

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 15-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on October 3, 2005, commencing at 12:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Angelone; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Harry; Redekop.

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

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Bell, Manager, Healthy Babies, Parent-Child; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Population Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Loewen, Acting Director, Clinical Services; Mr. McQueen, Manager, Emergency Services; Ms. Roach, Manager, IEPT Program; Karen Seliske, R.N., IBCLC, Public Health Nurse, Healthy, Babies/Parent Child

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

166. Infant Education and Parent Teaching (IEPT) Program
2004/2005 Annual Report

Ms. Roach, Manager, IEPT Program, provided an overview of the Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program 2004/05 Annual Report, outlining the activities and accomplishments of the program. Ms. Roach also distributed and highlighted some of the literature and information provided to families to assist in early childhood development.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 56-2005, October 3, 2005, respecting Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program Annual Report 2004/2005, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 83.)

167. Population Health Division
Parent-Child Program/Breastfeeding Initiatives

Kathy Bell, Program Manager, Health Babies, Parent-Child and Karen Seliske R.N., B.Sc.N., Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant, Public Health Nurse, Healthy, Babies/Parent Child, highlighted the delivery of service and initiatives undertaken by the Parent-Child Breastfeeding Committee. Also presented, were the mandatory health programs and services guidelines that clearly define the Board of Health's role in the promotion and support of breastfeeding. Committee was advised that the first week of October is designated World Breastfeeding Week and that a media campaign "Breastfeeding and Family Foods: Loving and Healthy" has been developed to increase public awareness and promote best breastfeeding practices.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 57-2005, October 3, 2005, respecting the delivery of service and initiatives undertaken by the Parent-Child Breastfeeding Committee, be received for information.

Carried.

168. Health Bus Service: Winter 2005-2006 Schedule Change

Ms. Loewen, Acting Director, Clinical Services, apprised Committee of the Health Bus Winter 2005/2006 service locations and highlighted the schedule changes as they pertain to the lack of demand for service in Grimsby and the decline in client usage for Thorold.

Moved by Councillor Brock
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 58-2005, October 3, 2005, respecting Health Bus Service: Winter 2005 – 2006 Schedule Change, be received; and

That for the reasons outlined in this report, the schedule be approved.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

169. Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
New Divisional Management Structure
Information was provided from Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, regarding the Ministry's new divisional management structure and its branch mandates and key responsibilities. Committee was advised that a meeting was to take place this evening at 5:30 p.m. in C.R. 4 with Minister Jim Watson, Health Promotion and Recreation, to discuss Region wide strategies and programs (e.g. obesity strategy). In response to the question of whether any decision has been made with respect to governance of Boards of Health, Dr. Sider advised that while he does not know if this information is forthcoming, an interim report should be available the third week of October which should provide clarification as to the focus of the Capacity Review. He commented that he has been advised that there will still be many opportunities for stakeholder consultations.
170. Region Niagara Council Business Planning: Spotlight on Public Health
Councillor Timms made reference to a paper prepared by Dr. Linda Pickard with respect to the purpose, goals and general design of the business planning meeting scheduled for October 20, 2005. He asked that Councillors review this information and provide any comments to him or Dr. Sider.
171. alPHa Conference
Councillor Timms reminded Councillors of the alPHa Conference taking place on November 22 and 23, 2005, noting that attendance by Board of Health members at any conferences/workshops, is taken into consideration during the Accreditation Process.
172. Meals on Wheels
Councillor Brock expressed her concerns with respect to the "Meals on Wheels" Program being discontinued in two weeks time and the impact on residents, most specifically seniors. This program is being discontinued due to the lack of Ministry funding and she asked that this issue be brought to the attention of the Region's Community Services Committee for further information on the impact of this program loss.
(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 83.)

173. Gypsum Weed

Councillor Brock also expressed her concerns on reports that there is a growing interest by youths to consume “Gypsum Weed” which, while not an illegal drug, is proving to be deadly. She asked that the Public Health Department look into this matter to determine how they can get the message out to youths that this drug can kill.

174. Respiratory Illness – Nursing Home

Councillor Casselman requested information on the nursing home outbreak in Toronto as to the cause and what systems are in place to prevent the spread of such an illness. Dr. Sider informed Committee that they did not yet know the cause of the outbreak but that systems in place in all health facilities screen for and institute appropriate infection control measures in the face of patients with Febrile Respiratory Illnesses, which help to prevent/limit spread of infections to other patients and health care staff.

CLOSED SESSION

175. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Baty

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

Carried.

176. Niagara Ambulance Communication Service (NACS) and
Niagara Emergency Medical Service (NEMS): Three Month Update

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 59-2005, October 3, 2005, October 3, 2005, respecting Niagara Ambulance Communication Service (NACS) and Niagara Emergency Medical Service (NEMS): Three Month Update, be received for information and

That a further report be prepared on the review of land ambulance services (i.e. those parts of the report not covered by the Ambulance Dispatch contract confidentiality restrictions).

Carried.

177. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Include in the next report, with respect to Program Activities, a category showing the percentage of children per population and provide financial implications with respect to gross/net for indirect program costs (Refer to minute 166).
- (ii) Prepare a report to the Community Services Committee regarding the impact on residents of Niagara due to the loss of the "Wheels on Meals" program. (Refer to minute 172).

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 2:45 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 24 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk