

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Angelone, Bailey, Baty; Casselman, Harry, Katzman; Marshall

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner of Community Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Staines, Legislative Assistant

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Alfieri-Maiolo, Manager, Healthy Babies; Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Bilotta, Niagara Roots of Empathy Coordinator; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Population Health; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Cousins, Business Partner; Ms. Decou, Medical Epidemiologist; Ms. Edgar, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Gordon, Manager, Dental Programs; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Morris, Manager, Elementary Team, Youth Connection; Ms. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Shah, Project Manager, Buildings; Mr. Steele, Project Manager/Coordinator, Water & Wastewater Engineering; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Wincott, Health Promoter, Early Childhood Development Initiative

Guests: Dr. Andrea Feller

Co-Chair Timms welcomed everyone to the meeting and conveyed regrets from Councillor Hildreth that she could not attend the meeting.

Mr. Trojan introduced the new Commissioner of Corporate Services, Mr. Bergsma. Dr. Sider introduced Dr. Andrea Feller who is undertaking a three-month public health placement with Niagara Region's Public Health Department.

OPERATIONS
(STATUS REPORTS)

69. Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Employment Initiative
COM 20-2006 (Revised)

Ms. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, provided Committee with an overview of Report COM 20-2006, April 4, 2006 (Revised) respecting the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Employment Initiative.

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report COM 20-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Employment Initiative, be received for information; and

That in order to meet Provincial savings targets, Community Services be authorized to add three full-time temporary staff through 100 per cent Provincial funding ending June 1, 2007.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

70. 2005/06 Children's Services Funding Contract with Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services
COM 21-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 21-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the 2005/06 Children's Services Funding Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, be received; and

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2005/06 Children's Services Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Carried.

71. Ontario's Plan to Establish an Ontario Agency for
Health Protection and Promotion
MOH 1-2006

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report MOH 1-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting Ontario's Plan to Establish an Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, be received for information **as amended**;

That the Board of Health, through the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, urge the provincial government to assure the full and timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the Task Force's final report, especially ensuring that enabling legislation establishing the Agency is on the legislative agenda for the spring session; and

That Public Health staff provide a Resolution supporting this recommendation for Council's consideration at its meeting of April 13th.

Carried.

72. Registered Nurses Association of Ontario & MOHLTC Nursing Best Practice
Guideline Program – Terms and Conditions
PHD 23-2006

Ms. Morris, Manager, Elementary Team, Youth Connection, gave Committee an overview of Report PHD 23-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario & MOHLTC Nursing Best Practice Guideline Program.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 23-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario & MOHLTC Nursing Best Practice Guideline Program – Terms and Conditions, be received; and

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council to accept the terms and conditions as required by the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) for participation in the Nursing Best Practice Guideline Program and be considered a *Best Practice Spotlight Organization* (BPSO).

Carried.

Committee congratulated Ms. Morris for her exceptional contribution resulting in the designation of Niagara Region as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization.

73. Accessibility Advisory Committee
March 21, 2006
AAC 2-2006

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held March 21, 2006, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

INFORMATION

74. Best Start Update
COM 22-2006

Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services, gave Committee an overview of Report COM 22-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Best Start Program. Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders advised that a meeting will be held April 11, 2006, with the province to discuss funding for this program for 2006-07.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 22-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Best Start Update, be received for information.

Carried.

75. Directly Operated Child Care Centres and
Home Child Care 2005 Year End Report
COM 23-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 23-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting Directly Operated Child Care Centres and Home Child Care 2005 Year End Report, be received for information.

Carried.

76. 2005 Year-End Report Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO)
COM 24-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 24-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the 2005 Year-End Report Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO), be received for information.

Carried.

77. Seniors Services Volunteer Program Achievements 2005
COM 25-2006

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, gave Committee an overview of Report COM 25-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Seniors Services Volunteer Program Achievements 2005. Mr. Ventresca noted the enormous contribution of approximately 900 volunteers contributing to the quality of life for others in their community. Mr. Ventresca advised that National Volunteer Appreciation Week begins April 23 to April 29th and that Appendix 2 of Report COM 25-2006 contains a list of events being held to recognize volunteers in the various Regional seniors' residences. Mr. Ventresca encouraged Councillors to attend events to show their support for the many volunteers, who donated approximately 86,000 hours of their time in addition to fund-raising \$175,000. It was noted that the above includes time volunteered by young people through school programs.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 25-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting Seniors Services Volunteer Program Achievements 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Katzman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Reports PHD 19-2006 and PHD 22-2006 as they relate to school programs and she is employed by the Niagara District School Board, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

78. Release of the Fourth Regional Niagara Community Health Profile
PHD 19-2006

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 19-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Release of the Fourth Regional Niagara Community Health Profile, be received for information.

Carried.

79. Roots of Empathy Program
PHD 22-2006

Ms. Morris, Manager, Elementary Team, Youth Connection, gave Committee an overview of Report PHD 23-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting Report PHD 22-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Roots of Empathy Program. Ms. Morris noted that there is a need to build sustainability for this program once the “sunset” for the present funding is reached.

Moved by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor

That Report PHD 22-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Roots of Empathy Program, be received for information.

Carried.

80. Dental Health Month – April 2006
PHD 27-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 27-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting Dental Health Month – April 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

81. Promote Health Pregnancy and Child Development Initiative:
Attachment Education Campaign Evaluation, Niagara Region
PHD 28-2006

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 28-2006, April 4, 2006, respecting the Promote Health Pregnancy and Child Development Initiative: Attachment Education Campaign Evaluation, Niagara Region, be received for information.

Carried.

82. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That the following correspondence items be received:

PHSS 10-2006, a letter from Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit, March 8, 2006, respecting Ontario Public Health Association Report on School Buses, Air Pollution and Children's Health;

PHSS 11-2006, a letter from Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health (March 29, 2006) respecting Meeting Food Costs for All Low Income and Social Assistance Recipients, TBDHU Resolution 06-29;

PHSS 12-2006, a letter from Mary Anne Chambers, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (March 27, 2006) respecting the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario (Refer also to COM 22-2006 above); and

PHSS 13-2006, the letter from G. Allen Heimann, MD, MHSc, Medical Officer of Health and Board Secretary, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (March 28, 2006) respecting Ontario's Best Start Program, and attached Resolution Recommendation.

Carried.

83. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That PHSS 14-2006, a letter from George Smitherman, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, March 28, 2006, respecting funding for land ambulance services, be received.

Carried.

It was noted that a report concerning the effect of this announcement on the Regional budget will be delivered to Corporate Services Committee April 5, 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

84. Presentations to Municipal Councils

Councillor Angelone noted Commissioner of Community Services, Brian Hutchings, has visited several municipal Council meetings to review the services offered by his department. Councillor Angelone expressed congratulations to Mr. Hutchings on the excellent presentation to Niagara Falls Council.

85. New EMS Advisory Committee

Councillor Timms noted that the Paramedic and Communications Services Advisory Committee has requested two Councillors to attend their meetings, to be held approximately twice yearly. Councillors Timms and Angelone volunteered to attend these meetings.

86. Next Meeting Date

Due to a conflict with a meeting with the province respecting "Niagara Week", it was agreed that the next meeting of this Committee would be moved to **Tuesday, April 18, at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4.**

CLOSED SESSION

87. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

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

Carried.

88. HQ Office Building Accommodations – Update

Mr. Steele gave Committee an overview of the status of the addition to the headquarters building.

89. Water Quality

Dr. Sider addressed a water quality issue.

90. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- Provide information concerning the rapid return to ODSP for clients who leave to take a position and then return to request reinstatement for ODSP funding . (See Minute Item 69)
- Provide Committee members with information concerning the caseload profile for ODSP recipients, without including the confidential information provided in the province's report. (See Minute Item 69)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:45 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on **April 18, 2006** at 2:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE!**

Bruce Timms
Co-Chair

Betty Staines
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk