

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2009

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, January 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Sider, 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; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Ms. Watson, Manager, Community Services.
Public Health: Ms. Biscaro, Director, Family Health; Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Medical Division; Mr. Laflamme, Manager, Environmental Health; Ms. Peacefull, Director, Community Development and Surveillance; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair.
Corporate Services: Mr. Pilon, Associate Director, Service Quality & Improvements.

Others: Ms. Beckwith, Niagara Regional Housing.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Procedure to Select Committee Co-Chairs
ICP 4-2009

Peter Partington, Regional Chair, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Public Health Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Councillor Casselman be nominated for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Public Health Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee for a one year term.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Public Health Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee, be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Councillor Casselman, declared her Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Public Health Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee for a one year term.

Peter Partington, Regional Chair, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Community Services Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee.

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Councillor Baty be nominated for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Community Services Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee for a one year term.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Community Services Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee be closed.

Carried.

There being no other nominations, Regional Chair Partington, with the agreement of Councillor Baty, declared him Co-Chair, (Aligned to the Community Services Department), of the Public Health and Social Services Committee for a one year term.

Regional Chair Partington vacated the Chair and Councillors Baty and Casselman, Co-Chairs, assumed the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report ICP 4-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Procedure to Select the Committee Co-Chairs, be received.

Carried.

(Please note that Report ICP 4-2009 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

2. Day and Time of Regular Meetings
ICP 5-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report ICP 5-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Day and Time of Regular Meetings, be received.

That the regular meetings of the Public Health and Social Services Committee be held on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in accordance with the schedule approved, from time to time, by Regional Council.

That special meetings be held at such times and such places as may be appropriate, pursuant to the provisions of the procedural by-law.

Carried.

(Please note that Report ICP 5-2009 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

PRESENTATIONS

3. Niagara Integrated Local Labour Market Planning (NILLMP)

Ms. Trudy Parsons, Executive Director, Niagara Workforce Planning Board attended to apprise Committee of the Integrated Local Labour Market Planning.

The five principles of ILLMP were outlined as follows:

- Leadership based – engaging leaders known to the community to champion and drive change
- Integrated – encompassing the widest possible scope of customer needs and including programs and services of Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) and other partner ministries and levels of government
- Information-based – built on solid, relevant analysis of current and future trends that affect supply and demand
- Comprehensive, expansive and inclusive – extensive outreach and consultation will inform and influence the local labour market plan; it will only be as strong as the community engagement strategy
- Accountable – achieving successful outcomes through a results-based planning process

ILLMP – Expected Outcomes were summarized as follows:

At mature state:

- A rolling 3-5 year strategic ‘evidenced-based’ plan that respects & reflects local/area market challenges and opportunities
 - Supports Niagara’s Economic Growth Strategy (Developing Niagara’s Talent Pool)
 - Considers other local planning initiatives (Poverty Reduction Plan; Best Start; Youth Retention Study; Niagara 2031, etc.)
- A local plan developed, endorsed and supported by community and business leaders, MTCU and other provincial, federal and municipal governments within a culture of coordination and share accountability for results
 - Promotes a collaborative approach to strategic implementation
- A local labour market plan that informs program & services decisions: contributes to setting of budget priorities; and identifies new program development and design needs

Ms. Parsons highlighted the top five areas recommended for regional coordination/emphasis:

- Employee training – including increased employer commitment to on-the-job training – achieving a better match between people who want jobs and the positions that are available
- Employer engagement – employers are best positioned to predict skills and competencies that will be needed
- Economic development – community is looking to regional government for creative ways to support the economy in Niagara

- Transportation and infrastructure – lack of a coordinated regional transit system is a barrier to achieving a mobile labour force that can fill positions as they become available
- Employer training – help small businesses with common challenges such as supervising a multi-generational and multi-ethnic work force, strategic planning, and skills recognition in candidates who have experience without credentials

The Niagara Local Marketing Planning Committee will meet with political, business and labour representatives on January 27, 2009 to apprise them of the plan, strategic actions and priorities. Members of Committee and Council are invited to attend and participate in the meeting.

A draft plan will be presented to the community on April 7, 2009 and vetted to community for final validation in May 2009. The plan will be endorsed and submitted to the MTCU in June 2008, released to Niagara (final version) in September 2009. The Niagara Labour Marketing Planning Committee will determine what its continuing role will be in June 2009.

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the presentation from Trudy Parsons, Executive Director, Niagara Workforce Planning Board, regarding the Niagara Integrated Local Labour Market Planning (NILLMP), be received and referred to the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee on January 14, 2009 for information.

Carried.

4. Update to Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, provided an update on the progress of the work of Community Services to achieve the strategic directions outlined in the Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011. Mr. Hutchings briefly described the impact of the Seniors Services; Children's Services; Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities and Hostels & Homelessness Services and programs on the Regional Budget

The Commissioner highlighted the outcomes of the community partners session on November 21, 2008 where an update to the strategic directions was provided to the community as well as work to re-affirm the strategic direction.

The four directions with associated objectives for 2008-2011 are:

- (1) Increase Collaboration with Stakeholders
 - 1.1: Enhance Informed Decision Making
 - 1.2: Provide Evidence-Based Advocacy
 - 1.3: Support Community in Development Human Services Plans
- (2) Enhance Individual and Family Centered Service
 - 2.1: Improve Alignment of Services to Achieve Shared Outcomes
 - 2.2: Seek Regular Input and Feedback
- (3) Enable Staff to Provide Great Service
 - 3.1: Foster a Supportive and Responsive Workplace
 - 3.2: Promote Organizational Values Through Actions
- (4) Strengthen Responsible Use of Resources
 - 4.1: Delivery Effective and Efficient Services
 - 4.2: Create Strategies for Maximization of Resources

The session held on November 21, 2008 was attended by 61 stakeholders as a result of invitations sent to community partner agencies, bargaining unit representatives and councillors. Participants were asked the following questions and the responses are summarized below:

What should Community Services KEEP doing?

- Support need for regional transit system
- Poverty/prosperity plans
- Partnering with community agencies
- Community consultation
- Staff training
- Use of technology to enhance service delivery

What should Community Services STOP doing?

- Less surveys, more action
- Region not always the lead – more of a partner

How WELL is Community Services doing?

- Continue positive momentum
- Have seen a marked improvement in the past five years in how Community Services is working with the community

What could Community Services do BETTER?

- Improve communications at all levels – partners, community, staff
- Expand the length of the annual partners forum
- Higher level of integration with other services
 - Niagara Regional Housing and other agencies
- Desire to learn more about new Integrated Community Planning Department

Mr. Hutchings commented that the forum did confirm that the Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011 remains valid and continues to chart the course for the department for the next three years.

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the presentation by Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services Department, regarding an Update to Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011, be received.

Carried.

Members of Committee commended Mr. Hutchings and staff for their continued development of enhanced communication and relationships with community partners.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. Update to Community Services Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011
COM 04-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 04-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Update to Community Services Strategic Plan 2008-2011, be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (continued)

6. Niagara Regional Housing Operating Agreement
COM 01-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 01-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Niagara Regional Housing Operating Agreement be received for information; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to sign the new Operating Agreement (Appendix 1) between the Niagara Region and Niagara Regional Housing (NRH).

Carried.

7. Local Immigration Partnership Funding
COM 02-2009

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 02-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Local Immigration Partnership Funding, be received; and

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that Community Services be authorized to receive funds and execute a contract in the amount of \$164,489.36 (100 percent) from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to participate in the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) project.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (continued)

8. Food Recalls and Outbreak Investigations
PHD 01-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 01-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Food Recalls and Outbreak Investigations, be received for information.

Carried.

9. Vector Borne Disease
PHD 02-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report PHD 02-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Vector Borne Disease, be received for information.

Carried.

10. Community Consultations
- The Health Story of Niagara
PHD 03-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 03-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Community Consultations – The Health Story of Niagara, be received for information, **as amended**; and

That this report be distributed to area municipal councils, the Integrated Community Planning and Public Works Committee and Communications Advisory Panel; and

That the Regional Councillors be informed of and involved in the stakeholder consultation on the Health Story in their respective municipalities.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

11. Impact of Current Economic Condition on Niagara Region's
Community Services, Niagara Regional Housing
And Public Health Programs
COM 03-2009/PHD 04-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 03-2009/PHD 04-2009, January 13, 2009, respecting Impact of Current Economic Condition on Niagara Region's Community Services, Niagara Regional Housing and Public Health Programs, be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. Update on Fires in the Niagara Region

Ms. Cousins provided an oral report on the fires that occurred in St. Catharines and Port Colborne and the subsequent impact on the Community. Staff of Community Services worked together with the Fire Chief, Red Cross, Salvation Army and other agencies to provide housing, meals, and other assistance to those in need.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

MINUTES

13. 7-2008 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report 7-2008 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of November 24, 2008, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

14. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the following communications be received.

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|-------------|---|
| PHSS 1-2009 | Juanita G. Gledhill, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN (November 26, 2008) regarding Alternate Level of Care (ALC) for elder adults in Niagara. |
| PHSS 2-2009 | David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long Term Care (December 5, 2008) regarding Land Ambulance Funding 2009 grant increase. |
| PHSS 3-2009 | Margarett R. Best, Minister of Health Promotion, (December 5, 2008) regarding Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program. |
| PHSS 4-2009 | Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (December 15, 2008) regarding the revised Operating Agreement with the Niagara Region. |
| PHSS 5-2009 | Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) regarding October 2008 Disposition of Resolutions. |

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

15. Word from the Bird
The Hidden Tactics of the Tobacco Industry

Councillor Casselman apprised Committee of the launching of Word from the Bird: the hidden tactics of the tobacco industry on YouTube. REACT (Resist Expose and Challenge Tobacco), the youth tobacco group of the Niagara Region are celebrating a red carpet launch party with Niagara Region employees on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 3:00 -3:30 p.m. in the Atrium, Campbell East, Niagara Region Headquarters.

16. Extreme Cold Weather Alert

Dr. Sider advised that Public Health issued an extreme Cold Weather Alert today due to temperatures forecasted to drop below -15 degrees Celsius over the next few days. The Alert mobilizes outreach workers and community agencies to ensure that homeless persons and other members of the community vulnerable to the effects of extreme winter weather are protected. A voluntary network of agencies region-wide coordinates resources, locates shelter spaces and transports those vulnerable to exposure.

Committee requested that Dr. Sider work together with Brian Hutchings to send out a media release to the general public (for protection of seniors and children) on what precautions they should take during extreme cold weather and offer information on resources available.

17. Business Education Council of Niagara
Annual Partners Breakfast

Councillor Baty advised Committee of the Business Education Council of Niagara Annual Partners Breakfast to be held on Friday, February 6, 2009. Mr. Hutchings advised that those interested in attending contact Deb Urbshott, his Administrative Assistant, who will register them for the event.

18. Conflict – Transportation Steering Committee and
Niagara Labour Market Planning Committee meetings – January 27, 2009

Councillor Goulbourne asked that the Transportation Steering Committee meeting for Tuesday, January 27, 2009 start a ½ hour earlier to accommodate those wanting to attend both meetings. The Clerk will arrange for the change in time.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff were asked to:

- i) Consider a venue to communicate “The Health Story of Niagara” to the public – i.e. Video at Councils, Cogeco or Regional website. (Goulbourne/Marshall). Refer to minute 10.
- ii) Investigate if there is a method to provide insurance for Housing Subsidy. (Rigby) Refer to minute 12.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk