

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 3-2008

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, March 11, 2008 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept; Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Horner, Manager, Community Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Public Health Dept.: Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mr. Cunnane, Director, EMS; Mr. Jones, Director, Administration; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Levay, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Peacefull, Community Development Manager; Ms. Rusling, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. St. John, Chief Nursing Officer/Director, Clinical Division; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Manager, Administration, EMS; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

Administration: Mr. McQueen, Director, Administrative Services.

Corporate Services: Mr. Moffatt, Manager, Property Management; Ms. Rae, Legal Counsel.

Human Resources: Mr. Nicol, Director, Human Resources.

PRESENTATIONS

17. Pre-hospital Acute Myocardial Infarction (MI) Plan

Dr. Doug Munkley, EMS Medical Director, together with Mr. Greg Soto, Paramedic, attended to provide information on Optimized Prehospital STEMI Therapy. He advised that an Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI or MI), more commonly known as a heart attack, is a medical condition that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the heart is interrupted, most commonly due to rupture of a vulnerable plaque. The resulting ischemia or oxygen shortage causes

damage and potential death of heart tissue. It is a medical emergency, and the leading cause of death for both men and women. Important risk factors are a history of vascular disease such as atherosclerotic coronary heart disease and/or angina, a previous heart attack or stroke, any previous episodes of abnormal heart rhythms, older age, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, obesity and diabetes.

Dr. Munkley apprised Committee of the importance of time in the treatment of STEMI Therapy which include Thrombolysis (Clot buster) (within 30 minutes of first medical contact) and Primary PCI (balloon & stent) (within 90 minutes of first medical contact). Outcomes from studies indicate pre-hospital thrombolysis delivered by paramedics is associated with reduced time delay and mortality in ambulance-transported real-life patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction. A diagram was provided indicating timelines from the onset of symptoms of STEMI – the call to 911 and EMS dispatch – EMS on-scene – EMS transport (prehospital fibrinolysis: EMS-to-needle within 30 minutes) EMS-to-balloon within 90 minutes.

Currently in Niagara, all paramedics (ACP & PCP) are trained in ECG interpretation (since 2004-2005); Early ER notification (Cardiac Alert) when MI detected by paramedics; and demonstrated reduction in door-to-needle time for clot busters in Niagara ERS.

Dr. Munkley apprised Committee of the Prehospital STEMI Reperfusion Committee, a Niagara multi-disciplinary feasibility group consisting of EMS; Niagara Health System; Cardiologists; Physicians; Pharmaceutical; Administrative and IT persons. Dr. Munkley described some of the issues this Committee is working on as follows:

System issues:

- Costs: NHS & EMS
- Collaborative team building
- Technical challenges – ECG transmission
- Medical online MD recruitment

Clinical issues:

- Medical consensus best practices
- Hamilton Cath Lab possibilities
- Protocol development
- Need for more paramedic training (no cost)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation by Dr. Doug Munkley, EMS Medical Director, and Mr. Greg Soto, Paramedic, regarding Pre-hospital Acute Myocardial Infarction (MI) Plan, be received.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

18. Emergency Water Fund
COM 06-2008

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 06-2008, March 11, 2008, regarding Emergency Water Fund, be received and approved ***as amended***.

That Regional Council authorize the Regional Chair and Clerk to ***receive the \$20,000 funding*** to pilot an Emergency Water Fund Program with the Town of Fort Erie.

Carried.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

19. Transitional Supported Housing Pilot Project Update

Mr. George Kurzawa, Executive Director, and Mr. Bob Barkman, Program Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Niagara Branch, attended to provide background information on its organization and in support of staff's report regarding the transitional supported housing pilot project. CMHA National is a registered, not for profit charitable organization with 123 branches throughout Canada and 33 branches in Ontario. CMHA Niagara is 40 years in the Niagara Region with two branches: Niagara North and Niagara South. CMHA Niagara was established in June 2001 with service growth from staff of 23 in 2001 to over 70 in 2008. Over 50 volunteers assist the agency.

CMHA Niagara Vision: An inclusive community dedicated to the rights and mental health of all people. Mission: CMHA Niagara Branch is dedicated to leadership in mental health demonstrated by: The delivery of services that ensure full integration, advocacy and education that eliminates discrimination.

Statistics indicate mental illness affects 1 in 5 Canadians. Approximately 86,000 in the Niagara Region will experience mental illness during their lifetime. Mr. Kurzawa highlighted its programs and services and funding partnerships.

CMHA Niagara Branch Key program aspects were described as:

- Primary target population is absolute homeless adult males with concurrent disorders (mental health and substance abuse)
- Homeless that are at serious risk to the community, such as fire setters or a recent history of violence will be screened out of the program
- Primary referral contacts will be Southridge Community Church, Salvation Army Booth Centre and Out of the Cold.
- Average residency is estimated at 18 months.

Charts were provided depicting CMHA Niagara's primary sites and partner sites for Mental Health Resource Centres. The CMHA Niagara Branch is the lead for homelessness consortium including: Niagara Health System; Consumer Survivor Initiatives; Family Support Network of Niagara; Niagara Region Community Mental Health Services; Gateway Residential and Community Services and Oak Centre.

Niagara Programs and Services include Community Crisis Care; Community Support-Case Management; Mental Health Court Support; Residential Support (group living); Employment Services; Counselling Programs; Information Resources; Volunteer Development; Public Education Mental Health Promotion.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the presentation by Mr. George Kurzawa, Executive Director, and Mr. Bob Barkman, Program Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara Branch, regarding Supported Transitional Housing Pilot (Manchester Program), be received.

Carried.

20. Transitional Supported Housing Pilot Project Update
COM 08-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 08-2008, March 11, 2008, respecting Transitional Supported Housing Pilot Project Update, be received for information.

Carried.

21. 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region-Wide
Road Safety Campaign Update
PHD 05-2008 (PWA 15-2008)

Ms. Vanessa Levay, Manager, and Ms. Linda Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division, provided an update on the Niagara Think and Drive Region-Wide Road Safety Campaign. The Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee piloted a Think and Drive road safety social marketing campaign in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2006 and has expanded it across the Niagara region in 2007-2008. The Campaign goals are to decrease collisions that can result in fatal and serious injuries by:

- Increasing awareness about the Niagara collision problem;
- Increasing related knowledge and skills;
- Changing driver attitudes and behaviours so that drivers take personal responsibility for road safety.

Ms. Beyer highlighted the pre-launch and post-launch activities of the campaign, noting it continues to evolve and expand across all 12 Niagara municipalities, using a variety of approaches. A communication plan has been developed to “saturate” Niagara with Think and Drive messages through media, advertising and publicity and interactive/participation which includes a Website www.thinkanddrive.net. Key promotion activities include stakeholder participation, community development and strengthening community action.

Next steps for the campaign include a community meeting; “Live” Road Safety challenge; Ongoing evaluation and strategies to evolve the Think and Drive messaging.

Some ways that Councillors can help:

- Council’s continued support
- Go to www.thinkanddrive.net or join the Think and Drive Niagara Facebook group
- Use your keychain
- Talk to everyone
- Write about Think and Drive in your local newspaper columns or constituent newsletters
- Wear your golf shirt at public events

In closing the presenters commented that desired campaign outcomes are changed driver attitudes and actions in order to realize the long-term goal of reduced fatal and serious injury from motor vehicle collisions in Niagara.

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the presentation by Linda Beyer, Health Promoter and Vanessa Levay, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division, regarding the 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region-Wide Road Safety Campaign Update, be received.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region-Wide Road Safety Campaign, as part of its advertising and promotion, participate in the 47th Rose Festival Grand Parade on June 15, 2008 as part of Welland’s 150th Anniversary.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 05-2008, March 11, 2008 (PWA 15-2008, March 12, 2008) regarding 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region-Wide Road Safety Campaign Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

(Please note that Report PHD 05-2008 (PWA 15-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

22. 2008 Public Health Program Reports
PHD 06-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 06-2008, March 11, 2008, respecting 2008 Public Health Program Reports, be received and Council endorse the proposed process outlined for Public Health program reporting throughout the remainder of 2008.

Carried.

23. The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2007-2011 (2008 Strategic Goals)
PHD 07-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 07-2008, March 11, 2008, respecting The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2007-2011 (2008 Strategic Goals), be received; and

That the Public Health Department updated strategic plan and organizational chart be endorsed and approved by Committee and Council.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the Board of Health meet with Public Health Department staff, once a year, in a Strategic Planning Session with Council, for the purpose of reviewing and providing input into the development of the Public Health Department's Strategic Goals.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

24. Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0802
- Ambulance and Related Equipment

PHD 08-2008 (CSD 32-2008)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 08-2008, March 11, 2008 (CSD 32-2008, March 12, 2008) respecting Initiation of Public Health Capital Project ZGR0802 – Ambulance and Related Equipment, be received.

That the budget allocation from the approved 2008 Public Health Capital Budget in the gross and net amount of \$910,000 be approved for Capital Project ZGR0802 – Ambulance and Related Equipment;

That the debenture financing (1-5 years) of \$455,000 for Capital Project ZGR0802 – Ambulance and Related Equipment be approved; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws be prepared for presentation to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 08-2008 (CSD 32-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

25. Supplementary Information Regarding the Establishment
Of a Project Management Structure for the Wainfleet Servicing Project
PHD 09-2008 (CSD 26-2008; PWA 24-2008; DPD 10-2008)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 09-2008, March 11, 2008 (CSD 26-2008; PWA 24-2008; DPD 10-2008, March 12, 2008) respecting Supplementary Information Regarding the Establishment of a Project Management Structure for the Wainfleet Servicing Project, be received.

That the revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Advisory Committee for the Wainfleet Servicing Project be adopted.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 09-2008 (CSD 26-2008; PWA 24-2008; DPD 10-2008) can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

26. Ontario Child Benefit
COM 07-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report COM 07-2008, March 11, 2008, respecting Ontario Child Benefit, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

27. Pro-Kids Program – Providing Recreational/Cultural Opportunities for \Children/Youth 2007 Year End Report
COM 09-2008

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 09-2008, March 11, 2008, respecting Pro-Kids Program – Providing Recreational/Children/Youth 2007 Year End Report, be received for information.

Carried.

Regional Chair Partington commented that the annual Regional Chair's Golf Tournament will contribute a portion of the proceeds to the Pro-Kids Program on an annual basis.

MINUTES

28. 1-2008

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report 1-2008 being the minutes of the Wainfleet Servicing Project Joint Advisory Committee meeting of February 14, 2008, be approved.

Carried.

(Please note that Report 1-2008 minutes of the Wainfleet Servicing Project Joint Advisory Committee meeting are behind JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab.)

CORRESPONDENCE

29. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the following correspondence items be received:

PHSS 8-2008 John D. Maloney, M.P., Welland Riding, (February 26, 2008) regarding influx of refugee claimants at the border.

PHSS 9-2008 John D. Maloney, M.P., Welland Riding, (February 26, 2008) letter to the Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, regarding increased refugee claimants at the border.

PHSS 10-2008 Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services (February 25, 2008) regarding increases in the number of refugee claimants entering Canada through Fort Erie.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

30. Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

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

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Timms declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report PHD 10-2008 (CSD 34-2008) respecting Proposed Acquisition of Property by the Municipality, City of Welland, as he has a family member who has business dealings with a company involved in this property matter and he therefore vacated the Committee Room and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

31. Proposed Acquisition of Property by the Municipality,
City of Welland

Confidential PHD 10-2008 (CSD 34-2008)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Confidential Report PHD 10-2008, March 11, 2008 (CSD 34-2008, March 12, 2008) respecting Proposed Acquisition of Property by the Municipality, City of Welland, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved, as amended.

Carried.

(An amended Confidential Report PHD 10-2008 (CSD 34-2008 will be distributed.)

32. A Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
City of Niagara Falls
Confidential COM 11-2008 (CSD 28-2008)

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Confidential Report COM 11-2008, March 11, 2008, (CSD 28-2008, March 12, 2008) respecting, A Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality, City of Niagara Falls, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

33. A Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
City of Port Colborne
Confidential COM 12-2008 (CSD 29-2008)

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Confidential Report COM 12-2008, March 11, 2008 (CSD 29-2008, March 12, 2008) respecting, a Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality, City of Port Colborne, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

34. A Matter of Labour Relations
Organizational Restructuring
CAO 2-2008

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That staff be authorized to proceed as directed regarding the presentation respecting Confidential Report CAO 2-2008.

Carried.

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Confidential Report HR 06-2008 A Matter of Labour Relations: Status on CUPE Local 1019 Contract Negotiations as she is a staff member to ONA and she therefore vacated the Committee Room, and took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

35. A Matter of Labour Relations: Status on CUPE Local 1019 Contract Negotiations
Confidential HR 06-2008

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report HR 06-2008, March 12, 2008, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations: Status on CUPE Local 1019 Contract Negotiations (Public Health – Niagara Emergency Medical Services), be received for information.

Carried.

36. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

- (i) Staff investigate whether garbage trucks, or other similar vehicles, could be used to help promote the Think and Drive Region-Wide Road Safety Campaign (promotional decals on public vehicles). Staff should also contact the Safety Village to see if there is a way to advertise on their battery operated cars. Consideration also be given to participating in other parades across the Region if feasible. (Forster, Cordiner, Timms)(Refer to minute 21.)
- (ii) That the major corporate goal and major departmental goal for all employees be as follows: That this year everyone has both a corporate and a departmental objective to be adapted and included in their personal goals and objectives. The corporate objective is: Improved internal and external integration, collaboration and relationships. Departmental objective is Public Health Transformation in Ontario. (Goulbourne) (Refer to minute 23.)
- (iii) That Communications/Social Marketing and interaction with municipal stakeholders be incorporated into corporate goals. (Goulbourne, Timms) (Refer to minute 23.)
- (iv) Community Services staff seek out additional financial partnerships due to the reduction in the National Child Benefit. (Casselman) (Refer to minute 26)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk