

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

**REPORT 3-2009**

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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, February 24, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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. Gartner, Manager Children Services; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children Services; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.  
Public Health: Ms. Biscaro, Director, Family Health; Ms. Burciul, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Ms. Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health.  
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair.

Others: Rita Makubuya, Executive Director, Niagara Life Centre; Cheryl Plett, Director, Hannah House Maternity Home

**OTHER BUSINESS**

32. Pro-Kids Program

Councillor Baty, Committee Co-Chair, apprised Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pro-Kids event taking place on April 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the atrium in Campbell East and all Councillors were invited to attend.

## **PRESENTATION**

33. Joanna Stubbs, Manager of Shelter Programs  
Re: The Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter

Ms. Joanna Stubbs, Manager of Shelter Programs attended to apprise Committee and Council of the Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter. The Shelter is a program of the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara, designed to assist up to ten youths, 16-30 years of age, to reach their full potential through shelter services and development programs. The youth shelter program was initiated by Lighthouse Niagara based on the identified need to have shelter beds for youth in Niagara Falls. The shelter was opened by the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara on December 20, 2004.

The shelter serves youths aged 16-30 who are without secure housing, male and female, but statistics indicate 75% are males. They are referred to the Shelter by Ontario Works, Project Share, HIOP, NRPS, Probation Officers, custody facilities, hospital social workers, schools, clergy, parents, community members and youths themselves. The service is available 24 hours a day; scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in group sessions and individualized. Ms. Stubbs also apprised Committee of the Aftercare Program which provides ongoing supports to youth after they have transitioned to the community.

Ms. Stubbs provided the following highlights of the Shelter's activities to date:

- Provided housing and support services to over 500 individuals to date
- Served over 4,000 meals in 2008
- Aftercare services have increased every year with 2,051 visits in 2008
- 2,155 hours of Development programs were facilitated in 2008, an increase of 85% from the year before
- Occupancy increased by 8% from 2005 to 2006 and an additional 16.5% from 2006 to 2007 and maintained with a very slight decrease in 2008.
- Placement students and volunteers contributed 1,972 hours of service to the Shelter Unit in 2008

Ms. Stubbs also advised that Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter has:

- Developed positive community relationships and is recognized as a reputable program within our sector
- Developed a full spectrum of programs to support youth in their transition from homelessness to independence
- Provided housing and support services to over 500 "individuals" to date
- Continued to build community presence and to explore partnerships

The challenges were identified as:

- Securing core funding for the daytime hours, particularly when the federal funds moved from emergency to transitional supports
- Regional funding structure (per diem) creates challenges in meeting budget while also ensuring strength of program
- Limited full time staffing opportunities contributes to a higher turnover in part time staff, who often move on to full time positions elsewhere (typically with better hours, better pay and less shift work)
- Facility and program space
- Inconsistency in occupancy – fewer Turnaways

In closing, Ms. Stubbs outlined the goals of the Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter:

- Secure core funding for 24 hour operation
- Stability of occupancy rates
- Continue to build presence in the community and achieve success in meeting program needs through community support and donors
- Explore opportunities for program growth including new program areas and explore options to address facility issues to provide to best program in meeting the spectrum of needs for Niagara's youth

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the presentation by Ms. Joanna Stubbs, Manager of Shelter Programs, regarding The Nightlight Emergency Youth Shelter, be received.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

34. **Extension Request for Niagara Regional Housing**  
**COM 09-2009**

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 09-2009, February 24, 2009 respecting Extension Request for Niagara Regional Housing, be received; and

That approval be granted to extend the time allowed from:

- (i) April 10, 2009 to June 18, 2009 to assess the results of any revision to the Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Operating Agreement and consider additional agreement changes; and

- (ii) April 10, 2009 to January 15, 2011 to:
  - a. Consider any corporate structural changes to Niagara Regional Housing and;
  - b. Allow the NRH Operating Agreement Steering Committee to inform and guide the operating efficiency process.

Carried.

35. Implementation of Full Day Early Learning in Ontario in 2010  
**COM 10-2009**

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 10-2009, February 24, 2009 respecting Implementation of Full Day Early Learning in Ontario in 2010, be received; and

That the Regional Chairman be authorized to write a letter to the Ministers of Children and Youth Services and Education, with copies to the Early Learning Advisor to the Province, the local Members of Provincial Parliament, and the opposition leaders requesting that;

- (i) Full day early learning for four and five-year olds be part of a comprehensive early childhood education and child care system in Ontario.
- (ii) There be allocation of permanent base funding to support a comprehensive early learning and child care system that is accountable, sustainable and flexible.
- (iii) The Province allocate sustainable funds to mitigate any financial impact upon the current child care system with the implementation of full day learning for four and five-year olds.

Carried.

36. Purchase of Service Agreement with the Niagara Life Centre  
**COM 11-2009**

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 11-2009, February 24, 2009 respecting Purchase of Service Agreement with the Niagara Life Centre, be received, and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with Hannah House Maternity Home to:

- (i) Provide up to 12 emergency hostel beds for the provision of emergency hostel services at the Hannah House Maternity Home in Niagara Falls.
- (ii) Compensate the Hannah House Maternity Home \$40.75 per diem which will be cost shared between the Province and the Region on an 80/20 basis.
- (iii) Provide employment supports to the adolescent mothers staying at the Hannah House.

Carried.

#### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

37. **Smoke-free Ontario Act Amendment – Smoke-Free Vehicles**  
**PHD 08-2009**

Moved by Councillor Katzman  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 08-2009, February 24, 2009, respecting the Smoke-free Ontario Act Amendment – Smoke-Free Vehicles, be received for information.

Carried.

38. **Wage Subsidy Equalization Process**  
**COM 12-2009**

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 12-2009, February 24, 2009 respecting Wage Subsidy Equalization Process, be received for information.

Carried.

**MINUTES**

39. Joint Advisory Committee on Wainfleet  
Water & Wastewater Servicing Project  
1-2009 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report 1-2009 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of January 26, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please note that Report 1-2009 (JAC) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab.)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

40. Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the following items of correspondence be received for information:

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|--------------|---|
| PHSS 6-2009  | Dennis Roughley, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (January 21, 2009) regarding their concerns related to the financial challenges the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Babies Healthy children Program is experiencing. |
| PHSS 7-2009  | Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, Grey Bruce Health Unit (January 22, 2009) respecting Support of Extending 100% Ministry Funding for the Small Drinking Water Systems program.  |
| PHSS 8-2009  | Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (February 24, 2009) regarding Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008.  |
| PHSSC 9-2009 | Monika Turner, Director, Public Health Standards Branch Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care correspondence (February 4, 2009) respecting Update on the Performance Management Working Group.  |

Carried

**OTHER BUSINESS**

41. Update – Influenza Outbreak

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the Influenza Outbreak declared over this past week at Albright Manor and the challenges to be faced this influenza season in Ontario given the patterns of anti-viral resistance of the Influenza A virus strains that are circulating in our communities and the mismatch between this year's vaccine Influenza B strain and the strain that is circulating and causing illness in Ontario and Canada.

Moved by Councillor Katzman  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the oral report from Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, regarding an Update on the Influenza Outbreak, be received.

Carried.

42. Clarification of Motion for COM 06-2009

Councillor Timms apprised Committee of the confusion regarding the motion for Report COM 06-2009 at the February 3, 2009 PHSS meeting and the motion was clarified as follows:

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the Regional Chairman forward a copy of Report COM 06-2009, respecting the state of Canada's Early Learning and Care System to the Federal and Provincial Ministers requesting a written response regarding the State of Canada's Early Learning Care System. Copies of the letter should also be forwarded to local members of Provincial and Federal Parliament and local School Boards.

Carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Committee adjourned at 3:05 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty  
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman  
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk