


To view related Council minutes, select the Adobe hand tool  and click on the link below.
<http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/clerks/minutes/2003/cl/cl15-2003.pdf>

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 16-2003

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, October 6, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Bailey; Brickell; Davidson; Eke; Forster; Harry; Marshall; Redekop; Timms.

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Mr. Hutchings, Director, Operational Support Services.
Public Health Dept.: Ms. Columbus, Mgr. Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Roach, Manager, Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

Others: Councillors Rigby and Saracino.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

206. Niagara Voluntary Sector Labour Market Survey

Ms. Reid, Commissioner of Community Services, introduced Brenda Herchmer of Niagara College, who was in attendance to apprise Committee of the Niagara Voluntary Sector Labour Market Study. The Commissioner commented that their department is well aware of the significant contributions made by volunteers and the importance of developing a means to sustain the voluntary sector in Niagara.

Ms. Herchmer advised that the purpose of the study is to “sustain the significant contribution of the voluntary sector to Niagara’s economy and quality of life by facilitating the development of a community-owned

strategic plan that will assist the voluntary sector to identify and meet workforce needs”.

The study, conducted by the Centre for Community Leadership at Niagara College and funded by the Government of Canada, provides a snapshot of the key issues affecting Niagara’s organizations and provides recommendations that are critical to the sector’s survival and sustainability particularly as it pertains to employment and training needs. Ms. Herchmer highlighted the specific issues prompting the study such as:

- Declining funding
- Aging workforce
- Lack of youth involvement
- Reduced volunteer support
- Lack of effective recruitment strategies
- Lack of coordinated response to new social issues
- Reduced roles of government in economic and social development

Study deliverables were identified as follows:

- Develop a profile of the voluntary sector workforce
- Identify labour force needs, anticipated shortages, changes
- Identify issues, challenges and priorities
- Document and prioritize required skill sets and training needs within Niagara’s voluntary sector
- Suggest strategies for implementing study results

Committee was advised that the average number of stakeholders served per organization rose to 7,491 in 2003 from 5,479 in 2001. The ability to meet demands of stakeholders declined to 17% in 2003 from 22% in 2001. Ms. Herchmer noted the reasons for the increase in demands for services and the reasons for being unable to meet these needs. A communiqué on the Niagara Voluntary Sector Labour Market Study which outlines a number of recommendations critical to the sustainability of Niagara’s voluntary sector is attached for information.

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the presentation from Brenda Herchmer, Niagara College, regarding the Niagara Voluntary Sector Labour Market Survey, be received and referred to staff for recommendations on how the Region can assist in supporting a central delivery mechanism for building the capacity of Niagara’s voluntary sector and the promotion of volunteerism.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

207. Workplace Wellness Program Update and
Canada's Healthy Workplace Week – October 20 – 26, 2003

Ms. Columbus, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, was in attendance to apprise Committee of the Wellness in the Workplace Conference 2003 to be held on November 25, 2003 at Club Italia in Niagara Falls and invited all members of Council to attend. Ms. Columbus also provided an update on the Workplace Wellness Program and highlighted Canada's Healthy Workplace Week, October 20 -26, 2003. Committee also received an information package prepared by the Public Health Department's Workplace Wellness Team.

Moved by Councillor Davidson
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report PHD 62-2003, October 6, 2003, respecting Workplace Wellness Program Update and Canada's Healthy Workplace Week – October 20-26, 2003, be received for information.

Carried.

208. Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT)
Annual Enhanced Funding

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 64-2003, October 6, 2003, (HR 35-2003, October 7, 2003) respecting Infant Education and Parent Teaching Program (IEPT) Annual Enhanced Funding, be received.

That approval be granted to accept additional funding from the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services for the Infant, Education and Parent Teaching (IEPT) program; and

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to process the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services budget documents.

Carried.

209. Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases Funding

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided a summary of options for the use of new 100% provincial funding to enhance Public Health's ability to monitor and respond to infectious diseases. The Ministry has indicated that this funding is time-limited, and as of April 1, 2004, will be subject to 50/50 cost-sharing. Dr. Sider commented that given the uncertainties in the long-term with receiving 100% provincial funding for this initiative, it is recommended that Regional Council authorize the Chair to write to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care indicating that this 100% funding grant should be given to the Region for a minimum time period of three years. This action, he commented, would be consistent with position taken by a number of other regions in the province.

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Forster

That Report PHD 66-2003, October 6, 2003, respecting Ministry of Health Infectious Diseases Funding, be received.

That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to sign the Letter of Agreement to utilize the 100% provincial funding available until March 31, 2004, and that the Regional Chair write to the new Minister of Health and Long Term Care urging that 100% provincial funding for public health infectious disease and outbreak response be continued for a minimum of three years prior to being considered for cost-sharing.

Carried.

MINUTES

210. Report 6-2003

Moved by Councillor Forster
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report 6-2003, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of September 30, 2003 be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

211. Moved by Councillor Eke
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

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

CHS 60-2003 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Members' Advisory (September 24, 2003) respecting Call for Resolutions for Consideration by the FCM National Board of Directors.

--Received.

CHS 61-2003 Kelli Mulley, YMCA of Niagara, Employment & Community Services, providing information about the prevalence of gambling among young people and the goals of the YMCA Youth Gambling Project.

--Received.

CHS 62-2003 Carolee Wilson, Manager, TAKAPEEK Thrift Shop, requesting the Region to be a project sponsor.

--Received.

CHS 63-2003 Colin D'Cunha, Commissioner of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (September 19, 2003) advising of an additional 100% grant of \$105,802.00 as an initial allocation for staffing to increase its ability to monitor and respond to infectious diseases, including surges in activity related to outbreaks of diseases.

--Received.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 3:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, October 27, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick
Regional Clerk