

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 8-2009

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, June 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Councillors

Other: Councillors D'Angela and Saracino.

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; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.
Public Health: Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Family Health; Ms. Brigantino; Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention; Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Mr. Cunnane, Director, EMS; Mr. Jones, Director, PH Administration; Mr. McQueen, Operating Officer; Ms. Peacefull, Director, Community Development and Surveillance; Mr. Smith, Associate Director, EMS; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Mr. Van Valkenburg, Associate Director, EMS; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mr. Young, Manager, Environmental Health.
Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair; Ms. Vanecko, Acting Director, Administration.
Corporate Services: Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Ms. Casement, Manager, Labour Relations; Ms. Elliott, Director, Human Resources; Mr. Hagar, Manager, Labour Relations; Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Meffe, Manager, Labour Relations; Mr. Moffat, Manager, Property Management.

INTRODUCTION

101. Councillor Baty, Co-Chair, introduced Kevin Bain, the new Regional Clerk and welcomed him to the Niagara Region and to the Public Health and Social Services Committee.

UPDATE – H1N1 VIRUS

102. Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the status of the H1N1 Virus. Niagara Region Public Health has received laboratory confirmation of five cases of H1N1 flu virus (human swine flu) in Niagara. While the Virus continues to be mild it doesn't appear to be fading. Public Health continues to work closely with Federal, Provincial and other health agencies to track activities regarding the H1N1 outbreak. Niagara is keeping area hospitals and health care partners informed about symptoms to look for and protective measures.

On June 11, 2009 the World Health Organization (WHO) moved to phase 6 of the pandemic levels. In phase 5, widespread outbreak of H1N1 was occurring in more than one country but in one region. H1N1 is now in at least one other country in a different WHO region in addition to the previous region. Therefore, WHO raised the pandemic phase to 6. A declared Pandemic does not mean the Virus is more severe.

Niagara Public Health continues to monitor the H1N1 Virus and further information will be forthcoming.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

103. Review of the Niagara Regional Housing
Operating Agreement
COM 32-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 32-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Review of the Niagara Regional Housing Operating Agreement, be received and approved, **as amended.**

That recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 5, as outlined in the report be approved as follows:

That pursuant to the provisions of the *Social Housing Reform Act*, Regional Council confirm its role as the Service System Manager responsible for the provision of social housing throughout the Regional Municipality of Niagara;

That Regional Council confirm Niagara Regional Housing's (NRH) role as a provider agency appointed by the Regional Municipality of Niagara to administer to deliver social housing services as Niagara Region's agent;

That a further report regarding the progress of the Operating Agreement be brought forth in January 2011 in conjunction with a report considering corporate structural changes to NRH; and

That recommendation 4, "That Niagara Region's CAO appoint a Service System Manager representative to act on behalf of Niagara Region and liaise with NRH regarding the Operating Agreement and other items of interest to Niagara Regional Council and Niagara residents ***"be referred to staff for a report back to the Committee with further information on the roles, responsibilities and reporting process of the proposed "Service System Manager" including the parameters of this position with respect to the other Agencies, Boards and Commissions"***".

Carried.

104. 2009 Child Care Funding Announcement
COM 33-2009

Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 33-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting 2009 Child Care Funding Announcement, be received.

That the Regional Chair be authorized to write a letter to the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and to the Niagara Members of Federal Parliament requesting that the federal government reinstate the \$63.5 million annual investment in child care funding made available through the Early Learning and Care Agreement terminated in 2006.

Carried.

105. Employment Outcomes
– Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities
COM 35-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 35-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Employment Outcomes – Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, be received and approved, ***as amended***;

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services and with the Minister of Children and Youth Services to share Niagara's innovative responses to the downturn in the economy and employment outcomes for Ontario Works participants; and

That this report be circulated to local M.P.P.s.

Carried.

106. Niagara Region Public Health Strategic Plan 2007 - 2011
PHD 24-2009

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 24-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Niagara Region Public Health Updated Strategic Plan 2007 – 2011, be endorsed and approved by Committee and Council.

Carried.

107. Impact on EMS – Emergency Department Conversions as Part of the Niagara Health System's Hospital Improvement Plan
PHD 26-2009 (CSD 89-2009)

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 26-2009, June 11, 2009 (CSD 89-2009, June 15, 2009) respecting Impact on EMS – Emergency Department Conversions as Part of the Niagara Health System's Hospital Improvement Plan, be received and approved, ***as amended.***

That additional temporary EMS resources of 2.4 ambulances (42,048 equivalent hours) and 19.2 FTE's, representing a total budget impact of \$1,104,998 (2009), be approved to manage the impact of the conversions of the Emergency Departments (ED's) in Port Colborne and Fort Erie as outlined in the IBI report.

That these additional EMS resources be temporarily phased-in parallel to the conversions of each Niagara Health System Emergency Department (as needed to address increased demand) and be reviewed no later than March 31, 2010, or once the actual impact is able to be measured;

That the Region ***seek*** 100% funding of these resources from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) in recognition of these MOHLTC and LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) approved changes to the Niagara Health System and its impact on Niagara Region resources and expenditures;

That in the interim, the Region's contingency reserve be used to fund the requested amount of \$1,104,998;

That Niagara EMS staff develop the 2010 budget forecasts with any necessary resource and financial implications along with alternate solutions and options for Regional Council consideration as part of the budget process; and

That the Region continue discussions with the LHIN and NHS to identify alternate solutions and options to address the impact on local Emergency Departments and Niagara EMS; and

That the Regional Chair and appropriate staff request a meeting with the Boards of the Niagara Health System (NHS) and Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to discuss the implications on Niagara's Emergency Services and the impact on Niagara's resources and expenditures due to the NHS Hospital Improvement Plan.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

108. Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review – (PMFSDR)
Human Services Implementation Steering Committee
COM 34-2009

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report COM 34-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Provincial Municipal Fiscal Service Delivery Review – (PMFSDR) Human Services Implementation Steering Committee, be received for information.

Carried.

109. Vector Borne Disease Program Funding
PHD 20-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 20-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Vector Borne Disease Program Funding, be received and ***supported***.

Carried.

110. Ontario's New Road Safety Legislation
PHD 21-2009

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That Report PHD 21-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Ontario's New Road Safety Legislation, be received for information.

Carried.

111. Niagara Ambulance Communication Centre – Re-Accreditation Award from the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch
PHD 23-2009

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report PHD 23-2009, June 11, 2009, respecting Niagara Ambulance Communication Centre – Re-Accreditation Award from the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch, be received, **as amended**;

That Regional Council extend congratulations to the Niagara Ambulance Communication Centre.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

112. Moved by Councillor Cordiner
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the following communications be received:

PHSS 17-2009 Karen Murray, Chair, Niagara Regional Housing (June 11, 2009) respecting Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report January 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009

PHSS 18-2009 Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, regarding Funding – Child Care System.

Carried.

113. Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Communication PHSS 19-2009 from Mac Bain, Chairperson, North Bay Parry Sound District Board of Health (May 14, 2009) regarding Bill 143, Hawkins Gignac Act (Carbon Monoxide Detectors), 2008 be received and referred to staff for report.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

114. Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature regarding Matters of Labour Relations with respect to ONA Public Health Conciliation and ONA Homes Arbitration; and the Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality – Town of Grimsby.

Carried.

115. Oral Report
A Matter of Labour Relations Regarding
ONA Public Health Conciliation - Update

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an update on a Matter of Labour Relations regarding ONA Public Health Conciliation.

116. Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That the oral report by Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, providing an update on a Matter of Labour Relations regarding ONA Public Health Conciliation, be received.

Carried.

117. Oral Report
A Matter of Labour Relations:
ONA Local 9 (Homes for the Aged) Interest Arbitration Award

Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, provided an oral report on a Matter of Labour Relations regarding ONA Local 9 (Homes for the Aged) Interest Arbitration Award.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the oral report by Mr. Bergsma, Commissioner, Corporate Services, on a Matter of Labour Relations regarding ONA Local 9 (Homes for the Aged) Interest Arbitration Award, be received.

Carried.

118. Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality
- Town of Grimsby

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided an oral report on the Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality – Town of Grimsby.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Cordiner

That the oral report by Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, regarding the Proposed Acquisition of Land by the Municipality – Town of Grimsby, be received.

Carried.

119. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

120. YWCA “Women of Distinction” Award

Councillor Katzman asked that the Regional Chair send a letter of congratulations, on behalf of Regional Council, to Adrienne Jugley, Manager, Community Health, on receiving the YWCA “Women of Distinction” Award in the category of Health and Well-being.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m. to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk