

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2007

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, February 20, 2007 at 1:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Public Health Dept.: Mr. Bertleff, Program Manager, Emergency Management; Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. DeCou, Medical Epidemiologist; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Public Health; Ms. Morris, Manager, Youth Connection Elementary Program; Ms. Peacefull, Community Development Manager; Ms. St. John, Chief Nursing Officer; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Acting Training Supervisor, E.M.S.; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion;

Others: Mr. Macklem, Coordinator, Properties.

OTHER BUSINESS

27. Update in Explosion at Clean Harbors Canada Inc.
Chemical Recycling Plant in South Thorold (Port Robinson)

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the explosion that took place on Monday, February 19, 2007 at a chemical recycling plant. He advised that the fire is still smouldering in several areas but greatly reduced. Dr. Sider advised that the Thorold Fire Chief made the right decision in ordering an evacuation of every building within a two kilometre radius of the explosion. The evacuation remained in effect while the Ministry of Environment (MOE) used specialized equipment to analyze the air quality. Dr. Sider noted there were concerns about unknown chemicals that could have been present in the chemicals dispersed in the plume. The tests revealed slight elevations in

some chemical parameters but those levels were well below MOE standards. Dr. Sider advised the health department is working with the MOE to determine what materials may have been deposited from the fire and where. He commented that the department will continue to meet with the MOE, Fire and Police Departments and other organizations on this incident and that the MOE will be providing a complete report regarding air quality.

Councillor Timms, Co-Chair, commended Dr. Sider on his proficient handling of this matter on behalf of the Public Health Department.

PRESENTATIONS

28. Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara

Mr. Shafee Bacchus and Ms. Marlene DeRose, Directors, Child Advocacy of Niagara, attended to apprise Committee and Council of its mission and goal. The Child Advocacy of Niagara is dedicated to minimizing trauma to children and families during an abuse investigation. During the first eleven months of 2005 FACS of Niagara investigated 389 cases of abuse in the Niagara Region. 307 of these included physical harm and sexual abuse. Committee was advised that the Child Advocacy Centre will be a single place where a comprehensive multi-disciplinary team can investigate allegations of physical or sexual abuse of children. The professional services provided at the Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara will minimize the trauma of its child victims and their families. The multi-disciplinary investigative team includes the following members:

- A Niagara Regional Police Child Abuse Officer
- A Family and Children's Services Child Protection Worker
- A Medical Doctor and Nurse
- A Mental Health Professional
- An Executive Director

It is expected that the Centre will provide enhanced treatment outcomes for the child victim through increased flow of information, cross-training and decreased contact with the child victim. There is also an improved likelihood of a successful prosecution of the offender. The U.S.A.'s experiences and successes were highlighted.

Committee was advised that a property was purchased for the Centre at 8 Forster Street in St. Catharines. It was determined that given its location to the highway and the courthouse, it was the most suitable site. The Capital costs for the purchase of the property, its renovations and furnishings is \$750,000. Committee was advised that several organizations have been approached for "ask amounts" of approximately \$300,000. The presenters advised that they have visited area municipalities to make them aware of the Centre and have asked municipalities to consider contributing approximately \$1,500 each.

Members of the Board include Councillor Debbie Zimmerman, Campaign Chair; Wendy Southall, Chief of Police, Niagara Regional Services, Honourary Chair and Dr. Robin Williams, a Director on the Board.

Committee was asked to support the Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara (which would be the only centre of its type in Canada) and work together with other municipalities and organizations to build this centre and the multidisciplinary approach to dealing with abuse of children.

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That the presentation regarding the Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara be received and referred to the Corporate Services Committee.

Carried.

(A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.)

29. Report from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) Conference

Councillor Greenwood apprised Committee of her attendance at the aLPHa Conference on February 1st and 2nd, highlighting the various health issues discussed. These included environmental issues related to smoking, air quality control and water quality. Other issues were road safety and obesity.

Councillor Greenwood asked for an outline of the expectations and responsibilities of the Committee members including what their liabilities are as a Committee member. Information also was requested on how the Region's representatives promote public health as a public awareness across the Niagara Region.

The Councillor advised that she has power point presentations from the conference available if anyone would like a copy.

(A copy of Councillor Greenwood's presentation is attached to the minutes.)

Councillor Cordiner was also in attendance at the conference and commented that another priority discussed was the importance of a strong connection between Public Health and Planning for the building of healthy communities.

Councillor Timms, Co-Chair, apprised Committee of the membership of aLPHa, noting that the Board of Health Section, with its own executive, is made up of member of the 36 Boards of Health across the Province. Other "Agencies or Associations" that are members of aLPHa are the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and affiliates, being the professional associations in the Public Health field, including business administrators; Public Health Inspectors; Public Health Dentistry and Nutrition Professionals. He commented that the Association

of Public Health Epidemiologists and Niagara is very ably represented by Mary Lou Decou. Councillor Timms is on this Board as a representative, currently serving as Vice-Chair.

Councillor Timms advised that the Board of alPHa held a strategic planning session on February 1st. The focus was on how best to be an effective lobby for the various associations and agencies that are members of alPHa and to effectively lobby for Public Health as a key service to the population of Ontario.

The Board, he commented, recognizes the strength of AMO as a “Lobby”, noting that the Board of alPHa does not always agree with the AMO position and needs to be accepted by the Public Health Boards, the funding municipalities and the Provincial Ministry as the “Voice” and “Lobby” for Public Health in Ontario. There was a consensus that alPHa needs to be effective and loud in the coming year as the Guidelines and Standards for Public Health are reviewed and re-written, specifically as the Province looks at Capacity Review.

Councillor Timms urged members to review the Orientation Manual produced by alPHa. Their website is www.alphaweb.org.

Committee members were also encouraged to attend the next alPHa conference to be held in Windsor in June.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

30. **Food Safety Disclosure**
PHD 04-2007

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report PHD 04-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Food Safety Disclosure, be received.

That the Health Protection and Promotion Division of the Niagara Region Public Health Department (NRPHD) proceed with a food safety performance disclosure system that

- posts summarized food safety information on the Regional website; and
- posts all convictions for non-compliance with food safety legislation on the Regional website.

Carried.

31. Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee (RNRSC)
Think and Drive Road Safety Campaign Evaluation Report
PHD 05-2007 (PWA 33-2007)

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 05-2007, February 20, 2007 (PWA 33-2007, February 21, 2007), respecting Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee (RNRSC) *Think and Drive* Road Safety Campaign Evaluation Report, be referred to the next Committee meeting of March 13, 2007.

Carried.

32. January 23, 2007 Announcement
Regarding Foster Care Allowances
COM 08-2007

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 08-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting January 23, 2007 Announcement regarding Foster Care Allowances, be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

33. Public Health Department Accreditation – 2006
PHD 01-2007

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 01-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Public health Department Accreditation – 2006, be received for information.

Carried.

34. Social Marketing Summary, January to June 2007
PHD 02-2007

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Collins

That Report PHD 02-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Social Marketing summary, January to June 2007, and attachment be received for information.

Carried.

35. Registered Nurses Association of Ontario & MOHLTC
Nursing Best Practice Guideline Program – Update
PHD 06-2007

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 06-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Registered Nurses Association of Ontario & MOHLTC Nursing Best Practice Guideline Program – Update, be received for information.

Carried.

36. Reporting on the Provincial Transformational Review
And Renewal of the Mandatory Health Programs
And Services Guidelines
PHD 07-2007

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 07-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Reporting on the Provincial Transformational Review and Renewal of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines, be received.

That this Committee inform Regional Council that, as a component of the provincial public health transformation currently under way, the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (MHPSG) are being reviewed by the MOHLTC Technical Review committee, and that there is an opportunity for the Public Health Department (PHD) and members of the Board of Health (BOH) to participate in the consultation process.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR DEBATE

37. Petition to Prohibit the Selling of Toy Guns
COM 07-2007

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 07-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Petition to Prohibit the Selling of Toy Guns, be received for information; and

That the constituent be advised of Council's decision and provided with a copy of this report.

Carried.

38. Employment Innovations Fund Proposal
- Niagara Job Bus Initiative
COM 09-2007

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 09-2007, February 20, 2007, respecting Employment Innovations Fund Proposal – Niagara Job Bus Initiative, be received.

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that upon approval from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement to receive Innovations Funding (100 percent provincially funded) for the Niagara Job Bus Initiative.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 09-2007, respecting Employment Innovations Fund Proposal – Niagara Job Initiative, be referred to the Transportation Steering Committee for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

39. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 2-2007 Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury & District Health Unit (October 24, 2007) to The Honourable Tony Clement respecting TransFat Task Force Recommendations: TRANSforming the Food Supply, June 2006.

PHSS 3-2007 Tony Clement, Minister of Health (November 8, 2006) respecting Trans Fat Task Force.

PHSS 4-2007 John Dunn, Niagara CAER Group Coordinator, regarding Release of Year 2005 Chemical Emission Data to the Public.
(Report available on the Niagara CAER Group Web Site at www.niagaracaer.com)

- PHSS 5-2007 Jim Watson, Minister of Health and Promotion (December 1, 2006) regarding its Smoke-Free Ontario Initiative, advising that Niagara will receive \$222,930 for January 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007 for tobacco control strategies.
- PHSS 6-2007 George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (December 4, 2006) advising Niagara of increased funding for the provision of land ambulance services.
- PHSS 7-2007 George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-term Care (December 19, 2006) regarding one-time funding to the Regional Municipality of Niagara for Level 3 chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) paramedic teams to assist with the maintenance and training of the teams.
- PHSS 9-2007 Dennis Roughley, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Board of Health (January 17, 2007) to the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services, regarding their concerns related to the financial challenges their Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is experiencing.
- PHSS 10-2007 Susan Daniels, Deputy City Clerk, City of Thorold (January 31, 2007) to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, regarding Health Care and Physician Recruitment concerns.
- PHSS 13-2007 Lynn MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Minister (February 6, 2007) respecting funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the Employment Innovations Fund – Niagara Job Bus.

Carried.

40. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Communication PHSS 8-2007 from Graham Pollett, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, regarding COMO Resolution – Pasteurization of Milk, be supported.

Carried.

41. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Communication PHSS 11-2007 from P. Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Sudbury and District Health Unit (November 24, 2007) letter to Mr. John Filion, Chair, Toronto Board of Health, regarding its resolution respecting Reduction of Child Poverty, be received and referred to staff for inclusion in report on Child Poverty.

Carried.

42. Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Communication PHSS 12-2007 from Bill Russell, Chairperson, North Bay Parry South District Board of Health (December 21, 2006) letters to The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion, The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services and The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care regarding its resolution respecting a Three-Year Rolling Forecast Budgeting Process in Support of Recommendation No. 24 of the Capacity Review Committee's Final Report, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

43. Social Marketing Activities (Report PHD 02-2007)
Councillor Forster asked that as the dates are confirmed for the various social marketing activities, as outlined in Report PHD 02-2007, that they be distributed to Councillors.
44. Time of Public Health and Social Services Committee Meeting
Committee members expressed their concerns with the 1:00 p.m. start time for the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting as several members serve on the Waste Management and/or Transportation Steering Committees which meet prior to this meeting. As well, other members expressed difficulty in attending the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and suggested revisiting the 2:00 p.m. start. A poll will be taken of Committee members to determine the best start time.
45. Committee Structure
A discussion ensued on how the new Committee structure was working and concerns were expressed on the inability to complete all the business on the agenda, as well as the number of addendum items. It was concluded that a little more time was required to see how the structure works and that a full review and report be presented at that time.

CLOSED SESSION

46. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

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

Carried.

47. Amendment to Property Lease
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Confidential PHD 09-2007 (PWA 34-2007)

Moved by Councillor Collins
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Confidential Report PHD 09-2007, February 20, 2007 (PWA 34-2007, February 21, 2007) respecting Amendment to Property Lease Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, be deferred for a further report to be presented to the next Committee meeting of March 13, 2007.

Carried.

48. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:10 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on March 13, 2007, (time to be determined).

Bruce Timms
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk