

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 10-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on May 30, 2005, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Mastroianni.

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

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Mr. Batholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Crawley, Program Support Worker in Home Child Care; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Mako, Supervisor, Children's Program; Ms. Martin, Supervisor, St. Catharines Child Care Centre; Ms. Schiffel, Education and Quality Improvement Manager; Ms. Vidler, Business Partner, Strategic Communications.

Others: Councillor Timms.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### **89. Community Services Strategic Plan**

Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner, Community Services, provided a slide presentation on the features of the Community Services Strategic Plan. He advised that the plan aligns with Council's Business Plan and is drawn from the department's vision, mission and values, as well as being responsive to the needs of the Niagara community. The plan incorporates input from the management team, representative staff and community stakeholders. Mr. Ventresca highlighted the following four directions and accompanying objectives: Enhance the development and satisfaction of staff and volunteers; Strengthen effectiveness and efficiency of services; Enhance supports/services to optimize citizen potential and Promote the value of human services. Mr. Ventresca commented that this document has been prepared in a manner to provide for an annual refresh of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan also serves to provide

common annual performance objectives for managers and staff from all service areas of the department.

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 48-2005, May 30, 2005, respecting Community Services Strategic Plan, be received for information.

Carried.

Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair, on behalf of Committee, commended staff for the excellent and comprehensive Strategic Plan document.

90. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report  
First Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2005

Tom Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services, together with Jenny Schiffli, Education and Quality Improvement Manager, highlighted the Quality Improvement projects implemented to meet and exceed Ministry of Health Long-Term Care Compliance Reviews and the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation recommendations. Also provided for information, as requested by Committee, was a table of quarterly data on the year to date data on staff to resident abuse and comparison to previous year. These projects reflect Seniors Services endeavours to improve service to clients and their families and to improve the cost effectiveness of services.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 49-2005, May 30, 2005, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report First Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2005, be received for information.

Carried.

Mr. Hunter also provided a slide presentation on the Woodlands of Sunset, highlighting the lovely amenities of the Home.

91. 2004 Service Contract with Ministry of  
Community and Social Services for  
Homelessness Programs

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, advised that the purpose of Report COM 50-2005 is to obtain approval for a

Ministry of Community and Social Services 2004 Service Contract for the following programs: Supports to Daily Living; Provincial Homelessness Initiative Fund; Community Partners Program and Energy Emergency Fund.

Committee members expressed the need for the Province to continue its Energy Emergency Fund on an annualized basis and recommended staff prepare a resolution to this effect for consideration at the next Council meeting on June 9, 2005.

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 50-2005, May 30, 2005, respecting 2004 Service Contract with Ministry of Community and Social Services for Homelessness Programs be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2004 Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services regarding the delivery of services and programs through the Supports to Daily Living, Provincial Homelessness Initiative Fund, Community Partners Program and Energy Emergency Fund (100% Provincial subsidy = \$573,230).

That staff prepare a resolution to the Province of Ontario requesting the continuance of the Energy Emergency Fund on an annualized basis.

Carried.

92. Best Start Network – Progress in Niagara Region

Mr. Ventresca introduced Margaret Andrewes, Art Wing, Barb Sockovie and Eleanor Dolan, members of the Best Start Task Force.

Pat Heidebrecht, Director and Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Manager, Children's Services, provided an overview of the work undertaken to date by the Community Services Department with respect to the Provincial Best Start Initiative. Best Start is a 10 to 15 year strategy designed to give Ontario's children and youth the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. Its goal is the integration of programs and services across Ministries, in particular the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Education, to better serve children and families. Ms. Heidebrecht highlighted the two Phases of the initiative for 2005 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020. Mr. Bartholomew-Saunders apprised Committee on the progress on the formation of the Niagara Best Start Network noting the proposed organizational structure that places a "community council" at the heart of the network, surrounded by existing sector-based "expert" groups and community focused hubs.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 52-2005, May 30, 2005, respecting Best Start Network – Progress in Niagara Region, be received for information.

Carried.

93. Directly Operated Child Care Centres and Home Child Care Program 2004 Year End Report

Mr. Marty Mako, Supervisor, Children's Programs, provided an overview of the directly operated child care centres and the licensed home child care program for 2004. He introduced Rosemary Martin, Supervisor, St. Catharines Child Care Centre and Joanne Crawley, Program Support Worker in Home Child Care. Mr. Mako apprised Committee of the Region's community partnerships and initiatives as well as the challenges facing the directly operated child care centres and the home child care program in 2005 and beyond.

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 51-2005, May 30, 2005, respecting Directly Operated Child Care Centres and Home Child Care Program 2004 Year End Report, be received for information.

Carried.

**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

94. Closure of Capital Projects

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report CSD 64-2005, May 11, 2005 respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received for information.

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

95. National Access Week

Councillor Hildreth advised that this was National Access Week and the March of Dimes, "Breaking the Barrier" Awards were taking place Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, June 20, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Anne Hepplewhite  
Acting Regional Clerk