

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 11-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on July 11, 2005, commencing at 12:35 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Angelone; Casselman; Harry.

Staff: Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Ms. Bakker, Public Health Nurse; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Population Health; Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Property & Facility Management; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Coppola, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Mr. Laflamme, Manager, Institutions & Rabies; Ms. Morris, Public Health Inspector; Ms. Rix, Manager, Tobacco Use Prevention Program; Ms. Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching; Mr. Roberts, Associate Director, EMS Paramedic Service; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion.

Others: Dr. Lisa Simon and Dr. Yasmine Hussain, Residents, McMaster Community Medicine Residency Program

#### **QUORUM**

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to five members, pursuant to Part 11, Section 11.7 of the Procedural By-law 7174-93.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

115. McMaster Community Medicine Residency Program  
Dr. Sider introduced Doctors Lisa Simon and Yasmine Hussain, first year residents of the McMaster Community Medicine Residency Program.

*A quorum was present at 12:50 p.m.*

## **PRESENTATION**

- 116 Pandemic Planning  
Heather Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease, provided an overview of the Public Health Department's Pandemic Influenza Planning initiative. She advised that the role of the department is to provide direction, guidance and support to community health care partners with their pandemic planning initiatives. Its goals are to minimize serious illness and overall deaths through appropriate management of Niagara's health care system and to minimize societal disruption in Niagara as a result of an influenza pandemic. Ms. Hague advised that each level of government has different roles but plans must be coordinated and the local plan will be consistent with the Ontario Health Pandemic Influenza Plan and the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan. Ms. Hague outlined the planning assumptions and planning structure developed for completion of the plan. A chart describing the Epidemic/Pandemic incident management structure was presented. Ms. Hague also outlined municipal roles and responsibilities. The Pandemic Influenza Steering Committee will meet on July 12, 2005, to establish project aim and objectives, objectives for each subcommittee and membership for each subcommittee. A stakeholders meeting will be held in September/October and a mass immunization draft plan is anticipated for October.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

117. Food Safety Program  
Bjorn Christensen, Director, and Doug Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion, provided an overview of the Food Safety Program for Niagara, highlighting the various food safety inspection activities and proposed quality assurance initiatives.

Kym Morris, Public Health Inspector, presented a demonstration of the Hedgehog computer system which allows for instant access to restaurant inspection records, safe water activities, complaint tracking and rabies investigations.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 41-2005, July 11, 2005, respecting Food Safety Program, be received for information; and

That the report be circulated to area municipalities.

Carried.

118. Artificial Tanning Use in Regional Niagara

Ruth Bakker, Public Health Nurse and Diane Coppola, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, provided highlights of new information released by the World Health Organization, Health Canada and the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System that re-emphasizes the need to explore what actions may be taken to restrict the use of artificial tanning equipment. A comparison of artificial tanning usage rates in seven Ontario communities shows Niagara has the highest rate of usage by respondents aged 18 to 34. Staff is recommending that the provincial government pass legislation to regulate the behaviours of tanning salon owners, operators and users including banning tanning for those under 18 years of age.

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 42-2005, July 11, 2005, respecting Artificial Tanning Use in Regional Niagara, be received for information; and

That Regional Council send a letter to the provincial government urging that they pass legislation to regulate the behaviours of tanning salon owners, operators and users of artificial tanning salons including banning tanning for those under 18 years of age.

Carried.

119. Annual Tobacco Enforcement Report

Linda Rix provided highlights of the Annual Tobacco Enforcement Report, noting that over the past few years, increased non-compliance with respect to retailers selling tobacco products to youth has occurred. In response to this, Ms. Rix advised that the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has reviewed its enforcement strategies and has issued more stringent guidelines for enforcement. A chart detailing Niagara Vendor Compliance Results for the period 2000 to 2004 was presented.

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 43-2005, July 11, 2005, respecting Annual Tobacco Enforcement Report, be received for information.

Carried.

120. Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT)  
2005/06 Service Description Schedule and  
2005/06 Annual Fiscal Budget

Lynne Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program, advised that the Service Description Schedule and Budget for the 2005/2006 I.E.P.T. Program has been developed for submission to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in accordance with annual Ministry requirements.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 46-2005, July 11, 2005, respecting Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT): 2005/06 Service Description Schedule and 2005/06 Annual Fiscal Budget, be received.

Carried.

121. Resolution  
Co-payment Invoicing and Revenue Collection  
Land Ambulance Service

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

WHEREAS the City of Toronto is seeking approval from the Ontario Provincial Government to collect the ambulance co-payment fee of forty-five dollars (\$45); and

WHEREAS the Corporation of the County of Huron has solicited support from all Upper Tier Municipalities to support the actions of the City of Toronto to seek a change to the invoicing to UTMs providing ambulance service; and

WHEREAS approximately 30,000 patients per year have been transported by Niagara Region's Land Ambulance Service, and were subsequently billed a co-payment fee by designated hospitals as indicated in the Health Insurance Act; and

WHEREAS the Region of Niagara receives no portion of the current co-payment fee of forty-five dollars (\$45) despite providing the land ambulance service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Niagara support the actions of the City of Toronto and further request that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care alter the existing co-payment structure to allow co-payment invoicing and revenue collection by the UTM's providing land ambulance service; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to UTM municipalities and counties providing land ambulance service; and

Circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for support.

Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

122. Moved by Regional Chair Partington  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Communication PHSC 44-2005 from Linda Jeffrey, MPP (Brampton Centre) (May 24, 2005) to Regional Chair Partington requesting Regional Council's support for Bill 141, The Home Fire Sprinkler Act, 2004, be received.

Carried.

123. Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Communication PHSC 45-2005 from Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health (June 22, 2005) requesting all Boards of Health lobby on their behalf to urge the Government of Ontario to develop a provincial strategy to ensure implementation of the 2004 Chief Medical Officer of Health Report "Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives", be received.

Carried.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### 124. Obesity Prevention

A draft letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin, as developed by the Leadership Roundtable on Obesity Prevention, regarding National initiatives related to healthier Canadians through recreation, physical activity and sport, was circulated for Committee's review and support.

Following review of the draft letter, it was:

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Regional Chair Partington forward the letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin advising of Regional Council's support of the National initiatives to improve the lives and the health of Canadians.

Carried.

### 125. Regional Strategy on Air Quality

Dr. Sider advised that invitations will be sent out to Municipal Mayors and CAOs, Directors of Education, Police Services Board Chair and Chief of Police, as well as to Regional Chair Peter Partington, CMT Members, Mike Trojan, CAO and Lora Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing, regarding a Region-wide Air Quality Protection meeting. As a result of discussions and direction from Regional Council at its June 30, 2005 meeting, the Public Health Department is inviting senior staff and Council/Board members to a meeting on air quality protection and promotion measures that can be instituted across the public sector. The meeting will take place on Monday, July 18, 2005 from 1:00 – 4:30 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Schmon Parkway. Dr. Sider advised that the Smog Alert Response Plan is located on the Region's website [www.regional.niagara.on.ca](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca).

### 126. Township of Wainfleet – Smog Alert Plan

Councillor Harry apprised Committee of the Township of Wainfleet's Smog Alert Plan that was set up last year in response to the Public Health Department's efforts in 2004 to promote a region-wide air quality initiative. Councillor Harry thanked Dr. Sider and staff of the Public Health Department for their assistance to the Township on this initiative.

127. User Fees – Wading Pools

Councillor Casselman expressed her concerns on user fees applied to St. Catharines wading pools as a result of new Provincial guidelines and requested clarification on why user fees were implemented. A report will be prepared for Committee on this matter.

128. Defibrillator – Regional Headquarters

Councillor Angelone inquired as to why a defibrillator has not yet been installed at Regional Headquarters. Dr. Sider advised he would follow up on this matter with the Human Resources Department and report back.

**CLOSED SESSION.**

129. Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

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

Carried.

130. Update on Hanover Drive Move

Marilyn St. John, Director, Clinical Services, provided an update on the Public Health Department's move to Hanover Drive.

131. Ontario Street Ambulance Station  
Transfer from Niagara Health System  
City of St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 44-2005, July 11, 2005 (PWA 135-2005, July 12, 2005/CSD 103-2005, July 13, 2005) respecting Ontario Street Ambulance Station Transfer from Niagara Health System, city of St. Catharines, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

132. Smithville Ambulance Station  
Township of West Lincoln

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 45-2005, July 11, 2005 (PWA 137-2005, July 12, 2005/CSD 104-2005, July 13, 2005) respecting Smithville Ambulance Station, Township of West Lincoln, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

133. Personnel Issue

Regional Chair Partington declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to a personnel issue as it involves a member of his family and he therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources, provided information regarding a personnel issue.

134. Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 2:20 p.m. to meet again on Monday, August 8, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk