

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 6-2009

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 Monday, April 27, 2009 at 2:08 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Katzman.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Public Health: Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Jones, Director, PH Administration; Ms. St. Johns, Director, Clinical Services; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.

Administration Mr. McQueen, Director, Administration; Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Chair.

Others: Ms. Heather Selvig, RCMP, Committee member, Racing Against Drugs (RAD).

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to four members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007

PRESENTATION

73. Certificate of Recognition
Ten Year Anniversary – Racing Against Drugs Committee

Councillor Baty, Committee Co-chair, provided background information on the Racing Against Drugs (RAD) Program. The program is a community based drug and alcohol awareness program originally developed in partnership by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – London Detachment.

The primary objective of this healthy lifestyle education initiative is to utilize the sport of auto racing to capture the attention of young people. The students attend 12 interactive pit stops with information on alcohol, drugs and healthy lifestyles. This year's event took place April 21-24 2009 at the Optimist Club in

Niagara Falls. Since 1999 approximately 20,200 Grade 5 students from various school boards across Niagara have attended the event. Partners that make this a successful event include: RCMP; OPP; NRPS; Niagara Parks Police Services; CN Police; Canadian Borders Services Agency; NRPHD; Niagara EMS; Business Education Council of Niagara; First Student Canada (formerly Laidlaw); District School Board of Niagara; Niagara Catholic District School Board; and Niagara Falls Fire Services.

Councillor Baty presented the Certificate of Recognition to Heather Selvig, RCMP and Committee member.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

74. Temporary Care Assistance Obligation to Determine Permanency or Settled Intent
COM 26-2009

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 26-2009, April 28, 2009, respecting Temporary Care Assistance: Obligation to Determine Permanency or Settled Intent, be received.

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that with regard to ongoing eligibility for Temporary Care Assistance, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) interpret the two following scenarios as demonstrated permanency or settled intent.

- A caregiver adopts a child through a Children's Aid Society (CAS) or should the child be in the care of a CAS, on adoption probation until the adoption is finalized; or
- A child is placed with a caregiver who has obtained legal custody of a child who is a former Crown ward under Section 65.2 of the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA).

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

75. Community Services Funding Contracts with the Province and the French Language Services Act
COM 27-2009

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 27-2009, April 28, 2009, respecting Community Services Funding Contracts with the province and the *French Language Services Act (FLSA)*, be received and approved **as amended**.

That the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to sign new transfer payment contracts with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services which will require Niagara Region to provide client services in French in accordance with the French Language Services Act (FLSA); and

That a letter be attached to the new contracts outlining Niagara Region's position that it is not required to provide French language services under the FLSA, and that it therefore, does not agree to the schedules or clauses indicating otherwise; and

That the letter provide information on the French Language services that are currently being provided.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

76. **Rabies Control Program**
PHD 14-2009

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 14-2009, April 28, 2009, respecting Rabies Control Program, be received for information.

Carried.

77. **Vector Borne Disease Program Funding**
PHD 15-2009

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 15-2009, April 28, 2009, respecting Vector Borne Disease Program Funding be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

78. Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Communication PHSS 14-2009, memorandum from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services (April 9, 2009) respecting Staff Direction of January 13, 2009 Provide Insurance for Community Services Clients, be received.

Carried.

79. Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Communication PHSS 15-2009, Memorandum from Sarah Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) (April 10, 2009) regarding Information Request Regarding Recent Francophone Immigrants, be received.

Carried.

80. 3-2009 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report 3-2009 (JAC) being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of March 30, 2009, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

81. Oral Report: Dr. Williams
Swine Flue Outbreak

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided a local update on the Global situation with respect to the Swine Flu Outbreak. In Mexico 1,200 cases have been reported with 87 deaths; U.S. have confirmed 20 cases; and Canada 6 cases (4 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick). However, Dr. Williams commented that Mexico does not have the good data or surveillance systems that U.S. and Canada have to confirm information. Dr. Williams advised that numerous staff have been deployed to work on this issue and as a result, the May 5th "Health Story of Niagara" stakeholders meeting, has been cancelled. Staff are providing educational information regarding preventive measures such as hand washing, vaccination and information on when to contact physicians. Staff are also preparing for a potential Pandemic level outbreak (should it happen).

82. Priorities – Niagara Week

Councillor Goulbourne inquired as to whether Committee has come to any conclusions with respect to the priority items they would like to see brought forward to Niagara Week. One item he suggested would be "Affordable Housing". Councillor Goulbourne requested clarification, for the May 7th Council meeting, of the issues that will be dealt with at Niagara Week.

83. Staffing Announcements

Committee was advised that Chris McQueen will be returning to Public Health as the "Operating Officer". Dr. Sider has been seconded by the Ministry of Health Protection and Promotion to assist with the Swine Flu Outbreak (rather than the end of May).

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That:

- (i) The Regional Chair or Committee Chair contact the organizer of the Advocacy Groups, who took their issues to Queen's Park, to advise her that Report COM 26-2009 regarding Temporary Care Assistance: Obligation to Determine Permanency or Settle Intent, will not have any impact on those families. (Councillor Baty, Co-Chair, advised he would contact the person directly.) (Goulbourne) Refer to minute item 74.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 2:50 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Janet Pilon
Acting Regional Clerk