

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

**REPORT 7-2008**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Casselman, Co-Chair; Cordiner; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Marshall; Timms.

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

Staff

Other: Community Services Dept; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Mcshannon, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.

Public Health Dept.: Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Ms. Columbus, Manager, School Health; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Loewen, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. McCallum, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Control Programs; Mr. Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. St. John, Chief Nursing Officer/Director, Clinical Services Division; Ms. Vanecko, Manager, Healthy Babies Healthy Children/Parent-Child Program; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.

Administration: Ms. Papaiz, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications.

Others: Mr. Alan King, Board Member, Niagara Regional Housing.

**Quorum**

*There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to six members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

87. Dr. Sheila Basrur  
Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair, apprised Committee of the passing of Dr. Sheila Basrur, the former Ontario Medical Officer of Health and Toronto Medical Officer of Health who provided calm leadership during the Toronto SARS crisis. Dr. Basrur, an advocate for healthy active living, attended a special Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting held at the Quality Hotel Parkway Conference Centre in April 2005 and spoke on her report "Healthy Weights/Healthy Lives". This event was held in conjunction with the establishment of the Regional Chairman's Leadership Round Table on Obesity Prevention. Dr. Basrur will be greatly missed by the Public Health Communities.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

88. Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 30-2008 respecting Supports for Temporary Care Families be lifted and moved forward on the agenda to be dealt with following Ms. Pennisi's presentation on the Water Filter Fund.

Carried.

**PRESENTATIONS**

89. Water Filter Fund

Ms. Sarah Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, provided a presentation on the Water Filter Fund. This fund is created through the Ministry of Environment's initiative "Ontario's Action Plan on Lead". The plan is to provide funds for low income Ontario families for on-tap water filters to address identified elevated lead levels in drinking water. Ms. Pennisi circulated a pamphlet which outlines the criteria for those households eligible to receive a free water filter system. The system consists of a filter system that attaches to the water tap and takes the lead content out of the water as it flows out of the tap (and two replacements). The Niagara Region's Community Services will deliver the program locally.

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the presentation by Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, regarding the Water Filter Fund, be received.

Carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

90. Supports for Temporary Care Families  
**COM 30-2008**

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 30-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Supports for Temporary Care Families, be received.

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Children's and Youth Services to recommend that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services replace the Ontario Works Temporary Care allowance with a 100% provincial benefit and that this benefit be, equal to Foster Care supports, and provide health, dental and financial assistance to grandparents and extended family members caring for children when the natural parents are unable to provide care; and

That this correspondence be circulated to the MPPs and MPs in the Niagara Region.

Carried.

91. Resolutions for the 2008 alPHa Conference  
**PHD 25-2008**

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 25-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Resolutions for the 2008 alPHa Conference, be received.

That this Committee recommends that staff recommendations on the following resolutions being forwarded to the 2008 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Conference be **amended and supported** as follows:

A08-2            Establish Stricter Advertising Standards for Alcohol  
**Committee supports staff's recommendation to support the resolution.**

A08-3            Advocacy for an Enhanced Provincial Public Education and  
Promotion Campaign on the Negative Impacts of Alcohol Misuses  
**Committee supports staff's recommendation to support the resolution.**

A08-4 Eliminate the Availability of Alcohol Except in Liquor Control Board – Outlets (LCBO) (I.e. Increase Point of Sale Control)  
**Committee does not support the resolution as presented due to concerns regarding the economic impact and the need for further information and examination of such a resolution.**

A08-5 Advocacy for an Increase in the Legal Drinking Age in Ontario from 19 to 21 Years of Age and Enact a 0% Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Limit on Drivers Until They Reach the Age of 21 Years  
**Committee does not support the increase in the legal drinking age in Ontario from 19 to 21 years of age but encourages stricter enforcement activities for the identification of youths' ages. Committee does support the enactment of a 0% Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Limit on Drivers Until They Reach the Age of 21 Years.**

**That it be known that this report and Committee's amendments to the resolutions within the report have not been endorsed by Council (due to time restrictions).**

Carried.

92. Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8  
Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008  
**PHD 26-2008**

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 26-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008, be received for information.

That the Regional Chairman send a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health Promotion commending the introduction of Bill 8 and provide recommendations to strengthen the overall impact of the legislation; and

That the Regional Chair send a letter to local school boards endorsing the importance of Bill 8 in relation to the nutritional benefits and overall health of Niagara's children and youth and offer support to local school boards to implement the Act.

Carried.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

93. Forecast of Year-End Results and Budgets to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended March 31, 2008  
**PHD 21-2008**

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 21-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended March 31, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

94. Smoke Free Ontario Act: Display Ban Implementation  
**PHD 22-2008**

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 22-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Smoke Free Ontario Act: Display Ban Implementation, be received for information.

Carried.

95. Health Bus Status Report for 2007  
**PHD 23-2008**

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 23-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Health Bus Status Report for 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

96. Rabies Control Program  
**PHD 24-2008**

Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 24-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Rabies Control Program, be received for information.

Carried.

97. Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the First Quarter 2008  
**COM 31-2008**

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 31-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the First Quarter 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

98. Ontario Child Benefit Financial Analysis  
**COM 32-2008**

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 32-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Ontario Child Benefit Financial Analysis, be received for information.

Carried.

#### **ITEMS FOR DEBATE**

99. Niagara Regional Housing Operating Agreement Steering Committee  
**COM 29-2008**

Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 29-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Niagara Regional Housing – Operating Agreement Steering Committee, be received for information; and

That the proposed ad hoc Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Operating Agreement Steering Committee be approved until April 10, 2009 with the membership as described in the report.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

**MINUTES**

100. 3-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report 3-2008, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of Tuesday, April 8, 2008, be received.

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

101. Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 21-2008 Vera Etches, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Sudbury & District Health Unit (April 18, 2008) respecting Retirement Homes.

PHSS 22-2008 Vera Etches, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Sudbury & District Health Unit (April 30, 2008) respecting Enhanced Public Funding for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Program for Vulnerable Female Youth

PHSS 23-2008 Graham L. Pollett, Secretary-Treasurer, Middlesex-London Board of Health (May 1, 2008) respecting resolutions passed to address in a comprehensive manner the health effects of alcohol use.

PHSS 24-2008 Brian Hughes, Chair, Board of Health, Timiskaming (March 5, 2008) regarding Amalgamation.

PHSS 25-2008 Brian Hughes, Chair, Board of Health, Timiskaming (May 7, 2008) regarding Bill 69 – Smoke Free Ontario Act

PHSS 26-2008 Brian Hughes, Chair, Board of Health, Timiskaming (March 7, 2008) regarding Expansion of the HPV Immunization Program

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

102. Accessibility Advisory Committee  
Ontarians with Disabilities Act

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that the Ontarians with Disabilities Act is becoming more prevalent with deadlines regarding the requirements under the Act approaching. Staff will be bringing reports to Committee on the Region's requirements (as well as those of the twelve municipalities) in order to meet those deadlines and to avoid duplication.

**COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Staff was requested to:

- (i) Bring forward a "Draft" Terms of Reference to the Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Operating Agreement Steering Committee. (Committee) (Refer to minute 99.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:35 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Judy Casselman  
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk