

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 11-2009

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, September 1, 2009 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Councillors

Other: Councillors D'Angela; Martin.

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

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Cousins, Director, Operational & Support Services; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.
Public Health: Ms. Brigantino, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, EMS; Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Community Medicine Resident; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Environmental Health; Ms. LaCroix, Manager, Infectious Disease; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer; Dr. Nassif, P.H.; Ms. Rusling, Health Promoter; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Smith, Associate Director, EMS; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Mr. Van Valkenberg, Associate Director, EMS; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.
Administration: Mr. Weir, Director, Administration.
Corporate Services: Ms. Consigli, Manager, Client Services; Mr. Diakow, Director, IT Solutions; Mr. Inman, Associate Director, Energy Management.
Integrated Community Planning: Mr. Weaver, Director, Community & Corporate Planning.

Others: Chief Wendy Southall, N.R.P.S.; Chief Jan Idzenga, OPP Niagara.

PRESENTATIONS

147. Traffic Safety Initiative of the Year Award for 2008
For the Think and Drive Road Safety Campaign

Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair, on behalf of Regional Council and the members of the Public Health and Social Services Committee, recognized Chief Wendy Southall and the Niagara Regional Police Service for receiving the prestigious 2009 Traffic Safety Initiative of the Year Award for Police Services over 500 for the Think and Drive Road Safety Campaign. The Awards ceremony was held at the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) annual convention that took place in Sudbury on Monday, June 22nd. The award is presented annually by the OACP and sponsored by the Ministry of Transportation in recognition of police organizations that create, develop and implement Ontario's most successful traffic safety programs.

The Committee viewed the video clip that was played at the Awards ceremony.

Chief Southall and the Niagara Regional Police Service are valued partner members of the Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee, initiating the committee formation in 2003 and remaining dedicated to the committee's ongoing road safety strategy. Through Chief Southall's leadership, the profile of road safety has been raised within the NRPS and in the Niagara community and the NRPS continue to play a vital role in traffic enforcement and education programs. Also acknowledged were several Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee members; Dr. Robin Williams, Maria Brigantino, Nicole Rusling, Linda Beyer and Chief Jan Idzenga from OPP Niagara. The Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee also includes members of the Public Works Department, CAA Niagara; Niagara Emergency Medical Services and Niagara Parks Police.

Chief Wendy Southall expressed her appreciation to the members of the Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee commenting that this award signifies what can be achieved through true partnership work and collaboration.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Conflict of Interest

Councillor Forster declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Report PHD 35-2009, regarding Supporting Independent Living Senior Services – Community Mental Health Program Partnership, as she is a staff member of ONA, and she therefore took no part in the discussion of, or voting on, this matter.

148. Supporting Independent Living Senior Services –
Community Mental Health Program Partnership
PHD 35-2009

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 35-2009, September 1, 2009 respecting Supporting Independent Living, Seniors Services-Community Mental Health Program Partnership, be received; and

That further to approved Report COM 41-2009 (Appendix A), the Community Mental Health Program receive \$197,162 in transfer funding from Niagara Region Seniors Community Programs to hire two full-time staff for the “Supporting Independent Living” Initiative.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

149. Closure of Capital Projects
CSD 100-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report CSD 100-2009, July 2, 2009, respecting Closure of Capital Projects, be received for information.

Carried.

150. Rabies Control Program
PHD 34-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 34-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Rabies Control Program, be received for information, ***as amended; and***

That the report be forwarded to Area Municipal Councils.

Carried.

151. Wind Turbines
PHD 36-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 36-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Wind Turbines, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

152. Niagara Region Seasonal Influenza Response 2008 - 2009
PHD 37-2009

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 37-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Niagara Region Seasonal Influenza Response 2008 - 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

153. Staff Announcement

Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Mr. Mike Weir, Director, Administration, who replaced Chris McQueen who has returned to the Public Health Department as their Operating Officer. Mr. Trojan commented that Mr. Weir, former Chief Administrative Officer with the City of Thorold, will be a great addition to the Administration Department's team.

154. Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH)
Update Report re: H1N1 Planning

Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Planning. Dr. Williams advised that the department is preparing for a busy and unusual flu season for this fall/winter. A new planning framework has been created to address the many important elements in preparing for the second wave of H1N1. The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) recognized that the Incident Management System was not the ideal model for 'planning', rather to be used for its intended purpose of 'responding' to a crisis. The NRPH also recognized this and transitioned to the new planning framework to mirror the MOHLTC model. Dr. Williams advised that a phased-in immunization clinic plan to service both staff and residents of Niagara is required due to the likelihood of both pandemic and seasonal influenza viruses circulating

this year. Due to the uncertainties as to the need for one or two immunizations for the pandemic H1N1 virus, planning for the influenza immunization clinic schedule will have to accommodate both pandemic and seasonal vaccination needs. Seasonal flu clinics will begin daily on October 19, 2009 at Niagara Region Headquarters and community-based clinics will begin on November 2, 2009. H1N1 vaccination clinics will begin at Niagara Region Headquarters when the vaccine is received as is anticipated in late November, early December. Prioritization of who should receive the H1N1 vaccination is currently being determined by the MOHLTC. Dr. Williams advised that NRPH will be working closely with all planning groups to identify and distribute communication related to H1N1. The Website is the main source of H1N1 information. Communication activities will be reviewed and revised in response to the current activity of H1N1.

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That the Niagara Region Public Health Update Report by Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, regarding H1N1 Planning, be received.

Carried.

155. Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair and members of Committee welcomed back Dr. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, following her maternity leave. Dr. Williams commented that Dr. Feller's return is timely given the many activities and demands on the Public Health Department.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

156. 2009 Public Health Update
PHD 39-2009

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 39-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting 2009 Public Health Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

157. Niagara Emergency Medical Services - Update
PHD 40-2009

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 40 100-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Niagara Emergency Medical Services - Update, be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (continued)

158. Protocol Electronic Clinic System
(PECS) Provincial Distribution Initiative
PHD 41-2009 (CSD 124-2009)

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 41-2009, September 1, 2009, (CSD 124-2009, September 2, 2009), respecting Protocol Electronic Clinic System (PECS) Provincial Distribution Initiative, be received for information.

That the Protocol Electronic Clinic System (PECS) Provincial Distribution Initiative be supported and that staff be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements, contingent upon the approval of same by the director of Legal Services, with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) and individual municipal or other Ontario public health units; and

That signing authority for the PECS Licensing Agreement and PECS Training and Service Agreement be delegated to Bob Diakow, Director of IT Solutions, or Chris McQueen, Operating Officer (Health), including the Protocol for Electronic Clinic System (PECS) licensing agreement and PES Training and Service Agreement, that are deemed acceptable by the Director of Legal Services.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PHD 41-2009(CSD 124-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab.)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (continued)

159. Medical Directors' Annual Report 2008 -
Long-Term Care Homes
COM 46-2009

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 46-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Medical Directors' Annual Report 2008 – Long-Term Care Homes, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

160. Community Services Variance Analysis and Program
Update for the Second Quarter 2009
COM 47-2009

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report COM 47-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Community Services Variance Analysis and Program Update for the Second Quarter 2009, be received for information and **approved as amended**;

That staff make a determination of how much will be needed from the \$500,000 Senior Services surplus that could be used to monitor systemic changes in the broader health care system and address where there is adequate funding for nursing staff, as well as for social/recreational activities staff and rehabilitation staff; for increased educational opportunities for staff; and to examine wage parity.

Carried.

161. Niagara Research and Planning Council
- Update Report
COM 48-2009(ICP 43-2009)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 48-2009, September 1, 2009 (ICP 43-2009, September 2, 2009), respecting Niagara Research and Planning Council – Update Report, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please note that Report COM 48-2009(ICP 43-2009) can be found behind the Joint Reports Blue Book Tab.)

CORRESPONDENCE

162. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That the following communications be received:

- PHSS 25-2009 Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (July 2, 2009) regarding the Ministry's Small Drinking-Water Systems (SDWS) program.
- PHSS 26-2009 Cynthia Morton, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion (July 16, 2009) regarding funding for the Smoke Free Ontario Strategy.
- PHSS 27-2009 Cynthia Morton, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion (July 16, 2009) regarding funding for the Healthy Living Niagara project.
- PHSS 28-2009 Jose Laprade, Ministerial and Executive Correspondence, Human Resources and Social Development Canada (July 17, 2009) acknowledging receipt of Chair Partington's letter seeking support for the reinstatement of the federal government's \$63.5 million annual investment in child care funding.
- PHSS 29-2009 Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health, Grey Bruce Health Unit, (July 17, 2009) regarding recommendations regarding food safety and foodborne illness.
- PHSS 30-2009 Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (July 17, 2009) regarding approval for the Regional Municipality of Niagara to provide additional community services.
- PHSS 31-2009 Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (July 21, 2009) regarding enhanced funding under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP) for eligible Habitat for Humanity partner families.

- PHSS 32-2009 Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (July 22, 2009) regarding the request for funding for Humanity Niagara's 2009 student building partnership with Niagara College and the District School Board of Niagara.
- PHSS 33-2009 Malcolm Allen, M.P., Welland Riding, to Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development (July 22, 2009) in support of the Niagara Region's request for the reinstatement of the \$63.5 million annual investment for early childhood education and childcare.
- PHSS 34-2009 Mac Bain, Chairperson, Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District, (July 29, 2009) regarding the continued funding of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Expansion Program at 100% in 2010.
- PHSS 35-2009 Angela Longo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion (August 6, 2009) respecting reduced funding allocation for enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.
- PHSS 36-2009 Honourable Margaret R. Best, Minister of Health Promotion, (July 31, 2009) regarding the Smoke-Free Ontario (SFO) Strategy.

Carried.

163. 6-2009 (JAC)

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report 6-2009 being the minutes of the Joint Advisory Committee Wainfleet Water & Wastewater Servicing Project meeting of Monday, July 20, 2009, be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

164. Health Bus Report

Councillor Cordiner requested information with respect to the number of persons in Fort Erie being served by the Health Bus and the Committee was advised that a comprehensive report to Committee on the Health Bus is forthcoming.

CLOSED SESSION

165. 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 Matters Concerning Identifiable Individuals, Employee Negotiations and Solicitor-Client Advice (Associate Medical Officer of Health Positions).

Carried.

166. Matters Concerning Identifiable Individuals,
Employee Negotiations and Solicitor-Client Advice
(Associate Medical Officer of Health Positions)
Confidential MOH 02-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Confidential Report MOH 02-2009, September 1, 2009, respecting Matters Concerning Identifiable Individuals, Employee Negotiations and Solicitor-Client Advice (Associate Medical Officer of Health Positions), be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

167. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Provide a list of reports used in the preparation of the Wind Turbines report. (Councillor Henderson) (Refer to minute item 151.)
- (ii) Bring forward to Committee in October, an interim report on budget challenges and issues. (Councillor Casselman) (Refer to minute item 156.)
- (iii) Forward a letter to the local M.P.P.s and Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) regarding the common trends and developments identified by the Medical Directors and the key areas of concern. (Councillor Casselman) (Refer to minute item 159.)

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk