

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 5-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on February 21, 2005, commencing at 12:30 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Angelone; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Goulbourne; Harry; Trombetta.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Biscaro, Acting Director, Population Health; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Gallant, Coordinator, Healthy Living Niagara; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease and Prevention; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Swanson, Manager, Reproductive Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

36. Mandatory Program Compliance – Child Health

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report PHD 12-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Mandatory Program Compliance – Child Health, be received by the Board of Health for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff directions on page PHSC 19.)

37. 2004 Mandatory Program Compliance – Reproductive Health

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 15-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting 2004 Mandatory Program Compliance – Reproductive Health, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 19.)

38. Healthy Living Niagara Receives Grant for Physical Activity

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report PHD 13-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Healthy Living Niagara Receives Grant for Physical Activity, be received for information.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the Public Health Services Committee support the motion of Council to review the communications strategy as it pertains to providing information through the media (ie. Region of Niagara Community Services Page).

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

39. Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Trombetta

That the following communications be received:

PHSC 6-2005      Resolution from the Timiskaming Health Unit recommending that the government of Ontario retain the provincial alcohol monopoly with its stringent regulations and commitment to social responsibility with the intention of minimizing alcohol-related risks.

- PHSC 7-2005 Resolution from the Timiskaming Health Unit requesting that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care consult with local public health units to develop an action plan to implement Justice Haines' recommendations as they pertain to strengthening the roles of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Boards of Health in the food safety system.
- PHSC 8-2005 Resolution from the Timiskaming Health Unit urging the Honourable G. Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, to act quickly to ensure that the capacity to carry out the essential HIU functions in support of northern public health practice be preserved.
- PHSC 9-2005 William Pettingill, Chair, Board of Health, regarding its resolution requesting that the province require mandatory annual vaccination against influenza for all health care workers in Ontario through legislation, and that copies of that correspondence be forwarded to all Ontario Boards of Health.
- PHSC 10-2005 Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health, regarding its resolution regarding "Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment".
- PHSC 11-2005 Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, regarding the Grey Bruce Health Unit resolution regarding "Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment".
- PHSC 12-2005 Geoff Kettel, Senior Manager, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, regarding 2003 and 2004 Board of Health Budgets and Budget Per Capita.

Carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

40. **Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINS)**

Chair Partington apprised Committee of a meeting he attended with Kim Craitor, M.P.P. and Jim Bradley, M.P.P., together with Councillor Baty, to discuss Council's request for a Niagara LHIN. The Chair also reiterated

Council's position that Niagara be considered for a LHIN when the proposed regional cancer centre becomes operational. Another issue of concern discussed was, that with the imminent demise of the District Health Council, there may be expectations/requirements that public health departments respond to the type of planning or analysis issues that the District Health Councils have previously had the mandate and resources to address, and that Niagara needed to be watchful that this doesn't become another unfunded mandate laid upon the public health department.

The Regional Chair also advised that they requested the M.P.P.s assistance in setting up a meeting with Minister Smitherman to discuss a Niagara LHIN.

A discussion ensued on whether meetings should be held with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the other Boards of Health within the proposed LHIN structure to discuss concerns, deficiencies and effects of the new program.

Committee concluded that it stands firm on its request for a Niagara LHIN and that the Regional Chair pursue the meeting with Minister Smitherman.

41. Tobacco Program – Update on Grant Approvals

Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease and Prevention, provided an update on the Ministry of Health's approval of grant requests for a total amount of \$665,000 for this year (100% Provincially funded). These funds will be allocated for Tobacco Control; Worksite Programs on Cessation; Cessation Programs for Seniors (55-70); and the Youth Action Alliance. A further comprehensive report will be presented to Committee on these grants.

42. 2003 and 2004 Board of Health Budgets and Budget Per Capital

Dr. Williams referred to Communication PHSC 12-2005 and the 2003 and 2004 Board of Health Budgets and Per Capita Summary Chart. She commented that Niagara has reduced its \$ per capital in 2004 over 2003 to \$42.67 which is lower than the Provincial average. Dr. Williams commented that this information supports the good decisions of Council during the budget process.

**STAFF DIRECTIONS**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a breakdown of fiscal implications related to the Child Health Mandatory Program. (Refer to minute 36.)
- (ii) Provide a copy of the Province's "high-risk families" Parkyn screening tool. (Refer to minute 36.)
- (iii) Provide a breakdown of fiscal implications related to Reproductive Health Program. (refer to minute 37.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 1:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, March 7, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk/  
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy