

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 14-2008

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 Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 2:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Pilon, Acting Regional Clerk.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health: Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, E.M.S.; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Mr. Smith, Associate Director, E.M.S.; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Associate Director, E.M.S.; Ms. Wodchis, Director Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Ms. Peacefull, Director, Community Development and Surveillance; Mr. Cunnane, Director Emergency Services; Mr. Hunter, Manager Environmental Health; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Ms. Brigantino, Health Promoter.

Integrated Community Planning: Mr. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; Mr. Tarajos, Community Planner Social Issue

Others: Ms. Catherine Mindorff, Volunteer, Niagara Research and Planning Council

PRESENTATION

228. Awareness of Service to Victims of Crime and Tragedy throughout Niagara Region

Ms. Ruth Rutherford-Pretty, Executive Director Niagara Victim Crisis Support Services, provided Committee members with a presentation respecting the Niagara Victim Crisis Support Service, a community based service that assists police, fire, hospital and medical emergency services in providing short-term emotional support and practical assistance to victims of crime and/or tragic circumstances. A not-for-profit volunteer organization with 96 active volunteer Crisis Responders, who have received since April 2008 282 on-scene calls, 539 victims/clients assisted and crisis responders volunteering 16,750 hours.

The funding for the service is through the Ministry of the Attorney General; Niagara Regional Police Service; United Way (St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie and South Niagara), Grants, Fundraising and personal donations.

The Niagara Victim Crisis Support Service has four program that provide assistance to victims of crime and tragedy, Victim Crisis Assistance & Referral Services (VCARS); Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP); SupportLink and Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (DVERS). The programs help victims cope with the impact of crime and/or tragic circumstance; educate about and promote victim assistance in our community; assist victims in accessing appropriate support services in our community and lessen the trauma of the victims.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the presentation respecting Awareness of Service to Victims of Crime and Tragedy throughout Niagara Region, be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

229. Standing Committee Structure –
Updated Terms of Reference
CHR 1-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report CHR 1-2008, November 27, 2008 respecting Standing Committee Structure – Updated Terms of Reference, be received **as amended**; and

That Appendix A, pertaining to the Public Health and Social Services Committee FINAL DRAFT Terms of Reference be approved, **subject to the addition of a statement that is specific to the role of Regional Council as the Board of Health.**

Carried.

(Please note that Report CHR 1-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

230. 2008 Homelessness Service Contract
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program (CHPP)
Emergency Energy Fund EEF, Water Filter Fund (WFF)
COM 65-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 65-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting 2008 Homelessness Service Contract Ministry of Community and Social Services Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program (CHPP) Emergency Energy Fund EEF, Water Filter Fund (WFF), be received; and

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2008 Homelessness Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report COM 67-2008 respecting Application of Provincial Funding for an Automated Common Resident Assessment Instrument – Final Phase, as she is a staff member with the Ontario Nurses Association, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

231. Application of Provincial Funding for an Automated
Common Resident Assessment Instrument – Final Phase
COM 67-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 672008, December 9, 2008, respecting Application of Provincial Funding for an Automated Common Resident Assessment Instrument – Final Phase, be received;

That Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any required accountability agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in order to receive the identified Provincial funding for the Resident Assessment Instrument-Minimum Data Set (RAI-MDS) initiative and additional staff;

That the anticipated additional funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care be applied as outlined in this report to:

- a) train staff involved with the RAO-MDS initiative at the remaining seven long-term care homes over the course of 2009.
- b) add up to 6.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) RAI Coordinators over the course of 2009 to oversee the ongoing requirements of this initiative.

Carried.

232. Community Annual Planning Submission
For Seniors Community Programs 2009 - 2011
COM 68-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 68-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting Community Annual Planning Submission For Seniors Community Programs 2009 - 2011, be received.

That the Community Annual Planning Submission 2009 – 2011 to the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) be approved for Niagara Region’s Seniors Community Programs.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

233. Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Correspondence PHSS 61-2008, a letter from Pat Mandy, Chief Executive Officer, (November 12, 2008), Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN regarding 2009 & 2010 Planned Multi-Year Funding Increases, be received.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (Continued)

233. Offload Delays – Six Month Update
PHD 65-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 65-2008, December 9, 2008 respecting Offload Delays – Six Month Update, be received **as amended**; and

That the recommended option endorsed in the PHD 14-2008 report presented on April 15, 2008, be discontinued effective January 4, 2009;

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; and

That Senior Management report back to Committee and Council in 90 days.

Carried.

234. Approval of 2007 Financial Statements
Communications and Emergency Services Division
PHD 67-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 67-2008, December 9, 2008 respecting Approval of 2007 Financial Statements Communications and Emergency Services Division, be received; and

That the Financial Statements for Public Health's Communications and the Emergency Services Division for the years ended, December 31, 2007 be approved and accepted; and

That the report be forwarded to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried.

235. Proposed By-Law to Replace By-law 8983-98
Regulation of Small On-lot Sewage Systems
Under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code
PHD 68-2008 (PWA 130-2008)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 68-2008 (PWA 130-2008), December 9, 2008 respecting Proposed By-Law to Replace By-law 8983-98 Regulation of Small On-lot Sewage Systems Under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code, be received; and

That the attached by-law be approved to accommodate the transfer of responsibility for small on-lot sewage systems from Public Health to the Public Works Department together with administrative changes and a revised fee schedule to reflect the current cost of the program delivery and By-law 8983-98 be repealed;

That the Region's Fee and Charges By-law 44-2008 be revised to be consistent with the fee schedule in the new by-law referenced above;

That the attached by-law be approved to appoint private sewage system inspectors in the Public Works Department to carry out duties associated with Part 8 the Ontario Building Code; and

That the local municipalities and the Chief Building Officials of Niagara (CBON) be notified of these changes.

Carried.

Please note that Report PHD 68-2008(PWA 130-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report PHD 69-2008 respecting Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Funding; Infection Control Practitioner Position, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

236. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Funding;
Infection Control Practitioner Position
PHD 69-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 69-2008, December 9, 2008 respecting Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Funding; Infection Control Practitioner Position, be received; and

That approval be given for the 100% Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) funding and that 1.0 FTE for an Infection Control Practitioner be added to the Public Health staff complement effective for 2008.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

237. Niagara Integrated Social and Community Planning Project -
Progress Report
COM 66-2008 (DPD 55-2008)

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 66-2008(DPD 55-2008), December 9, respecting Niagara Integrated Social and Community Planning Project – Progress Report, be received for information.

Carried.

238. Working Together to Build a Stronger Public Health System
MOH 02-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report MOH 02-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting Working Together to Build a Stronger Public Health System, be received for information.

Carried.

239. Introduction to the Ontario Public Health Standards
PHD 61-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 61-2008, December 9, 2008, Introduction to the Ontario Public Health Standards, be received for information.

Carried.

240. Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity
PHD 63-2008

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 63-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity, be received for information.

Carried.

241. Social Marketing Initiatives, January to June 2009
PHD 64-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 64-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting Social Marketing Initiatives, January to June 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

242. Youth Tobacco Control – Youth Action Alliance and High School
Grant Evaluation Results
PHD 66-2008

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 66-2008, December 9, 2008, respecting Youth Tobacco Control – Youth Action Alliance and High School Grant Evaluation Results, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

243. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the following communications be received.

- PHSS 60-2008 Gary Scripnick, Chair, Board of Health Unit, Porcupine Health Unit, Timms, ON (October 10, 2008) regarding its resolution to support ongoing and enhanced Ministry of Health Promotion funding to Youth Action Alliances.
- PHSS 62-2008 Carolyn Kett, Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie (November 13, 2008) respecting Dismantle the Niagara Health System and appoint Provincial Supervisor to manage the Hospitals.
- PHSS 63-2008 Ron Sapsford, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (November 13, 2008) respecting Announcement – Division of Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister roles.
- PHSS 64-2008 Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (December 9, 2008) regarding Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July 2, 2008 to September 30, 2008

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

244. 2009 Community Services and Public Health Departmental Budgets

The Committee members voiced their concerns as to the state of the economy and were curious as to who it has affected the services we provide.

Commissioner Hutchings advised the Committee that the case load in Community Services increased by 16% in October, and in November the intake was increased by 26% (10% of those who apply are not eligible). He noted that this is the first time he has seen overtime for intake staff and that the state of the economy is definitely contributing to the increase.

Commissioner Hutchings noted that Community Services will be within their budget for 2008, however, he is unsure whether that will be the case in 2009. There are Reserves in the amount of \$5 Million that could be used to offset the increase in 2009, which he estimated as \$2.5 Million, if the increase remains at 16%, there will however, be a need for more staff, as the current staff complement could not maintain the schedule they are now dealing with for much longer.

A Sensitivity Analysis is being prepared and should provide the Corporate Management Team with a clearer picture of what the future may hold for Niagara Region.

The Committee members noted their concerns respecting the current 2009 Current Budget totals, noting that if the current trend continues it will not only affect Community Services, but affordable housing and public health, as homelessness will increase and people will need affordable housing and public health programs they have never accessed before.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Co-Chairs 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.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the Commissioner of Community Services and the Medical Officer of Health prepare a report for presentation to this Committee on January 13, 2009, that addresses and re-examines the impacts of the current economic condition on Niagara Region's Social Services and Public Health Programs, including the trends and limits on Reserves and the impacts that will be realized if it is necessary to use the Reserves; which employment sectors are contributing to the increase in intakes; the impacts on affordable housing.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

245. 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 2007 Audit Management Letter Communications and Emergency Services Division.

Carried.

246. 2007 Audit Management Letter
Communications and Emergency Services Division
PHD 62-2008 Confidential

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Confidential Report PHD 62-2008, December 9, 2008 respecting 2007 Audit Management Letter Communications and Emergency Services Division, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

247. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff were asked to:

- forward to the Chair's office a request that Housing Help in Fort Erie, Welland and western Niagara be included as an item for discussion at the next Niagara Week (Refers to Minute Item 230) Councillor Forster

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, January 13, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Janet Pilon
Acting Regional Clerk