

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-2007

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Collins; Henderson; Katzman; Marshall; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Edgar, Manager, Children's Services; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Murphy, Accessibility Advisory Committee Staff Liaison; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Public Health Dept.: Ms. Biscaro, Director, Family Health Division; Mr. Carey, Manager, Environmental Health; Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Ms. Loewen, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Mr. Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program; Ms. St. John, Chief Nursing Officer/Director, Clinical Services; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.

Staff -Others: Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Nicol, Commissioner, Human Resources; Ms. Pilon, Deputy Regional Clerk; Ms. Rae, Legal Counsel.

Others: Diane Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator; Rhonda Thompson, Coordinator of the StreetWorks Program, AIDS Niagara.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

199. Ontarians with Disabilities Act/Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
COM 42-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 42-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting Ontarians with Disabilities Act/Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, be received; and

That the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2007-2008 Accessibility Plan be approved.

Carried.

200. Income Replacement and
Employment Supports System
COM 43-2007

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 43-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting Income Replacement and Employment Supports System, be received; and

That the Regional Chair send a letter to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada urging a review and restructuring of eligibility requirements for Employment Insurance (EI) in order to decrease the burden on the provincial and municipal governments.

Carried.

201. New Purchase of Service Agreements with Seven
C's Christian Child Care and Crystal Beach Child Care
COM 44-2007

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 44-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting New Purchase of Service Agreements with Seven C's Christian Child Care and Crystal Beach Child Care, be received; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into Purchase of Service agreements with Seven C's Christian Child Care and Crystal Beach Child Care.

Carried.

202. Food Safety Report
PHD 54-2007

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 54-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting Food Safety Report, be received for information; and

That the Regional Chair be authorized to write to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-term Care requesting that the Ontario Food Premises Regulation be amended to require mandatory food safety certification for all persons employed in the preparation and service of food to the public.

Carried.

203. Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS)
PHD 57-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 57-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting Playground Activity Leaders in Schools (PALS), be received; and

That a letter of celebration be sent to each of the Board Chairs of the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board, emphasizing the importance of, and supporting the implementation of, the PALS program in elementary schools, as a demonstrated initiative in support of TREKZONE.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR DEBATE

204. Amendments to Procedural By-law No. 120-2005 – Updated
CSD 142-2007

And

Memorandum from Mary C. Rae, Legal Counsel (September 12, 2007)

Re: Amendments to Procedural By-law

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report CSD 142-2007, August 28 & 29, 2007, respecting Amendments to Procedural By-law No. 120-2005 – Updated, be received.

That the Procedural By-law No. 120-2005 be repealed and replaced with the by-law attached as Appendix 1 and more particularly described in this report **and as clarified by the September 12, 2007 memorandum from legal counsel**; and.

That Policy C2.C01 respecting Confirming By-laws be repealed.

Carried.

(Please note that Report CSD 142-2007 can be found behind the CSC Blue Book Tab)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

205. 2006 Year-End Report
Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities
COM 45-2007

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 45-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting 2006 Year-end Report Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, be received for information.

Carried.

206. StreetWorks Program – Status Report 2006
PHD 35-2007

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 35-2007, September 18, 2007, respecting StreetWorks Program – Status Report 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

207. Report 5-2007

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report 5-2007 being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of July 3, 2007, be received.

Carried.

208. Report 6-2007

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report 6-2007 being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of August 14, 2007, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

209. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 30-2007 Madeleine Meilleur, Minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services (August 16, 2007) in response to the letter sent by the Regional Chair regarding COM 22-2007 (Nutritious Food Basket 2006 Survey Results) and social assistance in Ontario.

PHSS 31-2007 Jim Bradley, M.P.P., St. Catharines (August 28, 2007) regarding the McGuinty government's "Aging at Home Strategy" that will be LHIN led and reflect local cultural diversity.

(See staff directions.)

PHSS 32-2007 Daryl Vaillancourt, Chairperson, Finance & Property Committee, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District (September 4, 2007) to The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Ministry of Children and Youth Services regarding the financial pressures and the service delivery of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

210. Update - Legal Matter
Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, apprised Committee of the trial that took place on Friday, September 14, 2007. Mr. Pat Spano was found guilty of uttering death threats against Dr. Sider and received 12 months probation with a number of other conditions applied against him.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That the oral report from Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, regarding a legal matter was received.

Carried.

211. Update – Roehampton Fire

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services Department, provided an update on the Roehampton fire. A tenants meeting was held on Thursday, September 13th that included Niagara Regional Housing, Community Services, Salvation Army, Community Care and the St. Catharines Fire Department. The main concern expressed was for belongings that will be difficult to replace (immigration papers, etc.).

Tenants who paid their rent were reimbursed the prorated amount for September (from the 1st to the 7th). On Friday, September 14th, Niagara Regional Housing began offers to the families for housing elsewhere. 17 out of the 35 families at Moonstone have accepted housing for October 1st. One household is still pending. Placements are within St. Catharines but also across Niagara where vacancies exist. Current daily cost is approximately \$42 per person for shelter and food. This can be cost shared up to \$39.95 with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Costs beyond the \$39.95 will be tallied and Community Services will look to the province for additional financial assistance.

The Region may also be required to reimburse Red Cross for extraordinary expenses.

Approximately 60 people have been accommodated in hotels. Of the 35 units in Building B, 15 were OW/ODSP families.

Mr. Hutchings advised that they will continue to receive daily updates from NRH and Community agencies regarding placement of families and their ongoing needs.

Committee commended the staff of the Community Services Department for their efforts and ability in dealing with this urgent matter.

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the Oral Report from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services Department, regarding the Roehampton fire, be received.

Carried.

212. Access to Regional Headquarters Building

Councillor Collins advised that there will be several automated doors installed and operating in the Campbell East building. This is a result of the Region's efforts to ensure suitable access to all departments within its building for those with accessibility problems.

CLOSED SESSION

213. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

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

Carried.

214. Memorandum from Michael Kyne
Re: Confidential Information
Confidential

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the confidential memorandum from Michael Kyne, Director, Legal Services, regarding confidential Information, be received.

Carried.

215. A Matter of Labour Relations –
Children’s Services Full-Time Equivalent Staff Changes
COM 46-2007 (HR 29-2007)

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Confidential Report HR 29-2007, September 19, 2007 (COM 46-2007, September 18, 2007), respecting A Matter of Labour Relations – Children’s Services Full-time Equivalent Staff Changes, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

216. Public Health Department Legal Issues

Dr. Sider provided an update on various Public Health Department Legal Issues.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the Oral Report from Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health on Public Health Department Legal issues, be received.

Carried.

217. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide a comparison of LHIN's funding for Niagara with other Regions in 905 area. (Refer to minute 209.)
- (ii) Establish a communication link with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN. (Refer to minute 209.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk