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**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**  
**COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 17-2003**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Monday, October 27, 2003 commencing at 3:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

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

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Smith, Coordinator, Policy, Planning and Research; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health Dept.: Ms. Bakker, PHN; Mr. Bertleff, Supervisor, Emergency Measures; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health; Ms. LaCroix, Mgr., Vaccine Preventable Disease Program; Ms. Papaiz, Coordinator Communications; Mr. Roberts, Project Manager, Land Ambulance; Ms. St. John, Director, Clinical Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Wilson, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention.

Other Departments: Mr. Bousfield, Mgr., Properties and Facilities Management; Ms. Brown, Buyer.

Other: Councillors Rigby and Saracino.

**PRESENTATION**

212. Business Education Council

Mr. Ted Palmer, Executive Director, Business Education Council (BCE), attended to apprise Committee and Council of their role in the Early Years Niagara initiative. He highlighted their vision and mission statements as follows:

#### Vision

The Business Education Council of Niagara will take a leadership position in enabling innovative partnerships recognized internationally as “best practice” models for relationships with education, business, government and the broader community.

#### Mission

The Business Education Council of Niagara (BEC) is committed to the enhancement of education, employment opportunities, economic development and the personal and professional growth of individual citizens by forging partnerships with education, business, government and the broader community.

The Director outlined BEC’s People Development Continuum which provides for the growing and retaining of a talent pool of partners in Business, Education, Government and the Community. Partners that have demonstrated their significant commitment to Early Years Niagara include Regional Niagara; Provincial government; Kenneth Fowler Foundation; Hewlett Packard; Branscombe Family Foundation; United Way – St. Catharines District and Computers for Schools with the Niagara Credit Union as the Corporate Champion. An organizational chart was presented detailing the Early Years Niagara Community Council and the Early Years Niagara Partners and expert advisory groups.

BEC’s objectives for Early Years Niagara were highlighted as follows:

- Build public awareness
- Development protocols for liaison/partnerships with services for children 0-6, focusing on seamless services
- Establish expert panels from both Niagara School Boards (done)
- Support Community Council and communities in identifying needs and funding exemplary programming initiatives for families and children 0-6
- Enhance information flow between Community Council, Partners, Expert Groups, funders and the public on opportunities and services
- Complete transition to new structure
- Produce annual Community Report Card

Mr. Palmer asked Regional Councillors and Mayors to meet the challenge as Early Years Champions, by advocating for Early Year in Niagara and by helping seek out business partners for local community groups that provide Early Years services. Also to support the development of a secure funding base for local and regional initiatives and setting an example by initiating family friendly Human Resource practices.

Mr. Palmer, on behalf of The Early Years Action Group Niagara Region, presented a plaque to Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman and Regional Council for their leadership and support of Early Years Niagara. Mr. Palmer also expressed appreciation to Dr. Robin Williams and Susan Reid for their dedication and commitment to the Early Years Initiative.

The Regional Chair advised the plaque would be proudly displayed in the lobby and expressed her appreciation to the Early Years Niagara group, noting it was gratifying that a good program just keeps getting better.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

213. Public Health Department Annual Community Report

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report PHD 65-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Public Health Department Annual Community Report, be received for information.

Carried.

214. Children's Charter

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, provided a brief update on the feedback received from the 12 area municipalities regarding the Children's Charter, noting that seven municipalities have endorsed and five municipalities have received the Children's Charter. Ms. Heidebrecht advised that the development of Niagara's Children's Charter has been an inclusive, community-driven process that has benefited from thoughtful discussions and broad input. Upon final endorsement by the Community and Health Services Committee, Regional Council and Niagara's twelve municipalities, the Early Years Action Group-Niagara Region is prepared to provide support in the distribution of the Children's Charter and endorsement across Niagara's School Boards, Service Clubs, the business community and the broader community.

Moved by Councillor Harry  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report PHD 70-2003/COM 49-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Children's Charter, be received for information.

That the Children's Charter be adopted and endorsed by the Regional Municipality of Niagara; and

That the Children's Charter be forwarded to the twelve Municipal Councils in Niagara for adoption and endorsement.

Carried.

215. Promotion of Organized Breast Screening in Niagara

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 67-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Promotion of Organized Breast Screening in Niagara, be received for information.

Carried.

216. Universal Influenza Community Clinics

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report PHD 68-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Universal Influenza Community Clinics, be received for information.

Carried.

217. Vaccine Preventable Disease Program:  
Immunization Enforcement Actions

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 69-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Vaccine Preventable Disease Program: Immunization Enforcement Actions, be received for information.

Carried.

218. Review of the Managed Dental Care Program  
For Adult Ontario Works Participants

Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health, provided an overview of the managed mandatory Dental Care Program for children of Ontario Works participants and the review of the expansion of that program related to the management of a discretionary dental program for adults of the Ontario Works Program.

In comparison of Dental Programs – Public vs. Private, savings/cost avoidance is based on:

- Needs assessment prior to eligibility confirmation
- Fee schedule limitations (time and frequency)
- Claims assessments and adjudication, pre-authorization requirements by the dental program manager

A comparison of Waterloo vs. Niagara Children's Mandatory Programs for Ontario Works was highlighted as follows:

- Essentially the same caseload
- Waterloo costs \$1.4 annually
- Niagara costs \$580,000 annually
- Since 1997 – Niagara has experienced a cost avoidance (savings of \$820,000 annually)

Dr. Klooz provided the following information respecting Dental Care in Canada and Ontario:

- Children and seniors programs available – but adults seldom covered
- Dental care is one of the few health services not covered by OHIP – only private insurance
- Expensive
- 50% of residents in Niagara have no dental insurance
- Direct impact on nutrition and speech

Dr. Klooz advised that an Ontario Works Adult Dental Program would:

- Provide relief of pain, suffering, infection
- Improve quality of life
- Enable client to seek available employment opportunities

The existing program only covers emergency work.

The initial major objectives of the Dental Care Program for 2003 are identified as follows:

- Address accessibility/utilization issues and attempt to improve access
- Address issues related to clients needing multiple visits to obtain treatment purchase orders
- Address issues related to consistency of service and equitable treatment for clients (needs based services)
- Attempt to improve all areas while remaining within the existing 2002 budget through enhanced cost controls

Projected data for 2003 indicates that objectives are being met within the approved budget and at 2002 levels.

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report PHD 71-2003/COM 50-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Review of the Managed Dental Care Program be received and implemented on a permanent basis.

That Regional Council support the position taken by the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry to request the Province to implement a Provincial Insurance Program; and

That staff report back on a strategy for lobbying the Province for this program.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page CHS 141.)

219. Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Vehicle

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report PHD 73-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Vehicle, be received and the recommendation of the CBRN Steering Committee be approved.

Carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

220. Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO)  
Division Semi-Annual Report (January 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 51-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities (SAEO) Division Semi-annual Report (January 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003), be received for information.

Carried.

221. Purchase of Mechanical Lifts from  
Resident Interest Trust Fund – Seniors Services

Moved by Councillor Brickell  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Report COM 52-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Purchase of Mechanical Lifts from Resident Interest Trust Fund – Seniors Services, be received.

That the purchase of mechanical resident lifts be authorized from the Seniors Services Resident interest Trust Fund for an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for purposes of improving resident care and resident and staff safety.

Carried.

222. Medical Directors Annual Reports – Long-Term Care Facilities

Moved by Councillor Brickell  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 53-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting Medical Directors Annual Reports – Long-Term Care Facilities, be received.

That the Regional Chair be authorized to correspond with the Minister of Health and Long Care to:

1. Acknowledge the recent Provincial increases in long-term care facility funding, as outlined in this report.

2. Request the Province to implement subsequent steps to increase their funding in order to raise the hours of care provided to residents in long-term care facilities.

Carried.
  
223. 2003 Children's Services and  
2003 Ontario Works Service Contracts

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 54-2003, October 27, 2003, respecting 2003 Children's Services and 2003 Ontario Works Service contracts, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2003 Children's Services Contract with the Ministry of community, Family and Children's Services (Provincial Subsidy = \$15,544,915/Regional Levy = \$5,896,637).

Carried.
  
224. Proposed Property Disposal  
Former Northland Manor Long Term Care Facility  
In the City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Brickell

That Report COM 55-2003, October 27, 2003 (PWA 169-2003, October 28, 2003) respecting Proposed Property Disposal Former Northland Manor Long Term Care Facility in the City of Port Colborne, be received.

That the tender in the amount of \$575,000.00 as received from Michael Venneri, in Trust for the purchase of surplus property described as "Parcel A" in Contract RN 03-47 (Sale of Surplus Property, Former Northland Manor Long Term Care Facility, in the City of Port Colborne) be accepted; and

That the Offers to Purchase received from five owners, and possibly to be received from a sixth owner, abutting the Region's surplus property in Contract RN 03-47 be accepted; and

That the Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare and the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the documentation required to effect the above-described transactions.

Carried.

225. Extension of Incontinence Management System  
(Ref. #2003-RFP-14 – Original #98-RFP-07)

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report COM 56-2003, October 27, 2003 (CSD 156-2003, October 29, 2003), respecting Extension of Incontinence Management System (Ref. #2003-RFP-14-Original #98-RFP-07), be received.

That staff be authorized to negotiate a contract extension with the current provider of Incontinence products, SCA Hygiene Products.

Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

226. Moved by Councillor Brickell  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That the following communications be received:

CHS 64-2003 Terry McCarthy, Regional Director, Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services (September 23, 2003) regarding childcare funding in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

CHS 65-2003 Coleman Bagu Sr., resident, Port Colborne, expressing his concerns regarding the proposed site of the new St. Catharines Health Care Centre.

Carried.

227. Moved by Councillor Timms  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Communication CHS 66-2003 from William Varga, Mayor, Town of Lasalle (October 16, 2003) seeking support for their Council's resolution to urge the new Liberal Government, to begin debate and eventual implementation of no smoking within all retail/business/entertainment establishments throughout the Province be received.

Carried.

**ACCOUNTS**

228. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That Accounts Payable Expense Summary for the period ending September 30, 2003 in the following amounts be approved:

Community Services	\$3,301,039.89
Public Health	\$1,385,937.48

Carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

229. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

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

Carried.

230. Ambulance Station – City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Eke  
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report PHD 72-2003, October 27, 2003 (PWA 166-2003, October 28, 2003/CSD 151-2003, October 29, 2003) respecting Ambulance Station, City of Port Colborne, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

231. Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Eke

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**STAFF DIRECTION**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Identify costs associated with 100% discretionary benefits to non-Social Assistance recipients.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 5:20 p.m. to meet again in Committee of the Whole on Thursday, November 20, 2003 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Thomas R. Hollick  
Regional Clerk