

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 10-2008

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 Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Cordiner; Marshall; Timms.

Councillors

Other: Councillors Augustyn; Collins.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.
Public Health: Ms. Columbus, Manager of School Health (Secondary); Ms. Coppola, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Ms. Degrasse, Manager, Operations (NACS); Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health Program; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Tobacco Control Program; Ms. McCallum, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Morris, Manager of School Health; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Control Program; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.
Human Resources: Mr. Hagar, Manager, Labour Relations; Mr. Meffe, Manager, Labour Relations.

PRESENTATION

144. Childhood Obesity: A Complex Health Issue

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided a presentation on Childhood Obesity "A Complex Health Issue". A chart was provided depicting the International, Federal/Provincial, Communities, Work/School/Home and individual factors that contribute to obesity prevalence.

Dr. Williams commented that there is an increasingly obesogenic environment that impacts the individual's susceptibility/resistance to staying healthy.

Dr. Williams described the health impacts of obesity as they relate to psychosocial; pulmonary; gastrointestinal; renal; musculoskeletal; neurological; cardiovascular and endocrine. The majority of Type II diabetes and high blood pressure is preventable.

A chart was presented depicting the increase (from 1978 to 2004) in the percentage of children classified as overweight or obese by ages: 2-5 years, 6-11 years and 12-17 years. As well, more recent BMI data from Grade 9 students collected in 2006 indicate that almost one in three students are at risk of or are overweight. If the data trends noted above continue by 2029 60% of adolescents; 52% of school age and 21% of preschoolers would be overweight or obese.

The Canadian Community Health Survey, 2004, of what children are eating, indicate a percentage of calories are coming from pop, sugar sweetened fruit drinks, animal fats, chocolate bars and potato chips as follows:

Children 4-8 years old – 18.2% of total calories consumed;
4-18 year olds – over 20% of total calories consumed; and
Youth 14-18 years – 25% of total calories consumed.

- 21-28% of children report eating chocolate bars daily
- 15% of adolescents eat french fries daily
- Sweetened beverages are a major culprit

Committee was advised that environments make a difference - a healthy supportive environment contributes to healthy weights with an unsupportive environment leading to obesity.

An ecological model of health behaviour was presented – Intrapersonal: Biological, psychological, behavioural skills – social environment – physical environment – policy context.

Dr. Williams highlighted Trekzone's Vision which is "Niagara will be a place where healthy eating and physical activity is valued, encouraged and supported wherever people live, learn, work and play. Niagara communities will be designed and built to support healthy eating and physical activity".

Dr. Williams followed her presentation with a DVD entitled "Moving Forward Together", Niagara's strategy for tackling obesity.

The BMI chart and a calculator can be found on Health Canada's web-site.
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/weights-poids/guide-ld-adult/bmi_chart_java-graph_imc_java-eng.php

Committee members received a slice of "healthy" pizza to demonstrate that pizza can be prepared in a nutritional manner and meet the criteria for "healthier" options for Special Event days (or general consumption).

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

145. Clarification Report
Re: Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8
Health Food for Health Schools Act, 2008
PHD 43-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 43-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Clarification Report Re: Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008, be received; and

That this report be received for clarification re: PHD 26-2008 (June 3, 2008) further to PHSSC directive as outlined in Report 9-2008 (minute 129) dated July 15, 2008; and

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

That the Regional Chairman 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 offering support to local school boards to implement the Act and to include the recipe for the "healthy" pizza.

Carried.

146. 2008 Ontario Works Service Contract
COM 40-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 40-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting 2008 Ontario Works Service Contract, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2008 Ontario Works Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Carried.

147. 2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements
Between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB)
Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region
For Second Phase of Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) Initiative
COM 41-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 41-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting 2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region for Second Phase of Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) Initiative, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a second 2008 Amending Agreement for each of the eight long-term care homes with Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for the receipt of base funding of \$723,315 for sustaining previously approved 8.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) positions and for creating additional 4.6 FTE RPN positions.

Carried.

148. Medical Director's Annual Report 2007
Long-Term Care Homes
COM 42-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 42-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Medical Director's Annual Report 2007 Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information.

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Chair of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to advise of the Medical Directors' concerns, including the corresponding need for the appropriate number and mix of staff in long-term care homes and the need for alternative levels of care for older adults in Niagara.

Carried.

149. Extension of Memorandum of Understanding for
Physiotherapy Services for the Long-Term Care Homes
COM 43-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 43-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Extension of Memorandum of Understanding for Physiotherapy Services for the Long-Term Care Homes, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and St. Elizabeth Health Care for physiotherapy services to the Region's long-term care homes.

Carried.

150. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Social Housing Capital Repairs Funding
COM 44-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 44-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Social Housing Capital Repairs Funding, be received for information and approval to:

- (i) Receive \$3,101,293 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for social housing capital repairs; and
- (ii) Transfer of funds to Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to administer and ensure compliance with all associated requirements.

Carried.

151. 2008/09 Funding Allocation
Community Mental Health Program
PHD 39-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 39-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting 2008/09 Funding Allocation – Community Mental Health Program, be received; and

That the Community Mental Health Program receive the recently announced 2.25% adjustment to base funding (\$61,531).

Carried.

152. Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC):
2008 Service Contract & 2008 Service Description Schedule
PHD 41-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 41-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC): 2008 Service Contract & 2008 Service Description Schedule, be received.

That approval for the Data Analysis Coordinator (DAC) Program 2008 Service Contract and 2008 Service Description Schedule be granted, and that the Regional Chairman and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the respective documents.

Carried.

153. Offload Delays – 90 Day Update
PHD 42-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 42-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Offload Delays – 90 Day Update, be received; and

That support of the recommended option endorsed in the PHD 14-2008 report presented on April 15, 2008, be continued, noting the start date for the recommended option was May 10, 2008, with a six (6) month time frame as outlined in PHD 14-2008; and

That funding from the Region's Contingency Reserve continue to be provided, and that a follow-up letter be written to the Province to request reimbursement of this funding; and

That Senior Management continue to work diligently with the Niagara Health System and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to investigate alternate solutions to the offload dilemma; and, continue to provide quarterly progress reports to Committee and Council.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

154. Listeriosis Outbreak

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the outbreak of Listeriosis advising that there are two confirmed cases of Listeriosis which caused the deaths of two elderly persons in Niagara. He commented that there are no probable cases at this time but that the Outbreak has not yet peaked. Dr. Sider commended Inspection staff on their efforts to ensure that contaminated products were removed as quickly as possible. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Maple Leaf Consumer Foods are warning the public through their standard food recall system not to serve or consume 23 products of ready-to-eat deli meats. Information on the Listeriosis Outbreak can be found on the Region's web site or by contacting the Niagara Region Public Health Infectious Disease Program.

Mr. Ventresca apprised Committee of the steps taken with respect to the Homes for the Aged, Adult Day Program and Meals on Wheels program in response to this outbreak. Foods for the Homes are purchased through a major supplier and the supplier has assisted in determining what foods needed to be removed from the food storage and menus. Following the first recall it was realized that three of the Homes had served foods that had been recalled and five Homes had not. Following another recall, it was realized that the other five Homes had also served contaminated foods. Notices have been sent out to all residents and their families advising of what has taken place. To date no persons have experienced Listeriosis symptoms and staff is diligent in monitoring for any symptoms.

Committee was advised that the general population is not specifically at risk and that Listeriosis occurs most often among elderly persons; pregnant women and their unborn/newborn children and people with weakened immune systems. How ill someone becomes depends upon their general state of health, their age and whether they are pregnant.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the oral reports from Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services regarding the Listeriosis outbreak, be received.

Carried.

155. Community Services Variance Analysis and
Program Update for the Second Quarter 2008
COM 46-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 46-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Second Quarter 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

156. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report
April 2007 to June 2008
COM 47-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 47-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report April 2007 to June 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

157. Ontario Child Benefit – Implementation Update
COM 48-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 48-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Ontario Child Benefit – Implementation Update, be received for information.

Carried.

158. Smoke Free Ontario Act: Annual Compliance Report
PHD 38-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 38-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Smoke Free Ontario Act: Annual Compliance Report, be received for information.

Carried.

159. Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to
Actual Comparison for the Month Ended June 30, 2008
PHD 40-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 40-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting Forecast of Year-End Results and Budget to Actual Comparison for the Month Ended June 30, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

160. 4-2008 (AAC)

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report 4-2008 being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of Tuesday, May 20, 2008, be received.

Carried.

161. 4-2008 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report 4-2008 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of Thursday, July 24, 2008, be received.

Carried.

(Please note that the Minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water and Wastewater Servicing Project can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

162. Closure of Capital Projects
CSD 87-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report CSD 87-2008, June 25, 2008, respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received for information purposes as recommended in the report.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 87-2008 Closure of Capital Projects can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

OTHER BUSINESS

163. Niagara Region Public Health Summit
Councillor Casselman, Committee Co-Chair, apprised Committee of the upcoming Niagara Region Public Health Summit to take place on October 26, 2008, at the Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls. Staff has asked that any Councillors wishing to attend this summit to please contact them by September 10th.
164. Banning the Sale of Bottled Water
Councillor Timms commented on the issue of “banning of the sale of bottled water” and how it conflicts with Trekzone’s recommendation of making healthy choices “Drink water and lower-fat milk more often”. Staff was requested to provide a report on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

165. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the following communications be received.

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| PHSS 35-2008 | Pat Mandy, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN (June 17, 2008) regarding 2008/09 Funding Allocation – Aging at Home Year 1, Advance Practice Nurse |
| PHSS 36-2008 | Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services (July 7, 2008) regarding grandparents and extended families providing temporary care to children. |
| PHSS 37-2008 | Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services (July 8, 2008) regarding funding to support refugee claimants entering Canada through Fort Erie. |
| PHSS 38-2008 | Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services (July 8, 2008) regarding grandparents and extended families providing temporary care to children. |
| PHSS 39-2008 | Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services (July 25, 2008) regarding funding to support Ontario’s system of early learning and child care. |

- PHSS 40-2008 Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Grey Bruce Health Unit (July 3, 2008) regarding Physician Shortages in Ontario.
- PHSS 41-2008 Ontario NEWS, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, regarding "Ontario Continues to Open More Doors for Internationally Trained Doctors".
- PHSS 42-2008 Melanie Hogeveen, Deputy Clerk, Municipality of Kincardine (June 23, 2008) regarding its Council's resolution respecting Physician Shortage.
- PHSS 43-2008 Laurel Broten, MPP, PA to the Minister of Health and Long-term Care Report on Removing Barriers for International Medical Doctors (March 31, 2008).
- PHSS 44-2008 Diane Cane, County Clerk, Northumberland County (July 16, 2008) regarding its Council's resolution of support regarding the motion from the Region of Niagara concerning ambulance off-load delays.
- PHSS 45-2008 Debbie Sevenpifer, President & Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Health System (July 16, 2008) regarding the Hospital Improvement Plan.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

166. Jill Hildreth 5 Km. Run/Walk – September 18, 2008
Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, apprised Committee of the Jill Hildreth 5 Km. Run/Walk event to take place at the Glenridge Naturalization Quarry on September 18th, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with a barbeque to follow. Funds raised will be used to provide shoes for low income children in school.

CLOSED SESSION

167. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a labour relations matter.

Carried.

168. A Matter of Labour Relations
Ratification of Collective Agreement – CUPE
Local 1019 (EMS) – Public Health Department
HR 15-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report HR 15-2008, August 28, 2008, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations, Ratification of Collective Agreement – CUPE Local 1019 (EMS) – Public Health Department, be received.

Carried.

169. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Provide an amended “Ambulances Available” chart to show full year. (Augustyn) (Refer to minute 153.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:35 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk