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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 14-2003**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, September 8, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Crane, Coordinator of Education & Quality Improvement; Ms. Graham-Watson, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Ms. McBrain, Manager, Children's Services.

Public Health Dept.: Ms. Bell, Manager, Healthy Babies Parent Child Program; Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Deans, Manager, Healthy Babies Parent Child Program; Ms. Kalailieff, Manager, Youth Connection; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Ms. Morris, Manager, Youth Connection; Ms. Partington, Director, Population Health; Ms. Roach, Program Mgr., IEPT Programs; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Land Ambulance; Ms. Rose, Inspector; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Spencer, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion; Ms. Vanecko, Manager, Healthy Babies Parent Child Program; Mr. Young, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion.

Other Departments: Mr. Bousfield, Manager, Properties and Facilities Management; Mr. Hollick, Regional Clerk; Ms. Hepplewhite, Manager, Records.

Others: Councillor Saracino.

PRESENTATION

179. Sexual Health Program Update on HIV/AIDS
And Partnership with AIDS Niagara
StreetWorks Program

Mr. Alan Spencer, Manager, Sexual Health Program, provided an overview of the mandate of the Regional Niagara Public Health Department with respect to HIV/AIDS, relevant services provided by the Department, and the partnership with AIDS Niagara StreetWorks Program. He advised that all portions of the mandate are being met, notwithstanding the challenge of a continuing increase in demand for service. Mr. Spencer advised that AIDS Niagara is a significant and complementary partner of the department in delivering HIV/AIDS related service in Niagara. The StreetWorks Program has provided excellent service to hard-to-reach, high-risk population and demand for this specific service has grown substantially over the past few years. Mr. Spencer commented that the department, during core program reviews, will consider increasing StreetWorks' annual operating budget by \$25,000 in order to be able to sustain the present demand for service. Mr. Spencer did comment, however, that following further discussions with AIDS Niagara, an increase in the budget by \$50,000 is required to meet the further increased service requests in the near future.

Presentation - StreetWorks Needle Exchange Program

Mr. Steve Byers, Executive Director, AIDS Niagara, together with Ms. Rhonda Thompson, Coordinator, StreetWorks Program, attended to apprise Committee of the budgetary shortfalls of the StreetWorks Needle Exchange Program and the subsequent service suspension that has been imposed. StreetWorks is one of the longest running exchanges in the province and is a harm reduction program that addresses the needs of injection drug users in the community. The goal is to reduce the transmission of HIV by educating users on safer needle use, and provision of sterile injection equipment. They advised that this free and anonymous service also allows individuals an opportunity to discuss their life issues openly without fear of judgmental attitudes or legal repercussions. Treatment options, housing, access to health services are examples of some of the referrals made through the program, as well as counseling and practical assistance. The needle exchange program is an outreach tool by providing users with something that they need, is a ticket through the front door that would otherwise not be accessible. The presenters commented that the program is in a crisis situation and that the drug situation in the Niagara Region cannot be overlooked.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 58-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Sexual Health Program Update on HIV/AIDS and Partnership with AIDS Niagara StreetWorks Program, be received for information; and

That the Public Health Department increase StreetWorks' annual operating budget by up to \$50,000 for 2004.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

180. 7th Annual Alzheimer Coffee Break

Chair Zimmerman invited Committee members to attend the 7th Annual Alzheimer Coffee Break on Friday, September 12, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. at Regional Headquarters in the reception area. Light refreshment and coffee will be served. Chair Zimmerman passed a donation box to those that would not be able to attend the event, thanking committee members for their contribution to this worthy cause.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

181. Ontarians with Disabilities Act – Accessibility Plan

Mr. Hollick, Regional Clerk and Ms. Hepplewhite, Manager, Records, provided an overview of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act – Accessibility Plan. Ms. Hepplewhite advised that in the process of discussing the Region's needs in terms of planning for accessibility and the removal of barriers, the committee agreed that the first order of business should be sensitivity and awareness education for Regional staff. The next important step is to initiate a communication plan for the gathering of public input. The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Accessibility Plan be adopted for the 2003-2004 year and that the plan be viewed as a multi-year planning process.

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Chair Zimmerman

That Report CLK 24-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 – Accessibility Plan, be received; and

That the Accessibility Plan for 2003/2004 be adopted; and

That staff be directed to initiate a communication plan for the gathering of public input for the 2004/2005 Accessibility Plan.

Carried.

182. Criteria for Closed Session Items

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report CLK 25-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Criteria for Closed Session Items, be received for information and included in the Council Orientation materials.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

183. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report
Second Quarter – April 1 – June 30, 2003

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report COM 46-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report Second Quarter – April 1 – June 30, 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

184. Pay Equity Funding for Not-For-Profit
Community Child Care Centres

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 47-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Pay Equity Funding for Not-For-Profit Community Child Care Centres, be received for information.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

185. Presentation – West Nile Virus

Mr. Bjorn Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion, with the assistance of Ms. Tina Rose, Inspector, presented an update on the West Nile Virus. There are 161 probable positive humans infected in Canada as of September 5, 2003. Data collected indicates that in Canada, similar to the United States, the number of human, Avian, animal and mosquito infections have moved to the West. A chart was provided detailing the reports of dead crows in the Niagara Region for 2002 and 2003, noting that 6 positive birds have been confirmed with bird testing ending as of August 20th, 2003. Charts were also highlighted indicating the average number of collected mosquitoes per trap per week from 2002 and 2003, as of September 3, 2003 and the locations of adult mosquito traps in the Niagara Region. 2002 and 2003 positive West Nile Virus data in the Niagara Region, as of August 27, 2003, indicated 6 positive birds in 2003 and 11 positive birds in 2002; 18 positive humans in 2002; and 15 positive traps in 2002. 131 standing water sites have been treated in the Niagara Region, as of September 3, 2003. WNV Human Data collected from other Health Units in Ontario indicate 13 probable cases in Ontario with 1 confirmed case in Renfrew. Mr. Christensen highlighted the 3 Tier planning and strategies that are in place, noting that the Public Health Department is confident, at this time, that the Niagara Region will not need to proceed to Tier 3 which is the application of adulticides.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the oral report by Mr. Bjorn Christensen, Director, Health Protection & Promotion, respecting an Update on the West Nile Virus, be received.

Carried.

186. Dental Indices Survey – 2002 Update

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report PHD 50-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Dental Indices Survey – 2002 Update, be received for information.

Carried.

187. Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT)
2002/2003 Annual Report

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 51-2003, respecting Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program Annual Report 2002/2003 be received for information; and

That a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Province, for their enhanced/expanded infant development program funding.

Carried.

188. Food Safety Report

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bentley

That Report PHD 52-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Food Safety Report, be received for information.

Carried.

189. Mandatory Program Indicator Audit – 2001

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PD 53-2003, respecting Mandatory Program Indicator Audit – 2001, be received for information.

Carried.

190. Youth Connection School Team – Program Update in Relation to:
Recommendations of Regional Council’s Ad Hoc Committee for
The Review of the Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Program Delivery
To Schools

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 56-2003, September 8, 2003, respecting Youth Connection School Team – Program Update in Relation to: “Recommendations of Regional Council’s Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of the Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Program Delivery to

Schools” be approved allowing the dissemination of evaluation results to all schools regarding the progress of the service delivery model implemented by the Youth Connection Program, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee; and

That this report be circulated to all members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of the Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Program Delivery to Schools.

Carried.

191. Reconfiguration of Public Health Position –
Population Health Division

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 57-2003, September 8, 2003 (HR 32-2003, September 9, 2003), respecting Reconfiguration of Public Health Position – Population Health Division, be received for information.

Carried.

MINUTES

192. Report 5-2003

Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That Report 5-2003, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of August 26, 2003, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

193. Moved by Chair Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That the following communications be received.

CHS 57-2003 Letter from Debbie M. Zimmerman, Regional Chair (August 5, 2003) to the Honourable Brenda Elliott, Minister of Community, Family & Children’s Services regarding the state of Niagara’s child care funding.

CHS 58-2003 Dominic Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, to The Honourable Tim Hudak, Minister of Business & Consumer Services, respecting various issues related to Northland Pointe.

CHS 59-2003 Terry McCarthy, Regional Director, Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services (August 28, 2003) in response to Mike Trojan, C.A.O. letter regarding cost sharing increases and child care funding for Ontario Works.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

194. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

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

Carried.

195. Ambulance Station
City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 59-2003, September 8, 2003 (PWA 130-2003, September 9, 2003/CSD 132-2003, September 10, 2003), be received and that staff be authorized to negotiate the purchase of the existing facility at a value more in line with the appraisal(s) and provide a further report to Committee for final approval of that value.

Carried.

196. Moved by Councillor Bentley
Seconded by Councillor Davidson

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:40 p.m. to meet again on Monday, September 22, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk