

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 9-2008**

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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, July 15, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Cordiner; Forster; Greenwood, Henderson; Timms.

Other

Councillors: Councillors Augustyn; Smeaton.

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

Staff

Other: Community Services; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.  
Public Health: Mr. Bertleff, Associate Director, Regional Emergency Planning; Ms. Columbus, Manager of School Health (Secondary); Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division; Mr. Hunter, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. McCallum, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Morris, Manager of School Health; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Associate Director, Emergency Services; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.  
Administration: Mr. McQueen, Director, Administrative Services.  
Corporate Services: Mr. Moffatt, Manager, Property Management; Ms. Paterson, Coordinator Properties.

**PRESENTATION**

124. Updates NASK,b! AaaN, Albert the Turtle

Cindy Paskey, Niagara Anaphylaxis Support & Knowledge (NASK) and Debbie Monroe-Fessler, Anaphylaxis asthma allergies Niagara (AaaN) attended to update Committee on their recent activities and their plans to hold an Anaphylaxis Awareness Campaign in the month of September (allergy awareness month in Canada). Ms. Paskey provided a brief description of what anaphylaxis is and the importance of focusing on "prevention first". The

presenter advised that through their various volunteer, non-profit groups and in all areas of their lives, they have been advocating in Niagara, Ontario and beyond to educate and increase awareness of anaphylaxis, commenting that Niagara is one of the most allergy aware communities in Ontario.

Committee was apprised of the Anaphylaxis Awareness Campaign to take place in September with an open invitation to all sectors from Niagara, Fort Erie through to Hamilton/Stoney Creek. Ms. Paskey commented there is strong support from a broad range of community groups, including the media, for this educational forum. The presenters urged Committee to support their request for funding in the amount of \$10,000 to assist them with this Campaign.

Committee suggested staff examine how they can assist them with this forum, through staff support, funding of a lesser amount if possible, communication or other in-kind services.

Following discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the presentation by Cindy Paskey, Niagara Anaphylaxis Support & Knowledge (NASK) and Debbie Monroe-Fessler, Anaphylaxis asthma allergies Niagara (AaaN) regarding Anaphylaxis and the Anaphylaxis Awareness Campaign, be received and referred to staff.

Carried.

125. Ms. Amy Ball  
Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008

Ms. Ball attended to speak to Council's resolution regarding Report PHD 26-2008, Bill 8 and the issue of banning pizza and hot dog days, noting that there was not enough public consultation and participation prior to the passing of this resolution. Ms. Ball commented that she agrees with teaching children about healthy lifestyle choices but that there are foods that can be enjoyed in moderation. The presenter commented that the resolution is well beyond the mandate of the Region's Public Health Unit and that they have not considered the implications on Niagara's communities from this action. Local schools rely heavily on the funds raised from pizza and hot dog days for various activities including school trips, science equipment, and playground equipment. Ms. Ball commented that to remove a key fundraising component would be extremely detrimental to school communities and the children. Ms. Ball also commented that the role of the Niagara Region's Public Health Unit is to educate, not legislate.

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation by Ms. Amy Ball be received and referred for discussion of Report PHD 26-2008 regarding Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008.

Carried.

126. Ms. Melinda Leiden  
Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008

Ms. Melinda Leiden, an eleven year old student residing in Pelham, attended to express her concerns regarding the banning of Pizza Days for the reason that kids are overweight. Ms. Leiden advised that she looks forward to Pizza Days at school as she “loves” pizza and one piece of pizza will not make you overweight and that she is proof of that. Ms. Leiden advised that selling pizza is also a great way to raise money for their school and asked “where will the money come from” if they are forced to stop selling pizza. She also commented that her parents should tell her what to eat, not politicians. Ms. Leiden advised that she circulated a petition to “Save Our Pizza Days” at her school and 519 people have signed the petition. In closing, she commented that the next time she reads about this issue in the newspaper that she hopes the headline reads “MELINDA SAVES PIZZA DAYS!”

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the petition provided by Melinda Leiden, regarding “Save our Pizza Days” be received.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the presentation by Ms. Melinda Leiden regarding the “Banning of Pizza Days” in schools be received and referred for discussion of Report PHD 26-2008 regarding Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008.

Carried.

127. Dr. Jane Nassif  
Pandemic Flu Centres within the Niagara Region

Dr. Jane Nassif, Public Health Department, provided a presentation on Pandemic Flu Centres within the Niagara Region. Dr. Nassif provided background information on the Community site selection based on assumptions, population distribution, geospatial analysis and statistical analysis for 4 or 5 Community Flu Centres.

Assumptions were described:

- Primary Care will have sufficient capacity to address the majority of influenza-infected patients given the appropriate resources and guidelines.
- Period of stress on primary care will likely be within the mid period in the first wave of a Pandemic.
- Antiviral treatments will likely be available to the public at pharmacies, primary care MD's and flu centres.
- Public Health units participate in planning services but will not have lead responsibility.

A chart was provided depicting population distribution for prospective pandemic site locations. A map highlighting driving times of 0-10 minutes; 10-20 minutes and more than 20 minutes for four Community Flu Centre sites was presented. This plan indicates that 59.8% drive 0-10 minutes; 30.4% drive 10-20 minutes and 9.0% drive more than 20 minutes.

A map highlighting driving times of 0-10 minutes; 10-20 minutes and more than 20 minutes for five Community Flu Centre sites was also presented. This plan indicates that 65.3% drive 0-10 minutes; 31.7% drive 10-20 minutes and 3.0% drive more than 20 minutes.

Three maps were presented outlining the distribution of primary care medical doctors (MD's) in Niagara; superimposing pandemic community flu centres onto the previous map; and then superimposing family health teams and community health centres onto the previous map.

Dr. Nassif outlined the role of technology in Pandemic Flu Centres, highlighting electronic patient tracking through pre-registration, triage, waiting room, assessment, pharmacy and discharge and education.

A client distribution diagram for pandemic influenza site locations was also presented to Committee.

The pilot project was presented as follows:

- Introduction of handheld IT technology in school-based immunization clinic

- Streamlined current paper-based model into electronic model with increased efficiencies in the following:
  - Patient throughput
  - Data flow
  - Work flow
  - Reporting & Statistics
- Integration of Work flow:
  - In a user friendly manner
  - With strong IT support for PHD staff

Prospective Applications:

Public Health Department:

- Annual community flu shot clinics
- Mass Immunization Clinic (MIC)  
Eg. Hepatitis A, Meningococcal outbreaks
- HPV Campaign

Pandemic Community-Based Flu Centres:

- Potential technology relevant to both federal and provincial pandemic planning

The benefits of this technology were summarized as follows:

- Standardized Patient Tracking
- Enhances Work Flow
- Decreases Infection Rate
- Facilitates Antiviral Control
- Increases Productivity & Operational Efficiency
- Better Quality of Care
- Increases Accuracy
- Decreases Cost

In closing, Dr. Nassiff commented on the next steps:

- Who will be responsible for community flu centres?
  - Staffing
  - Liability/Compensation
  - Medical Legal Issues

Moved by Councillor Forster

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation by Dr. Jane Nassif regarding Pandemic Flu Centres within the Niagara Region, be received.

Carried.

128. Dr. Val Jaeger  
Pandemic Flu Centres- Physician Participation

Dr. Val Jaeger attended to provide information on the survey taken in the Fall of 2007 by family physicians regarding Pandemic Flu Centres. 239 family physicians were provided the survey to complete and 95 responses were received, approximately a 42% response rate. The aim of the Physician survey was to guide the Niagara Region Public Health Department in its planning process for the establishment of Flu Assessment Sites to determine the availability of physicians; economic considerations; and working condition requirements.

In response to the question "Which statement reflects your willingness to work at a Flu Centre?" the following was received:

- 26% would not work under any conditions
- 48% willing to work given right circumstances
- 26% unsure

The survey on available physician hours indicates:

- 237 regional family physicians
- Assume 60% willing to work (48% plus 48% of the 26% undecided) makes 142
- Allowing for illness absenteeism makes 128
- 8 hours per week per MD gives 1,024 hours

In summary there is optimism regarding the sufficient availability of primary care support. The cost is likely to exceed \$250,000 per week for a two week peak of pandemic. Continued communication and the provision of quality work environment will be an essential and important component to the success of these flu centres.

Dr. Jaeger outlined the possible enablers for the establishment of these centres as; voluntary participation; financial compensation; provision of PPE; provision of prophylactic antivirals; disability and life insurance. The survey indicated that more than 80% of physicians listed the following three parameters as important:

- Voluntary participation
- Adequate financial compensation (OMA rate or higher)
- Provision of personal protective equipment (N95 masks, gloves, eye shields, sanitizers)

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the presentation by Dr. Val Jaeger regarding Pandemic Flu Centres – Physician Participation, be received.

Carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

129. Endorsement and Recommendations for  
Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008  
**PHD 26-2008**

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 26-2008, June 3, 2008, respecting Endorsement and Recommendations for Bill 8, Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008, be received and referred to staff for further clarification on the issues raised at Committee.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

130. 2007 Data Analysis Coordinator Transfer Payment  
Annual Reconciliation (TPAR)  
**PHD 33-2008**

Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 33-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting 2007 Data Analysis Coordinator Transfer Payment Annual Reconciliation (TPAR), be received; and

That the 2007 Transfer Payment Annual Reconciliation (TPAR) for the Data Analysis Coordinator Program be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Board of Health.

Carried.

131. Amendments to By-law 33-2004  
**PHD 35-2008**

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 35-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting Amendments to By-law 33-2004, be received; and

That By-law No. 33-2004 be repealed and replaced with the by-law attached to Report PHD 35-2008 as Appendix 1 and as described in this report.

Carried.

132. Receipt of Aging at Home Funding  
For Advance Practice Nurse  
**COM 38-2008**

**Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report COM 38-2008, Receipt of Aging at Home Funding for Advance Practice Nurse, as she is she is a staff member with the Ontario Nurses Association, and she therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 38-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting Receipt of Aging at Home Funding for Advance Practice Nurse, be received for information;

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any required accountability agreement with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) in order to receive the identified funding for Advance Practice Nurse program and additional staff, as applicable; and

That the additional funding from the LHIN be applied to:

- a) Transition the Advance Practice Nurse program to the Niagara Region's Seniors Services in order to support all 31 long-term care homes in Niagara.
- b) Add 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) of Advance Practice Nurse, as applicable, with the exclusive utilization of HNHB LHIN funding, subject to discussions with the LHIN and the Niagara Health System (NHS).

Carried.

133. 2008 Children's Services Funding Contract  
With Ministry of Community and Social Services  
And the Ministry of Children and Youth Services  
**COM 39-2008**

Moved by Councillor Henderson  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report COM 39-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting 2008 Children's Services Funding Contract with Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2008 Children's Services contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

134. **Personal Services Settings**  
**PHD 34-2008**

Moved by Councillor Greenwood  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 34-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting Personal Services Settings, be received for information.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION** (continued)

135. **Report 3-2008**

Moved by Councillor Henderson  
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report 3-2008 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of Thursday, July 10, 2008, be approved.

Carried.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION** (continued)

136. **Offload Delay Update**  
**PHD 36-2008**

**Conflict of Interest**

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report PHD 36-2008, Offload Delay Update, as she is she is a staff member with the Ontario Nurses Association, and she therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, these matters.

Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 36-2008, July 15, 2008, respecting Offload Delay Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

137. Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following communications be received.

- PHSS 32-2008 Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Board of Health Resolution regarding Smoke Free Cars Legislation
- PHSS 33-2008 Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Board of Health Resolution regarding Back-to-school and winter clothing allowances for children in families on social assistance
- PHSS 34-2008 Letter from Beth Pater, Chair, Board of Health (June 18, 2008) to The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-term Care regarding West Nile Virus Program Funding.

Carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

138. JAC Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project  
Councillor Timms inquired as to the names of those recommended for appointment to the Wainfleet Public Liaison Committee, noting this information was not contained in the minutes. Councillor Henderson advised that this information will be available at the Council meeting on July 24, 2008.
139. Deer Park – Grimsby  
Councillor Baty congratulated Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services and staff on the new Deer Park facility in Grimsby commenting that the combination of the hospital rebuilding, the Deer Park suites and the McNally Centre provide for an excellent seniors residence.
140. Contraband Cigarettes  
Councillor Greenwood inquired as to what response has been received from the Federal Government with respect to the Region's resolution regarding stricter enforcement on the sale of contraband cigarettes and suggested that the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs be contacted in regards to this matter. Dr. Feller commented that everything was sent including to federal level, and she will follow up and send Councillor Greenwood the information received in return.

**CLOSED SESSION**

141. Moved by Councillor Cordiner  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a proposed acquisition of land by the Municipality.

Carried.

142. A Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality  
Lease Renewal – Ambulance Station  
City of St. Catharines  
**Confidential PHD 37-2008 (CSD 96-2008)**

Moved by Councillor Forster  
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Confidential Report PHD 37-2008, July 15, 2008 (CSD 96-2008, July 16, 2008) respecting a Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality Lease Renewal – Ambulance Station, City of St. Catharines, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

143. Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS**

Staff was requested to:

- (i) Provide clarification of issues raised at Committee on report PHD 26-2008 regarding Bill 8 with respect to:
  - What prompted the preparation of Report PHD 26-2008 as it is Provincial legislation?
  - What are the Region's responsibilities to the citizens of Niagara re: Trans Fat?
  - What do School Boards think of this legislation and what are their responsibilities/policies?
  - Clarify comments within the report – Page 4 – second bullet re: Special Event days (Augustyn/Casselmann) (Refer to minute 129.)
- (ii) Provide a breakdown of the Off Load Delays for the three large hospitals and response times. (Casselmann) (Refer to minute 136.)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:55 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on **Thursday, August 28, 2008** at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty  
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman  
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk