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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 19-2002

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, November 11, 2002 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ms. Reid, Commissioner, Corporate Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Public Health Dept.: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Public Safety Division; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Morris, Manager, Youth Connection; Ms. Papaiz, Communications Coordinator; Ms. Partington, Acting Director, Population Health; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Public Safety Division.

Community Services Dept.: Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services; Mr. Saunders, Acting Director, Children's Services; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Tarajos, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Others: Mr. Robson, Director, Corporate Strategy.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

PRESENTATION

281. Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA)

Ms. Karen Boughner, Secretary-Treasurer Surveyor, Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) attended to present to Councillor Hildreth, Committee Chair and Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health, the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation Seal of Excellence award. The accreditation process provides for an independent, voluntary, peer evaluation of the structural, administrative and management aspects of local and regional public health departments. In April 2002, staff of the Public Health Department, with selected Governing Body members, and designated staff of partnering external agencies, participated in the accreditation process. The outcome of the recent accreditation survey is that the Regional Niagara Public Health Department achieved a four-year (maximum) Accreditation award. Councillor Hildreth and Dr. Klooz expressed their thanks and appreciation to all those that made this award possible.

282. Drug Prevention Program

Mr. Cliff Heaney, Gateway Safety Net Publications, attended, to apprise Committee of their drug safety book which is used by the Niagara Regional Police, to assist in their delivery of drug awareness education to Grade 6 students in Niagara. Mr. Heaney highlighted the book which he commented, is written and presented in an easy to understand style for children 10 years and older, and containing the information young people want to know about drugs. The book features snapshots of all the illegal drugs, and their killing effects, why young people turn to drugs, strategies for saying no and effective alternatives to drug abuse. Also included in the book is a list of helping agencies and how to contact them. Mr. Heaney urged Committee to support the Community Net Program and detailed the sponsorship levels available.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That the presentation by Mr. Cliff Heaney, Gateway Safety Net Publication, and the "Drug Safety The Choice is Yours" Book be referred to staff of the Public Health Department for review and further information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 168.)

CORRESPONDENCE

283. Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Communication CHS 61-2002, from Janet Beckett, City Clerk, City of Port Colborne, (October 25th) to The Honourable Ernie Eves, regarding its Council's resolution respecting a petition to the Government of Ontario to take the necessary steps to provide a legislative basis for the Rural and Northern Health Care Framework, be received and supported.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

284. Staffing Enhancement – Early Child Development Initiative of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC)

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 90-2002, November 11, 2002 (HR 43-2002, November 12, 2002) respecting Staffing Enhancement – Early Child Development Initiative of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), be received.

That Regional Council approve the hiring of 1.0 FTE Health Promoter for the purpose of carrying out activities as outlined in the Promoting Healthy Pregnancy and Child Development plan submitted to the MOHLTC with respect to the Early Child Development Initiative.

Carried.

285. Air Quality Update 2002

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report PHD 91-2002, November 11, 2002, regarding Air Quality Update 2002, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 168.)

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

286. Niagara Housing Corporation Dissolution

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 80-2002, November 11, 2002, respecting Niagara Housing Corporation Dissolution, be received.

That Regional Council approve:

Consent for the Niagara Housing Corporation, which was incorporated under the Business Corporations Act, to be voluntarily dissolved;

An Agreement between Niagara Housing Corporation and the Regional Municipality of Niagara, outlining all assets of Niagara Housing Corporation be transferred to the Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Housing Corporation's sole shareholder);

A direction authorizing and directing Niagara Housing Corporation to transfer its assets to Niagara Regional Housing.

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to complete the dissolution procedures.

Carried.

287. "OPPORTUNITIES NIAGARA" Update on Partnership Agreement

Mr. Papp, Project Manager, Opportunities Niagara, provided an update on the developments and progress of "Opportunities Niagara" since June 2002 and the facilitation of a Partnership agreement with Opportunities Niagara. To date, a Strategic Plan has been developed by the working group and a Community and Business Plan will be finalized by March 2003 which will confirm not only its funding basis from partners and foundations but will also be able to set out its measurable goals. Mr. Papp issued an invitation to Committee members to attend the Opportunities Niagara Community Forum, titled "Creating A Caring and Vibrant Community in Niagara" which will be held on December 4th, 2002 at the Four Points Sheraton in Thorold. Mr. Papp introduced Betty Lou Souter, Chair, Niagara Homelessness Committee and CEO, Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold; and Peter Hammond, Board Chair "Opportunities Niagara" and Community Care of St. Catharines and

Thorold, who were in attendance to provide further information and respond to any questions.

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report COM 81-2002, November 1, 2002, respecting "Opportunities Niagara" Update on Partnership Agreement, be received for information.

Carried.

288. Fort Erie Refugee Reception and Migration
Health Centre – Border Infrastructure Proposal

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 82-2002, November 11, 2002, respecting Fort Erie Refugee Reception and Migration Health Centre – Border Infrastructure Proposal, be received.

That Regional Council endorse the infrastructure requirements of the Fort Erie Refugee Reception and Migration Health Centre totalling \$100,000 as identified in this report and the submission of these requirements as part of the Border infrastructure Fund proposal to Industry Canada from the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority.

That the Region contribute funding of \$50,000 toward infrastructure requirements of the Fort Erie Refugee Reception and Migration Health Centre regardless of the success of the border Infrastructure Fund Proposal.

That the Regional contribution be supported through 100% Provincial incentive funding related to Community Placements.

Moved by Councillor Brickell
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That the Regional contribution of \$50,000 towards the infrastructure requirements at the Fort Erie Reception and Migration Health Centre be contingent on matching funds from the Border Infrastructure Fund; and

That should the request for Border Infrastructure Funding not be successful, that the request for the Region's contribution of \$50,000 be brought back to Committee for consideration at that time.

Carried.

Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That the Regional Municipality of Niagara request the Federal Government to contribute 100% sustainable funding for the Fort Erie Refugee Reception and Migration Health Centre; and

That a copy of this letter be forwarded to local M.P.s for support; and

That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) be requested to advocate for an overall policy for sustainable funding for border communities.

Carried.

Upon a vote being taken, the original motion, as amended, was carried.

289. 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report COM 83-2002, November 11, 2002, respecting 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2002 Ontario Works Service Contract with the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services (provincial Subsidy = \$10,105,375/Regional Levy = \$5,596,220).

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

290. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That the following correspondence be received and dealt with as directed by this Committee and as noted in these minutes:

CHS 57-2002 Robert L. Ciupa, Inspector, Community Support,
Niagara Regional Police Service to Cliff Heaney
regarding Drug Prevention Program.

--Received.

CHS 58-2002 Tony Clement, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair, (Oct. 22) regarding funding for Long Term Care Facilities.

--Received.

CHS 59-2002 Tony Clement, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair, (Oct. 15) regarding ambulance response activities.

--Received and staff provide additional information on the matter.

CHS 60-2002 Tony Clement, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to Debbie Zimmerman, Regional Chair, (Oct. 16) regarding her letter requesting the Ministry form a "Lead Review Consensus Panel".

--Received.

CHS 62-2002 Angela Luker, Hamilton, Ontario (October 29th) to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, regarding her husband's suicide because of a gambling sickness.

--Received and referred to staff for further information on available statistics related to suicides and other health impacts related to gambling addiction.
(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 168.)

*CHS 63-2002 Gordon Midgley, C.E.O., Heidehof (November 5th) to Dominic Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, advising that Heidehof will no longer be needing the temporary use of Dorchester Manor during their building retrofit.

--Received.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

291. Moved by Councillor Konkle
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending October 31, 2002 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$3,100,323.43
Public Health	\$1,357,314.12

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

292. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councilor Brickell

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a legal matter.

Carried.

293. Ambulance Services Contract

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the oral report from Mr. Trojan regarding Ambulance Services Contract be received and approved.

Carried.

294. Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

STAFF DIRECTION

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Prepare a report on the Public Health Department's substance abuse prevention programming and partnerships in the Community in providing these programs to schools in the Niagara Region. (Refer to minute item 282.)
- (ii) That a letter be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment requesting a more accurate reporting of the number of actual poor air quality days in effect and not just based upon those alerts that are forecast. (Refer to minute item 285.)
- (iii) Prepare further information regarding the health impacts related to Gambling and addiction. (Refer to minute item 290.)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:35 p.m. to meet again on Monday, November 25, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk