

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 13-2006**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 2:05 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Mr. Hunter, Administrator, Rapelje Lodge/Woodlands of Sunset; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Community Services; Ms. Watson, Manager, Community Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health Dept.: Ms. Burgi, Manager, Healthy Babies/Parent/Child; Ms. Columbus, Manager, Youth Connection; Ms. Decou, Epidemiologist; Ms. DiPietro, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention Division; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Public Health Dept.; Ms. McCallum, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention Division; Ms. Ouellette, Community Dietitian; Ms. Seguin, Health Promoter; Mr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Totten, Epidemiologist; Ms. Vik, Epidemiologist; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention Division.

Others: Ms. Fontana, Director, Corporate Health Services & Employee Relations; Ms. Hepplewhite, Records Manager.

Others: Ms. Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

196. Heart Niagara 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Councillor Timms advised that, prior to this meeting, he attended the Heart Niagara 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. He advised that the speaker, Dr. Goutham Rao, made an informative presentation on preventing child obesity that was in keeping with the Regional Chair's Roundtable on Obesity and the healthy lifestyle initiatives of the Public Health Department. Councillor Timms apprised

Committee of a "Healthy Living" CD that was handed out at the meeting and asked staff to provide each member of the Committee with a copy.

### **PRESENTATION**

197. **Report and Recommendations on Trans Fat**  
**PHD 77-2006**

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report PHD 77-2006, respecting Report and Recommendations on Trans Fat, be lifted and moved forward on the agenda to be dealt with following the presentation on this matter.

Carried.

Kim Ouellette, Community Dietitian, provided an overview of the report and recommendations on Trans Fat. Ms. Ouellette described Trans Fat, its purpose, food sources and subsequent health effects. These include artery damage; insulin insensitivity and fat accumulation. Committee was advised that Canadians have among the world's highest trans fat intake and both the Institute of Medicine and the World Health Organization recommend much lower intakes. In 2002, the Panel on Macronutrients of the U.S. National Academies of Science, Institute of Medicine, recommended that trans fat consumption be as low as possible while ensuring a nutritionally adequate diet. Ms. Ouellette remarked on the need for adequate resources for supporting food industry innovation and public education, noting that media attention has increased awareness but consumers are still confused about making choices. The Trans Fat Task Force report of June 2006 urges regulations to limit trans fat in the food supply, so that it would be a non-issue within about four years. Committee was asked to urge federal action on trans fat so that Niagara resources could be better focused on other healthy eating promotional messages.

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 77-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Report and Recommendations on Trans Fat, be received.

That the Regional Chairman send letters to each of the following: Federal Minister of Health, Parliamentary Health Secretary, and Niagara Region Members of Parliament urging that the Trans Fat Task Force's recommendations regarding acceptable levels of trans fat in the food supply and the phasing-in period be enacted into law, along with allocation of resources adequate to follow through, including resources for supporting food industry innovation and public education, as well as for monitoring of the food supply for trans fat levels.

Carried.

**OPERATIONS (STATUS REPORTS)**

198. Ontario Works – Hire Up! Initiative  
**COM 50-2006**

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report COM 50-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Ontario Works – Hire Up! Initiative, be received for information, and

That the department's proposal on the Hire Up! Initiative be endorsed.

Carried.

199. Update to the Social Assistance Participant Smoking Cessation Support Project, Phase Two  
**COM 51-2006**

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 51-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Update to the Social Assistance Participant Smoking Cessation Support Project, Phase Two, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with Health Canada for Phase Two of the Social Assistance Participant Smoking Cessation Support Project. (\$209,164 to cover the period of September 29, 2006 to March 2007, 100% federally funded.)

That Community Services be authorized to use a portion of the agreement funds to add 1.5 full-time temporary staff for the project from September 29, 2005 to March 31, 2007.

Carried.

200. Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2006  
**COM 52-2006**

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 52-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract 2006, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2006 Seniors Community Programs Funding Contract with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

Carried.

201. Region of Niagara Accessibility Plan as Legislated  
under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act  
**COM 56-2006**

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 56-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Region of Niagara Accessibility Plan as legislated under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, be received; and

That the Accessibility Plan for 2006-2007 be adopted.

Carried.

202. 2006 Long-Term Care Home Service Agreements  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
**COM 57-2006**

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 57-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting 2006 Long-Term Care Home Service Agreements Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, be received; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2006 Long-Term Care Home Service Agreements with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Carried.

203. Mandatory Program Compliance – Early Detection of Cancer  
**PHD 58-2006**

Moved by Councillor Trombetta  
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report PHD 58-2006, September 19 2006, respecting Mandatory Program Compliance – Early Detection of Cancer, be received for information; and

That this report be forwarded to the provincial Inter-Ministerial Performance Standards Strategic Committee that has been tasked with the development of the performance management system recommended in the Capacity Review Committee's final report.

Carried.

204. Mandatory Program Compliance – Equal Access  
**PHD 66-2006**

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PHD 66-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Mandatory Program Compliance – Equal Access, be received for information; and

That this report be forwarded to the provincial Interministerial Performance Standards Strategic Committee that has been tasked with the development of the performance management system recommended in the Capacity Review Committee's final report.

Carried.

205. Mandatory Program Compliance – Program Planning and Evaluation  
**PHD 70-2006**

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 70-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Mandatory Program Compliance – Program Planning and Evaluation, be received for information; and

That this report be forwarded to the provincial Interministerial Performance Standards Strategic Committee that has been tasked with the development of the performance management system recommended in the Capacity Review Committee's final report.

Carried.

206. Mandatory Compliance 2005 – Chronic Disease Prevention  
**PHD 74-2006**

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 74-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Mandatory Compliance 2005 – Chronic Disease Prevention, be received for information; and

That this report be forwarded to the provincial Inter-Ministerial Performance Standards Strategic Committee that has been tasked with the development of the performance management system recommended in the Capacity Review Committee's final report.

Carried.

**INFORMATION**

207. Customer Service Survey Analysis, 2006  
**PHD 65-2006**

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That Report PHD 65-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting Customer Service Survey Analysis, 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

208. 2004-2005 Reproductive Report  
**PHD 71-2006**

Moved by Councillor Hildreth  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 71-2006, September 19, 2006, respecting 2004-2005 Reproductive Report, be received for information.

Carried.

209. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the following minutes be received for information:

Report 4-2006      Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians  
with Disabilities Act meeting of June 13, 2006

Report 5-2006      Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians  
with Disabilities Act meeting of July 25, 2006

Report 6-2006      Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians  
with Disabilities Act meeting of September 5, 2006

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

210. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the following communications be received;

- CSC 69-2006      Memorandum from Sarah Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, (September 5, 2006), regarding Staff Direction re: COM 48-2006, Update to COM 15-2006, Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program
- PHSS 41-2006      Letter from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, August 21, 2006, to Regional Chair Partington respecting: Funding

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS** (continued)

211. Review of Program Standards

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, advised that he was asked to sit on the Program Standards Technical Review Committee. The mission of this committee is to review mandatory health programs and guidelines. In discussion with Dr. Williams, it was agreed that this was an important Committee to serve on as it would provide an opportunity to keep Committee and Council current on these important matters.

212. Appointment to Trillium Foundation Board

Councillor Katzman congratulated Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, on his appointment to the Trillium Foundation Board.

213. Expression of Thanks

Councillor Hildreth thanked Mr. Hutchings and staff of the Community Services Department for their efforts in organizing the Jill Hildreth 1K and 5K Fun/Run/Walk event held in her honour. The event raised approximately \$3,300 which will complete the accessible sidewalk construction project at Northland Pointe in Port Colborne.

214. Hamilton Anti-Poverty Foundation

Councillor Baty asked that staff provide information to Committee on the City of Hamilton's Poverty Reduction Roundtable. Councillor Angelone asked that staff also include information on a similar initiative by the Regional Chair of Halton who formed a similar task force. Mr. Hutchings advised he would provide this information to Committee.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSS 105.)

215. A Public Health Primer for  
Municipal Candidates

Councillor Timms circulated information from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies. This information is for municipal candidates and their staff to help raise awareness about the role of the local public health unit and its board of health. Councillor Timms asked that any comments on this information be directed to Dr. Sider or Dr. Williams. Committee requested this information be included in the information package that is being prepared for distribution to candidates.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSS 105.)

**CLOSED SESSION**

216. Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

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

Carried.

217. Seniors Services  
**COM 54-2006/ HR 29-2006**

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Confidential Report COM 54-2006, September 19, 2006 (HR 29-2006, September 20, 2006), respecting Seniors Services, be received for information; and

That the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

218. License Agreement – City of Welland Site  
**COM 55-2006/PWA 169-2006**

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Confidential Report COM 55-2006, September 19, 2006 (PWA 169-2006, September 20, 2006) respecting License Agreement - City of Welland Site, be received for information; and

That the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

219. Wainfleet Issue

Committee received information regarding a confidential Wainfleet issue and staff were asked to provide additional information as discussed.

220. Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTIONS**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide information on the Hamilton and Region of Halton's poverty reduction initiatives. (Refer to minute #214)
- (ii) Distribute the information from Alpha "A Public Health Primer for Municipal Candidates" as part of the information package to municipal candidates. (Refer to minute #215)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:50 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on October 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m

Bruce Timms  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk