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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 1-2001

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, January 8, 2001 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Adams, Chair; Zimmerman, Regional Chair; Bailey, Bentley, Brickell, Davidson, Eke, Forster, Gabriel, Harry, Hildreth, Konkle, Marshall, McMullan, Redekop.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Director, Community Services Dept.; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Committee Secretary.

Staff (Part-time): Mr. Christensen, Director of Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Columbus, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Hubley, Public Health Nurse; Mr. Hutchings, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services; Dr. Klooz, Assistant Department Director, Public Health; Mr. McQueen, Public Health Nurse; Ms. Piorkowski, Systems Support Technician; Ms. Rose, Inspector; Ms. Skerrett, Clerical, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Ventresca, Assistant Director, Seniors Services Division; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1. 2000 Provincial Subsidy: Adult Day Program

Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 1-2001, January 8, 2001, respecting 2000 Provincial Subsidy: Adult Day Program, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2000 Provincial Subsidy Agreement for the Seniors Community Adult Day Program with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Provincial Subsidy - \$2,729,079; Regional Levy - \$113,944).

Carried.

2. Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds: Revised Terms of Reference

Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report COM 02-2001, January 8, 2001, respecting Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds: Revised Terms of Reference, be received.

That the revised Terms of Reference be approved for the Sub-Committee on the Redevelopment of Long Term Care Facility Beds, and

That the members of Regional Council be asked to serve as members of the Sub-Committee, and

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee: Councillors Adams, Eke, Forster, Harry, Hildreth, Saracino and Regional Chair Zimmerman.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3. Heart Health Worksite Committee

Ms. Elaine Skerrett, Clerical, Chronic Disease Prevention, was introduced to Committee. Ms. Skerrett was awarded the Ruth Ferguson Award of Excellence in Public Health for her personal and professional commitment to workplace wellness.

Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention Division, introduced Ms. Rose, Inspector and Ms. Piorkowski, Systems Support

Technician, to provide an overview of the Heart Health Worksite Committee and its activities.

Ms. Rose, together with Ms. Piorkowski, provided a slide presentation highlighting the Heart Health Worksite Committee's activities throughout the year 2000. She advised that the goal of the committee is to improve the Public Health Department's work environment through initiatives to promote physical activity, nutrition, stress reduction, smoking cessation and policy development. The two key features of the program were that it was comprehensive in nature and employee driven.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Hildreth

That Report PHD 2-2001, January 8, 2001, respecting Heart Health Worksite Committee, be received for information.

Carried.

4. Presentation – Tobacco Packaging Regulations

Mr. McQueen, Public Health Nurse, apprised Committee of the new tobacco regulations that have been implemented in Canada. He commented that Canada is leading the way with this groundbreaking legislation. Canada, he commented is a lead supporter of tobacco control efforts and works with the United States and other national governments as well as major international health organizations such as the World Health Organization. The regulations will require that smokers receive health and cessation information and information on tobacco related diseases on the inside of the tobacco products. There are 16 different health warning messages containing both text and graphics that detail the serious health hazards associated with tobacco products. (Cigarette packages containing the warning messages were circulated to Committee members for information.) It is anticipated that the new graphic health warning labels will have an impact on adolescents, the age group most likely to start smoking and become addicted. The tobacco industry must supply detailed information on its manufacturing methods and product contents. The industry will also have to deliver detailed information on its product and marketing research and its promotional activities and sales. Mr. McQueen also apprised Committee of the initiatives being undertaken to permit excise taxes or levies from tobacco products to be used for mass

media and policy development, thereby reducing the prevalence of tobacco use.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the oral report from Mr. McQueen, Public Health Nurse, regarding Tobacco Packaging Legislation, be received.

Carried.

5. Seniors in Jeopardy! Comprehensive Falls Prevention Model

Ms. Columbus, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, advised that the Senior's Safety Committee of Central West Ontario was successful in receiving Trillium Foundation funding for \$482,000 for a four year comprehensive model for falls prevention in seniors. Ms. Columbus introduced Ms. Fran Hubley, Public Health Nurse, a key staff person for this initiative.

Ms. Hubley advised the goal of this project is to reduce the incidence of unintentional injury resulting from falls in seniors, over 65 years of age, living in their own homes in Central West Ontario. She advised the objective is to target seniors who have had at least two falls in the past year, resulting in a minor injury or visit to a family physician. Ms. Hubley outlined the results to be achieved through this program, advising that the project coordinator will begin the project on January 15, 2001 and a media conference and program launch planned for late January. Committee was also advised that the Seniors Safety Committee has submitted a Falls Prevention grant proposal to Health Canada focusing on identifying issues specific to Veterans.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report PHD 3-2001, January 8, 2001, respecting Seniors in Jeopardy! Comprehensive Falls Prevention Model, be received for information.

Carried.

6. Health Study Steering Committee Request
For Proposal and Terms of Reference

Dr. Klooz, Assistant Department Director, distributed the Terms of Reference for the Health Study Steering Committee and a Request for

Proposal for a consultant to provide a Health Study. The consultant will produce a health study of potential impacts of the soil contamination in the Rodney Street area of Port Colborne.

Committee members inquired as to what the Region's responsibility would be with respect to disclosure of information related to specific properties and any related health hazards determined through the study.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 06-2001, January 8, 2001, respecting Health Study Steering Committee Request for Proposal and Terms of Reference, be received.

That the Health Study Steering Committee Terms of Reference be approved.

That the Health Study Request for Proposal be approved, and

That Committee's concerns with respect to disclosure of information from the study, be referred to the legal department for response.

Carried.

MINUTES

7. Report 4-2001 Budget

Ms. Reid, Director of Community Services advised that the Budget Review Committee minutes contained a report from the Community Services Department regarding the establishment of a Social Assistance Reserve Fund. This report was received for information, pending a review of the Current Budget.

Mr. Hutchings, Assistant Director, Operational Support Services, provided a brief overview of the recommendation contained in the report for the creation of a Social Assistance Reserve Fund to assist in stabilizing current and future social assistance costs and levy requirements due to future economic downturns. Mr. Hutchings outlined the rationale for establishing a level of \$5.0 million to be achieved by the year 2004 and the initial contribution of \$1.0 million towards the establishment of the fund to be included in the proposed

2001 operating budget for the Community Services Department. He advised that the surges in social assistance caseloads are not unique to the Niagara Region and that no one can predict the timing and length of an economic downturn. For this reason, it would be prudent to set an estimated budgeted reserve fund.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report 4-2001, being the minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting of December 19, 2000, be received.

Carried.

(Report 4-2001, minutes of the Budget Review Committee meeting are attached to Corporate and Financial Services Committee Report 1-2001.)

CORRESPONDENCE

8. Moved by Councillor Hildreth
Seconded by Councillor McMullan

That the following communications be received:

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| CHS 1-2001 | Dominic Ventresca, Assistant Director, Seniors Services Division (November 30, 2000) to Staff of Gilmore Lodge expressing his appreciation on behalf of the Seniors Services Division for their response to the recent snow emergency on November 20, 2000. |
| CHS 2-2001 | C.E. Babb, Burlington (December 15, 2000) regarding Ambulance Dispatch. |
| CHS 3-2001 | Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair to The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (December 21, 2000) respecting Regional Council's concerns regarding the potential liability associated with the transfer of the Social Housing portfolio. |

- CHS 4-2001 Jade Prange, Hobson's Choice, to Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair (December 12, 2000) expressing appreciation to the Region of Niagara for their support during the Walkerton E-coli crisis.
- CHS 5-2001 Alan Rock, Minister of Health (November 21, 2000) regarding the commitment of all governments with respect to early childhood development.
- CHS 6-2001 Tony Clement, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (December 28, 2000) regarding additional transitional funding for social housing.
- CHS 7-2001 Ken Seiling, Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, on behalf of Regional Chairs of Ontario to the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, Minister of Health and Long Term Care regarding Land Ambulance Dispatch.
- CHS 8-2001 Pat Vanini, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) (December 12, 2000) regarding a letter from Tony Clement, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the sale of Ontario Housing Corporation Units.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to meet again on Monday, January 22, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters.

T. Roy Adams
Chair

Gail Reilly
Committee Secretary

Thomas R. Hollick

CHS 1-2001
January 8, 2001

Regional Clerk