

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 7-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Co-Chair; Almas, Angelone, Bailey, Baty, Harry, Hildreth, Katzman, Marshall, Trombetta.

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. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director Seniors Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Ricci, Acting Legislative Assistant

Staff

Part-time: Lori Child, Program/ Cost Analyst Operational Support Services; Lori Watson, Manager Community Services; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Control Program; Wendy Stewart, Manager Community Services; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Tobacco Control Program; Ms. Brigantino, Health Promoter, Tobacco Control Program; Andrew Bowles, Executive Assistant – Regional Chairman; Mr. Jones, Director, Administration Services, Ms. St. John, Director Clinical Service; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Linda Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease Prevention Division; Ms. Ott, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. DiPietro, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. LaFlamme, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion.

Guests: Saint Paul High School's "Clear Your Lungs" students: Alexa MacKenzie (Director), Natalie Sirianni (Producer), Natalie Sirianni (Producer), Lauren Rempel (Host) and Anthony Perrotta (staff advisor)

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

Councillor Baty requested that all items listed under Section # 3 (first page only) entitled "Information", be moved to Section #2 entitled "Operations (Status Reports)". Councillor Baty noted that full clarification surrounding the guidelines that define Agenda Sections will be issued in the Final Report of the Council Organization Review Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

108. Film Presentation: "Clear Your Lungs"

Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Tobacco Control Program thanked Councillor Angelone for inviting the "Clear Your Lungs" film presentation to today's Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting and introduced Ms. Brigantino, Health Promoter, Tobacco Control Program to provide an overview as to the presentation forthcoming.

Ms. Brigantino stated that earlier this year the Niagara Region Public Health Department was successful in obtaining funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care; now the Ministry of Health Promotion. This gave all secondary schools in the Niagara Region an opportunity to receive funding up to \$1000.00 for student-driven tobacco control projects. Of our 41 secondary schools 30 participated in tobacco initiatives.

Today's presentation was from a group of students from St. Paul Catholic Secondary School in Niagara Falls who went well above and beyond expectations; this group of creative student's truly surpassed expectations.

These students, along with the support of their staff advisor, have produced a documentary titled "Clear Your Lungs" which has already won awards for Best Documentary, Best Overall Film and is now being screened at the Focus Niagara Film Festival (www.focusniagarafest.com).

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the film presentation by Saint Paul High School's "On Rotation" respecting "Clear Your Lungs" be received.

Carried.

Co-Chair Timms, along with Committee members, congratulated Alexa MacKenzie (Director), Natalie Sirianni (Producer), Lauren Rempel (Host) and Anthony Perrotta (Staff Advisor) for a job well done.

109. Oral Report
Mandatory Compliance – Rabies

Mr. LaFlamme, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion provided Committee members with an Oral Report surrounding, Mandatory Compliance – Rabies and Rabies Control; Mandatory Program & Health Services Guidelines 1997. He stated that the goal is to prevent the occurrence of rabies in humans and the objective is to maintain the incidence of rabies at zero in the human population.

Mr. LaFlamme also provided further clarification with respect to the requirements and Standards as well as, Rabies Statistics from 1999 – 2005.

Further announcements with respect to the subject of Rabies were, in part, as follows:

- Niagara Region continues to strengthen communication
- Niagara Region maintains close communication with the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Niagara Region has established strong Cross Border cooperation
- The month of May has been designated, “Rabies Awareness Month”

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That the Oral Report, respecting Mandatory Compliance – Rabies, be received.

Carried.

Dr. Sider requested that Report 38-2006 entitled, Rabies Awareness Month be brought forward on the agenda, as it directly supports the Oral Report just received.

Dr. Sider and Andre Laflamme provided a very brief overview surrounding Report 38-2006 and entertained questions from the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 38-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting Rabies Awareness Month, be received for information.

Carried.

OPERATIONS
(STATUS REPORTS)

110. Smoke Free Ontario Act:
Implications for Long-Term Care Homes
COM 30-2006

Mr. Ventresca, Director Seniors Services, provided a brief overview as to this reports executive summary, financial implications, purpose and background.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 30-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting the Smoke Free Ontario Act: Implications for Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information; and

That a staff survey and report on the impact of this legislation on the placement and care of seniors needing care in Niagara long-term care homes who smoke, and

That staff explore, as needed, and report on the feasibility of providing alternate arrangements, in accordance with provisions under the legislation, in one or more of Niagara Region's long-term care homes.

Carried.

Councillor Baty requested that staff survey, as needed, and report on the interest of Long Term Care residents participating in Nicotine Replacement Therapy.

(Refer To Staff Directions)

111. Proposed Hospice on Deer Park Villa Grounds
COM 34-2006

Mr. Ventresca, Director Seniors Services, provided a brief overview as to this reports executive summary, financial implications, purpose and background.

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report COM 34-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting the Proposed Hospice on Deer Park Villa Grounds, be received for information.

Carried.

Mr. Ventresca advised Committee members that a Fund Raising Launch with respect to the above listed report would be held on June 2, 2006; full details will be supplied to Committee members electronically in advance of this date.

112. Children's Services 2005 Fourth Quarter Report (Year End)
COM 31-2006

Ms. Pat Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services provided a brief overview with respect to COM 31-2006 and acknowledged Lori Child, Program/ Cost Analyst Operational Support Services for her input.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 31-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting the Children's Services 2005 Fourth Quarter Report (Year End), be received for information.

Carried.

Councillor Baty requested that staff investigate further in to how the G.S.T. rebate could contribute towards cost reductions for the two capital projects with the District School Board of Niagara.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

113. Employment and Newcomers in Niagara
Update to COM 48-2004, COM 29-2005 and COM 31-2005
COM 32-2006

Lori Watson, Manager Community Services together with Sarah Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities provided members with a brief overview as to this reports financial implications, purpose, and background.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report COM 32-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting Employment and Newcomers in Niagara Update to COM 48-2004, COM 29-2005 and COM 31-2005, be received for information.

Carried.

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner of Community Services stated that he had attended a meeting at Queens Park (held during Niagara Week) with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration for the Province of Ontario. Also in attendance were Chairman Partington, Andrew Bowles and Councillor(s) Baty, and Martin.

Mr. Hutchings advised Committee members that during the meeting, the Minister had been very complimentary with respect to Niagara's positive attitude towards immigration and newcomers.

114. Update of Phase One
Social Assistance Smoking Cessation Project
COM 33-2006

Ms. Wendy Stewart advised Committee members that the main purpose of this report was to provide an update regarding the activities completed to achieve the outcome of the Social Assistance Participant Smoking Cessation Support Project, Phase One; noting that the deadline and funding has been extended by Health Canada from March 31 to June 30, 2006.

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report COM 33-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting Update of Phase One Social Assistance Smoking Cessation Project, be received for information.

Carried.

Councillor Baty congratulated staff on this report; stating that the "naming" and clear attention to their "buying in" target market (teens) was impressive.

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner of Community Services advised committee members that Phase II of the Social Assistance Participant Smoking Cessation Support Project is presently being pursued and will be coming back to this Committee for approval in the near future.

115. 2006 Pilot Road Safety Campaign: Niagara-on-the-Lake
PHD 30-2006

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health took the opportunity to introduce Maureen Ott, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and express congratulations on her up and coming retirement. Dr. Sider also welcomed and introduced Ms. Vanessa DiPietro as Ms. Ott's successor.

Linda Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease Prevention Division then provided Committee members with a brief outline of the 2006 Pilot Road Safety Campaign: Niagara-on-the-Lake and entertained questions from Committee members.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 30-2006, May 16, 2006, respecting 2006 Pilot Road Safety Campaign: Niagara-on-the-Lake, be received for information and

That Council support the 2006 Pilot Road Safety Campaign: Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Carried.

INFORMATION

116. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That the following communications be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee at this time:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| PHSS 16-2006 | Sudbury and District Health Unit Physical Activity and Community Walkability

- Receive |
| PHSS 17-2006 | Sudbury and District Health Unit Dental Care Services within the Best Start Program.

- Receive. |
| PHSS 18-2006 | Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities staff direction following COM 20-2006 – ODSP Employment Initiative.

- Receive. |
| PHSS 19-2006 | Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) 2006 Health Unit Budget Survey.

- Receive. |
| PHSS 20-2006 | Rabies Research and Development Unit Annual Wildlife Rabies Control Operations.

- Receive. |

PHSS 22-2006 The Homelessness Initiative Outreach Program.

- Receive

PHSS 23-2006 The Sudbury Children's Dental Health Report TBDHU Resolution 06-50.

- Receive

Carried.

Councillor Timms requested that staff report back to this Committee on Niagara's answers to the (ALPHA) survey and how they relate to PHSS 19-2006.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

OTHER BUSINESS

117. Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity
The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee

Co-Chair Timms and Dr. Sider provided Committee members with a brief review as to the Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee.

Recommendations contained in the Final Report were, in part, as follows:

- All Public Health Units would be governed by autonomous Boards of Health, with Co-Chair Timms observing that this would mean that Regional Council would serve as the obligated municipality providing its share of cost-shared funding
- Council would be responsible for half of the Board elect; Province would be responsible for half of the non-elected or public Board members
- Public Health budget approval would be under the Ministry of Health's direction although the Final report recommends that fixed Public Health annual funding envelopes be established for budget certainty, and that multi-year budget planning be established via 3 year funding horizons.

Co-Chair Timms advised Committee members that he would circulate all details of what the Board of Health and this Committee had stated to date, with respect to the issues surrounding this agenda item.

Co-Chair Timms asked that staff ensure that The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee and any further additions be revisited at the September 19, 2006 meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

118. Osprey Articles re: Wainfleet Water

Co-Chair Timms called the Committees attention to the three (3) articles that Osprey did with respect to the Wainfleet Water situation.

Councillor Harry asked Dr. Sider details respecting proper signage regarding the Wainfleet Water situation; Dr. Sider requested that this be deferred to Bjorn Christensen, Director of Health Protection and Promotion.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

119. Recognition:
“Pro Kids” and “Touch a Truck”

Councillor Baty wished to draw attention and express his personal enjoyment of two recent local events:

- “Pro Kids”, a positive and enjoyable event coordinated by YMCA Niagara
- “Touch a Truck”, a function held at Niagara College in support of Children’s Literacy which was in attendance by both the public and private sector and sponsored, in part, by Walker Industries and NorJohn Emulsions

120. Aids Niagara

Councillor Katzman wished to acknowledge Aids Niagara for producing a CD that enhanced AIDS awareness. She stated that it included pertinent information (e.g. PH Information, Health service schedule) and that 15,000 copies had been made to date.

121. Ministry of Health Promotion

Dr. Sider advised members that an e-mail had just been received stating that the Ministry of Health Promotion would be releasing an announcement with respect to funding associated with the Smoke Free Ontario Act. He stated that most likely it would be an announcement which informed that 100% Provincial funding would be made available.

Dr. Sider informed members that he would communicate full details to Committee members upon receipt of the announcement.

CLOSED SESSION

122. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Almas

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

Carried.

123. Oral Report

Moved by Councillor Almas
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Oral Report with respect to an identifiable individual, be received for information and

That staff compile a letter responding to the confidential Oral Report and the identifiable individual advising as to the recommendations directed by members of the Public Health and Social Services Committee.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

124. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- explore the interest of smoking cessation programs for residents in long-term care homes (See Minute Item 110)
- investigate further in to how the G.S.T. rebate could possibly alleviate shortfalls in the annualized funding, which has been offset through regional dollars (See Minute Item 112)
- report back to this Committee on Niagara's answers to the (a)PHa) survey and how they relate to PHSS 19-2006 (See Minute Item 116)
- ensure that The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee and any further additions be revisited at the September 19, 2006 meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee (See Minute Item 117)
- Bjorn Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion forward details respecting proper signage on Wainfleet Water situation to the attention of Councillor Harry (See Minute Item 118)
- compile a letter responding to the confidential Oral Report and the identifiable individual advising as to the recommendations directed by members of the Public Health and Social Services Committee. (See Minute Item 123)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on June 6 at 2:00 p.m

Bruce Timms
Co-Chair

Lisa Ricci
Acting, Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk