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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 9, 2023

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Roy, Chair
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Foster
Councillor Jubb*
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Chapman*
Councillor Kerr (attended for part of the meeting)
Councillor McDougall*
Councillor Wotten*
Councillor Woo*
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Burgess, Communications and Engagement, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer – Legal Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
L. Fortuna, Director, Health Protection, Health
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Children’s Services, Social Services

- A. Robins, Director, Housing Services, Social Services
- C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services
- N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance
- E. Valant, Area Manager, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
- N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
- K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Brenner, Seconded by Councillor Foster,
(5) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services Division, re: Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics 2022

Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics 2022.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Households on DASH Wait List
- DASH Wait List 2006-2022
- Profile of DASH Applicants
- DASH Applicants – Municipality of Residence
- DASH Assisted Applicants – 2022
- Future Investments

A. Robins responded to questions with regards to the number of individuals that are currently on the DASH wait list who are homeless and where they are seeking shelter; the number of Rent Geared to Income (RGI) units in Durham Region; the review of the housing intensification study; number of DASH applicants that have been assisted; potential opportunities to partner with private sector developers to obtain more affordable units; whether senior housing is mandated by the

Province; creating more single affordable housing units; identifying where the greatest need of affordable housing is in Ontario; the breakdown for cost of indexed rent in Durham Region on RGI units; funding availability from the provincial and federal governments for affordable housing; difference between buying units in a building versus building from scratch for affordable housing units; the overlap of DASH applicants being on lists in other regions; and whether applicants are released from the DASH wait list if they receive a unit in another region.

Discussion ensued with regards to creating a strong affordable housing sector by building affordable units in mixed income communities and ways to change supplemental income distribution.

Staff was asked to provide a report regarding the level of basic income that would support the economy and outlining ways to solve some of the issues. Commissioner Danos-Papaconstantinou advised a report on this matter would be brought forward to the May meeting.

5.2 Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, re: COVID-19 and Flu Update

R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to COVID-19 and Flu Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Current Status – COVID-19
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- Wastewater Surveillance
- Guidance for Cases & Contacts
- Current Status – Flu
- Age Distribution of Flu Cases
- Current Status – Respiratory Outbreaks
- Child Care & School Absenteeism
- Chief Medical Officer of Health Remarks
- Current Masking Requirements
- Current COVID-19 & Flu Vaccine Plans

R.J. Kyle advised that COVID-19 continues to persist at a slow to moderate rate and that there continues to be outbreaks primarily in long-term care homes, retirement homes, hospitals, group homes and shelters.

R.J. Kyle provided a brief overview of the vaccine administration and vaccine coverage. He advised that wastewater surveillance has leveled out which denotes continued community transmission.

R.J. Kyle advised that flu cases peaked at the end of November and is classified as moderate with most cases being Influenza A. He advised that a large number of flu cases have been in the younger age groups.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recess in order to connect the delegate to the meeting.

6. Delegations

6.1 Julie VanHartingsvelt, External Relations Specialist, Communications and Public Affairs, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, re: Request for Approval to Provide Psychiatric Emergency Services and Construct an Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing Unit

J. VanHartingsvelt, External Relations Specialist, Communications and Public Affairs, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Request for Approval to Provide Psychiatric Emergency Services and Construct an Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) Unit.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- About Ontario Shores
- The Problem
- The Solution
- EmPATH Model Space & Benefits
- Case Study: EmPATH Model at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital – Edina, Minnesota
- The Future of Ontario Shores

J. VanHartingsvelt stated that Ontario Shores is a public teaching hospital that offers a variety of specialized assessments and treatment services for those living with complex and serious mental illness. She also stated that there are 340 beds at Ontario Shores, there are over 90,000 annual outpatient visits, there are over 1,300 staff, and patients from all of Ontario are served.

J. VanHartingsvelt stated that the demand for mental health services in the province is at an all time high and that Ontario Shores does not have an emergency department. She advised that there is great data coming out of the innovative and transformative models outcome path out of the United States which has been successfully implemented across 20 locations.

J. VanHartingsvelt advised that the number of people seeking emergency care for mental health crisis has increased by 61% in the last two years. She provided a brief overview of the EmPATH model, space, and benefits of having an emergency department at Ontario Shores.

J. VanHartingsveldt responded to questions of the Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(6) That Julie VanHartingsvelt, External Relations Specialist,
Communications and Public Affairs, Ontario Shores Centre for Mental
Health Sciences, re: Request for Approval to Provide Psychiatric
Emergency Services and Construct an Emergency Psychiatric
Assessment Treatment and Healing Unit, appear as a delegation at the
Regional Council on March 1, 2023.

CARRIED

6.2 Iain De Jong, President and CEO, OrgCode Consulting Inc., re: Update on the
OrgCode Report

Iain De Jong, President and CEO, OrgCode Consulting Inc. appeared before
Committee regarding an Update on the OrgCode Report.

I. De Jong advised that OrgCode works with communities and organizations in
Canada, United States, and Australia to work on making homelessness non
existent, brief and non-recurring and provides the opportunity to engage with
community and stakeholders on renewing the system support strategy to better
respond to homelessness and housing stability in Durham Region.

I. De Jong stated that the intent of the project is to better understand the current
state of the homelessness response system and the housing access and stability
system and to develop a clearer understanding of what the unmet needs and
service gaps are, and to recommend system improvements in response to
homelessness.

I. De Jong stated that over 400 people responded to an open survey in February
2022, and a broad range of key informant interviews was conducted in the
community and engaged with over 40 people experiencing homelessness. He
advised that 95% of them were interested in ending homelessness, finding
housing, and using the services being provided.

I. De Jong stated that there were 24 recommendations put forward based upon
the analysis of the survey, the key informant interviews, the review of data, and
the engagement with people experiencing homelessness. He also stated that
housing, with supports as necessary, is the solution to homelessness. He added
that income assistance rates are insufficient to meet the cost of housing, and a
broad range of housing options that are necessary.

I. De Jong stated there is a need for cross sector and cross system collaboration
and that advocacy should include increasing housing supply. There should be
ongoing work to increase income assistance rates to meet the demands of the
cost of living, improved discharge planning, and enhanced integration of

partnerships with health to better meet the needs of people living with compromised mental wellness or substance abuse disorder.

I. De Jong responded to questions of the Committee.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to consider.

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

A) Information Report #2023-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: 2022 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Brenner,
(7) That Information Report #2023-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: 2022 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics, be received for information.

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services Report to consider.

Questions to Social Services

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to questions regarding funding allocated for the master housing plan; expanding and/or altering the shelter system; plans, timelines, and obstacles to modernize shelters; authority within the shelter system; program reviews conducted by the Region for the shelter system; whether there are outreach workers available at night; and whether there are funds within the budget for outreach workers from Durham Region.

Discussion ensued with regards to expansion of shelters in Durham Region; alternative sources of funding for social supportive housing and homelessness; having outreach workers employed by Durham Region to offer support to those that are homeless; and the housing crisis, health crisis, and opioid crisis happening in Durham Region and Canada and the funding challenges within those.

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
(8) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk