

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 6-2010

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, May 4, 2010 at 2:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Osterberg, Student.
Public Health: Ms. Degrasse, Manager of Operations, EMS; Mr. Jekel, Manager, Environmental Health; Mr. Laflamme, Manager, Environmental Health; Mr. McKay, Associate Director, EMS; Mr. McQueen, Operations Officer (PH); Mr. Smith, Associate Director, EMS; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services.
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to Regional Chair.
Corporate Services: Mr. Lockyer, Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning.
Integrated Community Planning: Ms. Swigger, Student.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

78. Use of Resident Interest Trust Fund for
Resident Quality Improvement Initiative
COM 19-2010

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Lepp

That Report COM 19-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Use of Resident Interest Trust Fund for Resident Quality Improvement Initiative, be received; and

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that staff be authorized to utilize up to \$50,000 from the Resident Trust Fund for quality improvement initiatives outlined in this report.

Carried.

79. Final Recommendations: Impact on EMS – Emergency Department Conversions as part of the Niagara Health System’s Hospital Improvement Plan

PHD 21-2010

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 21-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Final Recommendations: Impact on EMS – Emergency Department Conversions as part of the Niagara Health System’s Hospital Improvement Plan, be received.

That based on experiential evidence, the temporary increase in EMS resources to manage the impact of the conversions of the Emergency Departments (ED’s) in Port Colborne and Fort Erie (2.5 ambulances and 20 FTE’s) be made permanent as part of the approved budget; and

That the Region continue discussions with the LHIN and NHS to identify alternate solutions and options to address the impact on local Emergency Departments and Niagara EMS.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That 50% funding be added to the Region’s Base Budget in 2011; and

That a strategy be pursued to ensure that every ambulance has an “Advanced Care” Paramedic.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

80. 2010 Land Ambulance Grant
PHD 23-2010 (CSD 50-2010)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 23-2010, May 4, 2010 (CSD 50-2010, May 5, 2010), respecting 2010 Land Ambulance Grant, be received for information.

Carried.

(Report PHD 23-2010/CSD 50-2010 can be found behind the Joint Reports tab in the Blue Book.)

OTHER BUSINESS

81. Tour – Community Services and Public Health Facilities – Niagara Falls

Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair, advised that, together with Councillors Baty and Cordiner, they toured the Community Services and Public Health facilities in Niagara Falls. The Councillors commented that there are immediate accommodation issues that need to be addressed and that a long term accommodations plan needs to be developed to ensure both the Community Services and Public Health Departments have the facilities they need to deliver their programs and services to the public.

Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer (PH) and Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, apprised Committee of the discussions taking place between Public Health and Community Services Departments with respect to facilities renewal. The development of a long term accommodations plan will be prepared with the assistance of a Consultant and in conjunction with both departments; community and health partners; and other external stakeholders.

Committee also asked that discussions with area municipalities also take place, when appropriate, during this process.

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That an interim report be prepared to address the short term issues with respect to Accommodations for the Public Health and Community Services facilities in Niagara Falls; and

That a Long Term Accommodations Plan (10-20 years) be developed for all Community Services and Public Health facilities across the Niagara Region.

Carried.

The Committee asked that an interim report be brought to Committee by the end of June 2010.

82. Changes to Ontario Works Incentive Funding
COM 20-2010

Moved by Councillor Lepp
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 20-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Changes to Ontario Works Incentive Funding, be received for information and referred to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and

That this report be circulated to Local M.P.P.s.

Carried.

83. Continuation of Provincial Best Start Funding
March 2010 and Children's Services Budget
COM 21-2010

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 21-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Continuation of Provincial Best Start Funding March 2010 and Children's Services Budget, be received for information.

Carried.

84. A Partnership Site for Integrated Service Delivery
Between Children's Services Direct Operations and
Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara
COM 22-2010

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 22-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting a Partnership Site for Integrated Service Delivery between Children's Services Direct Operations and Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara, be received for information.

Carried.

85. Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Year Ended December 31, 2009
COM 23-2010

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Lepp

That Report COM 23-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Year Ended December 31, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

86. Rabies Control Program
PHD 19-2010

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 19-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Rabies Control Program, be received for information.

Carried.

87. Tick Surveillance within the Niagara Region
PHD 25-2010

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Lepp

That Report PHD 25-2010, May 4, 2010, respecting Tick Surveillance within the Niagara Region, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

CORRESPONDENCE

88. Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Communication PHSS 17-2010 respecting Niagara Family Physician Recruitment & Retention, be received; and

That a report be prepared for Committee on the recruitment and retention activities for the last two years (how many physicians were recruited; how many physicians are still needed; how many municipalities have their own recruitment officer; and how much money has been spent on physician recruitment.

Carried.

89. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the following communications be received:

- PHSS 15-2010 Lora Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing (April 7, 2010) regarding Councillor Information Request #NRH5 – Provide a list detailing the number of units in each area municipality for Year 1 of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program
- PHSS 16-2010 Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, regarding Staff Direction of February 23, 2010 – Provide a list of Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Funding to Organizations in Niagara
- PHSS 18-2010 Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services, regarding Early Learning and Child Care across Ontario
- PHSS 19-2010 Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, (March 31, 2010) advising of the land ambulance grant adjustment for 2010 in the amount of \$1,130,889

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

90. Donation of Olympic Mattresses to Homeless Shelters

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that the 2010 Olympics donated mattresses (originally donated to the Olympics from Sleep Country Canada) to 5 Niagara agencies that provide shelter for the homeless. Community Services, with the assistance of Public Works, arranged to transport these mattresses (127) from Toronto to the Regions of Halton, Brantford, Hamilton and Niagara. Niagara's agencies received 27 mattresses for the homeless.

The Committee suggested that a media release on this "good deed" be issued.

CLOSED SESSION

91. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to “A Matter of Labour Relations

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Update” and “Update on CUPE 1757 Negotiations”.

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared a pecuniary interest with respect to the Matters of Labour Relations as she is a staff member with the Ontario Nurses Association, and she therefore vacated the Committee Room, and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

92. **A Matter of Labour Relations – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Update**

Mr. Cunnane, Director, EMS, provided an update on “A Matter of Labour Relations – Emergency Medical Services (EMS)”.

93. **Update – Contract Negotiations CUPE 1757**

Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources, provided an update on CUPE 1757 Contract Negotiations.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That this Committee do now rise without report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Provide the pamphlets/materials used in the public awareness campaign with respect to the “tick vector surveillance and prevention initiative” to members of Council. (Cordiner) Refer to minute item 87.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to meet again on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk