

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 17-2004

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on November 22, 2004, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Almas; Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Katzman; Marshall; Rigby.

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

Staff

Part-time: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property & Facilities Management; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness.

Others: Joanne Hett and Dan Nywening, Boys and Girls Club of Niagara.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

207. Purchase of Service Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club Of Niagara for the Provision of Emergency Hostel Services

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 79-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Purchase Service Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara for the provision of Emergency Hostel Services, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara to:

- a. Provide up to 6 emergency hostel beds for the provision of emergency hostel services.

- b. Compensate the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara \$39.15 per diem which will be cost shared between the Province and the Region on an 80/20 basis.

Carried.

208. Third Quarterly Report
Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 80-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Third Quarterly Report, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CSC 95.)

209. Ontario Municipal Social Services Association's (OMSSA)
Transforming Ontario Works to a Labour Force
Development Program Update

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 81-2004, November 22, 2004, respecting Ontario Municipal Social Services Association's (OMSSA) Transforming Ontario Works to a Labour Force Development Program Update, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

210. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Communication CSC 6-2004, being a memorandum from Brian Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (November 25, 2004) regarding Drug Coverage, be received.

Carried.

ORAL REPORTS

211. Future Directions for Legislation Governing Long-Term Care Homes

Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services, provided an oral report on the provincial government's intent to introduce new legislation "Long Term Care Homes Act" in 2005 which will incorporate three separate pieces of legislation currently governing long term care homes. The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced the release of their discussion paper, Future Directions for Legislation Governing Long-Term Care Homes, regarding this new legislation. This document is being distributed to residents, families, staff, volunteers and Councillors to receive optimal input on this important initiative. Committee was asked if they would like to provide input into this document, individually or as part of the Committee. Committee suggested that input be submitted by the Family Advisory Council who could better respond to the survey and by the Ontario Association of Non-profit Homes and Services for Seniors.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the oral report by Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services, regarding Future Directions for Legislation Governing Long-Term Care Homes, be received; and

That staff facilitate the completion of the survey involving the associations discussed and present a report to Committee for information.

Carried.

212. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Website for Information on Long Term Care Homes

Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services, provided an oral report on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Website for information on Long-Term Care Homes. The new website launched on November 17, 2004, contains basic information on each Long-Term Care Home in Ontario, and information on respective unmet standards and verified complaints. The Commissioner expressed some of the concerns related to website information as follows:

- Lacks context for an average consumer, as there is no explanation of the nature of "unmet standards" and "verified complaints".
- Will not be frequently updated
- Is not based on objective standards, as compliance system is too open to interpretation, making comparisons difficult.

Region of Niagara Homes have capitalized on the opportunity provided by the Ministry to provide links from the Ministry website to the Region of Niagara website, and directly to the websites of each Niagara Home.

These websites offer additional information to assist prospective applicants or their family members to assess Niagara's Homes.

Staff will continue to monitor changes in the Long-term Care Homes system, and apprise Committee and Council of developments, and the status of Niagara Regional Niagara s Homes relative to these developments.

213. Publicity Regarding Resident Aggression in Long-Term Care Homes

Mr. Ventresca provided an oral report on Globe & Mail articles regarding violence among residents living in Long-Term Care Homes, including a focus on 14 homicides in Ontario since 1988. He commented that these articles, including lead editorial advocating for provincial government action for assessment, monitoring and specialization of care to prevent harm to the approximately 300,000 seniors living in Long-Term Homes, are available to Councillors upon request. It is estimated that 75% of residents admitted to Long-Term Care Homes have some degree of cognitive impairment or other mental health challenges. Level of staff training and levels of staffing remain challenges across Canada, with significant challenges in Ontario.

Staff have prepared reports to committee and Council on challenges in meeting increasing care requirements in Niagara's Long-Term Care Homes, and are currently preparing a report on care requirements, as directed by Committee. Niagara's Long-Term Care Homes have taken various initiatives to help address the growing need for dementia care and behavioural care (e.g. dementia care credentials for nursing staff, and the development of a dementia care continuum of community and facility services, including the in-home Respite Companion Program and the Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care).

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the oral reports from Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services Department, on "Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Website for Information on Long-Term Care Homes" and "Publicity Regarding Resident Aggression in Long-Term Care Homes" be received for information.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Katzman declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the Dr. Fingland Child Care Centre and matters related to school boards, as she is employed by the Niagara District School Board, and she therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

214. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

215. Dr. Fingland Child Care Centre
City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 82-2004, November 22, 2004 (PWA 204-2004, November 23, 2004/CSD 160-2004, November 24, 2004) respecting Dr. Fingland Child Care Centre City of Niagara Falls, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved and referred to Council for decision.

Carried.

216. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a breakdown by municipalities for the Caseload Profile Analysis Chart for future reports. (Refer to minute 208.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:35 p.m. to meet again on Monday, December 6, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk
/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy