

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 14-2004**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on October 18, 2004, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Gabriel; Marshall; Mastroianni.

Staff: Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner of Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property & Facilities Management; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.

#### **PRESENTATION**

##### **122. Hospice Niagara**

Judith Barker, Executive Director, Hospice Niagara, attended to provide an update on Hospice Niagara and introduced Ms. Pat Hundertmark, a Founding Board Member and Ms. Amy Leaming, Resource Developer. Ms. Barker advised that Hospice Niagara delivers three primary programs: Visiting Volunteers; Day Hospice; and Children's and Adolescents Bereavement Support and consists of a voluntary board of directors, volunteer committees and volunteer-based programs and services. Partners include: Community Care Access Niagara; Niagara District Health Council; Niagara Health System; Hotel Dieu in partnership with Wellspring and many services clubs who have donated over \$300,000. Ms. Barker highlighted the need for developing the first community hospice in Niagara, stating that a residential hospice offers compassionate care in a home like environment where the daily cost of care is typically 1/3 the cost of hospital care. A progress report on what Hospice Niagara has completed towards the development of a hospice was presented as follows:

- An agreement in principle from Regional Council
- Completed a successful Capital Campaign Feasibility Study

- Positive signs from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care which recognizes “home based palliative care as a core service within OHIP” and Ministry’s support for related palliative care initiatives
- Selected an architect

Ms. Barker advised that Hospice Niagara has completed a number of fundraising activities and is preparing for a capital campaign and continuing to monitor the availability of operational funding for the Centre. Ms. Barker thanked Regional Council for their ongoing support.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

123. Proposed Development of a Hospice: A Status Report

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 68-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting Proposed Development of a Hospice: A Status Report, be received for information.

Carried.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

124. Moved by Chair Partington  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report CSD 133-2004, September 8, 2004, respecting Capital Projects June 2004 Variance Report, be received for information.

That the gross budget for ZSC9912, Adam’s Centre be increased by \$60,106 to reflect the external contribution and transfer of funds from the Donations Trust – Adams Dementia Centre account 0090-0745 to fund the project deficit.

That the previously approved budget and Capital Levy Reserve financing of \$101,320 be transferred from ZSC9911, Niagara Falls Facility Redevelopment to ZSC9912, Adam’s Centre to fund the project deficit.

That this report be forwarded to Community Services Committee for information.

Carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

125. Medical Directors Annual Reports – Long-Term Care Homes

Mr. Ventresca introduced Mr. Tom Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services Division, who provided highlights of the Medical Directors Annual Reports on Long-Term Care Homes. Mr. Hunter summarized the common trends and developments identified by the Medical Directors, as well as the areas of concern and action for the improvement in care for the residents in the Region's Homes.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 69-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting Medical Directors Annual Reports – Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 70.)

126. Provincial Funding Increases for Long-term Care Homes 2004-2005

Mr. Ventresca highlighted the details of the Provincial funding increases received by the Region's eight long-term care homes as they relate to base funding envelopes; equalization payments and structural compliance premiums. Niagara's homes received a total of approximately \$1.9 million annualized. Mr. Ventresca also provided a summary of the Division's plan to apply the Provincial funding increases to address the desired care outcomes and staff increases identified by the Province. Staff are recommending a balanced application of the additional funding to address pressing care requirements and to address fiscal pressures by reducing the Region's contribution, thereby improving the long-term sustainability of Regionally operated homes.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel  
Seconded by Chair Partington

That Report COM 70-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting Provincial Funding Increases for Long-Term Care Homes 2004-2005, be received for information.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the Amending Agreement with the Provincial Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care in order to receive the identified provincial increases for 2004/2005 to the Region's eight long-term care homes and in order to commit to the identified conditions for these funding increases.

Carried.

The Regional Chair commended Seniors Services staff on the efficient and effective manner in which they are able to operate not only one Seniors Home, as mandated by the Province, but eight Homes for the Aged.

127. Week of the Child

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 71-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting Week of the Child, be received for information.

Carried.

128. Launch of INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE:  
The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2004-2007

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, distributed copies of the INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: The Early Learning & Child Care Plan for 2004 to 2007. Also distributed was a one page document providing highlights of the plan which will be available for broader distribution. The Plan looks back over the past three years at how the system of services for children from birth to twelve years of age has evolved, considers the current state of the child care system and makes recommendations for the next three years. The Director provided a breakdown of information as contained in the various chapters of the plan. Ms. Heidebrecht advised that Open Houses and Municipal Council presentations are planned for the Fall, noting that the Open House Dates and Locations are detailed in Appendix A of Report COM 72-2004.

Mr. Ventresca referred to Appendix B of the report being a letter from the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Children and Youth Services which acknowledges the effort by Ms. Heidebrecht and staff for their plan, stating it provides excellent insight regarding the strategic vision set for the child care services in the Niagara.

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair and members of Committee, commended staff for their efforts in developing such a comprehensive and insightful plan.

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 72-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting Launch of INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: The Early Learning & Child Care Plan 2004 – 2007, be received for information.

Carried.

129. 2004 Ontario Works Service Contract  
Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI)

Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 73-2004, October 18, 2004, respecting 2004 Ontario Works Service Contract Enhanced Family support Initiative (EFSI), be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2004 Ontario Works Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI) Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (100% Provincial subsidy - \$125,000/Regional levy - \$0).

Carried.

**MINUTES**

130. Report 8-2004

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report 8-2004, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of September 14, 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

131. Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Communication CSC 5-2004 from Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services, (September 13, 2004) respecting the de-listing of health services under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), be received.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTION**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a report outlining how the Seniors Services Division will deal with the matter of increased demands related to complex care (Refer to minute 126.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 4:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 25, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Acting Regional Clerk