.

Staff clarified that the report has been brought forward to ensure Committee and Council that appropriate and coordinated reporting responsibilities are being carried out by Public Health Department staff as required under the Child and Family Services Act.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Chair Partington

That Report PHD 14-2006, February 21, 2006, respecting Family and Children's Services of Niagara, Niagara Region Public Health Department, and Niagara Health System Protocol, be received for information.

Carried.

INFORMATION

38. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Communication PHSS 3-2006, a letter from the Minister of Community and Social Services to Mr. Partington, Regional Chair (February 13, 2006) respecting the increase in social assistance rates, be received.

Carried.

39. 2005 Summary of West Nile Virus Program
PHD 15-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 15-2006, February 21, 2006, respecting the 2005 Summary of West Nile Virus Program, be received for information.

Carried.

40. Public Health Department:
Update on a Physician Collaboration Strategy
PHD 16-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 16-2006, February 21, 2006, respecting the Public Health Department: Update on a Physician Collaboration Strategy, be received for information; and

That committee and council endorse the importance of engaging physicians as critical health care practitioners.

Carried.

41. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report
Fourth Quarter – October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005
COM 13-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report COM 13-2006, February 21, 2006, respecting the Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report Fourth Quarter – October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

42. “Fined Time”, a Diversion Program for Students who have
Contravened the Tobacco Control Act
PHD 12-2006

Ms. Linda Rix, Manager Chronic Disease gave a brief overview of “Fined Time”, a Diversion Program for Students who have contravened the Tobacco Control Act and answered Committee questions.

Staff noted that, in future, programs of this nature will be brought before the Committee for approval before they are implemented.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report, PHD 12-2006, February 21, 2006, respecting “Fined Time: a Diversion Program for Students who have Contravened the Tobacco Control Act, be received and directions therein be supported.

Carried.

43. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Communication PHSS 4-2006, a News Release (February 21, 2006), respecting Premier McGuinty’s commitment to \$300 million to achieve true 50-50 partnership for Land Ambulance Services by 2008, be received.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

44. Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

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

Carried.

45. Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) Accommodation
PHD 17-2006 (PWA 34-2005) CONFIDENTIAL

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Confidential Report PHD 17-2006 (PWA 34-2006), February 21, 2006, respecting Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) Accommodation, be received and the recommendations therein be approved.

Carried.

46. Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- I. Clarify why diabetes was used as a disability criterion for Specialized Transit.
- II. Explain how elementary schools are affected by the "Fined Time" Diversion Program.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on March 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Bruce Timms
Co-Chair

Wendy Middleton
Administrative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk