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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 7, 2023

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 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*, attended the meeting at 9:40 AM
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Foster
Councillor Jubb*
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Crawford*
Councillor Schummer*
Councillor Wotten*
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: None

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Burgess, Director, Communications & Engagement
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
T. Cheseboro*, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Fortuna*, Director, Health Protection, Health
J. Gaskin, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
W. Holmes*, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Jordison, Commander, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health

G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development and Renewal, Housing Services, Social Services
J. Rankin, Administrator, Fairview Lodge, Social Services
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services, Social Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Struna*, Manager, Health Protection Division, Health
A. Swirski*, Epidemiologist, Health
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
T. Zupancic*, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Health Protection Division, Health
*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

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

CARRIED

4. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. **Presentations**

5.1 Julie Gaskin, Director, Children's Services Division, re: Durham's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027 (2023-SS-14) [Item 8.2 B)]

Julie Gaskin, Director, Children's Services Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) Responsibilities
- Service Plan Key Priorities & Actions
- Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care System (CWELCC)
- CWELCC Eligibility
- CWELCC Enrollment & Responsibilities
- Directed Growth Plan for Durham 2022-2026

- Directed Growth Targets – by year and location
- Data Driven and Community Focused
- Priority Neighbourhoods
- Planning for the Future
- Conclusion

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(50) That the agenda be altered to consider Item 8.2 B) Durham's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027 (2023-SS-14), next.
CARRIED

8.2 Reports

B) Durham's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027 (2023-SS-14)

Report #2023-SS-14 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

J. Gaskin responded to questions with regards to the intended audience for the five-year service plan and the need to prepare the plan on an annual basis; what is to be expected for future funding and changes to the funding formula; and how to obtain more community-based spaces.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(51) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council endorse and approve the Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027.

CARRIED

5.2 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, re: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment

Due to technical difficulties this item was heard later in the meeting. [See pages 4 and 5 of these minutes]

5.3 Lisa Kitchen, Director, Durham Ontario Health Team, and Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, re: The Durham Ontario Health Team Path Forward: Acceleration and Key Priorities

Lisa Kitchen, Director, Durham Ontario Health Team, and Dr. Pepi McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to The Durham Ontario Health Team Path Forward: Acceleration and Key Priorities.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Ontario Health Team Model

- Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) Across the Province
- Vision for the Durham OHT
- Durham OHT Signatory Partners
- Our Purpose
- Building OHT's to Last: OHT Acceleration
- Leading Project – Downtown Oshawa Neighbourhood (DON)
- Durham OHT Work Supported by the Region of Durham
- Health and Social Care Resource Fair
- Future of OHTs

L. Kitchen, Dr. P. McTavish and J. Jordison responded to questions with regards to Durham Region's involvement with the physician recruitment team and creation of the new medical school; ways to assist with mitigating the unsheltered population in Durham; whether patients with repetitive care requirements are being tracked; how patients with repetitive care requirements are being tracked and if the information is consolidated with other communities; and how elder abuse situations are being handled.

Discussion ensued with regards to individuals that are chronic users of emergency services; if legislative changes to making medical decisions can assist the situation; and how Durham Region can collect the data and provide it to the Province in order to illustrate what is happening at street level.

In response to a request from Regional Chair Henry regarding whether data can be collected to make the Province aware of the challenges with addictions, mental health and homelessness and where there needs to be adjustments to accommodate them, Dr. R.J. Kyle advised that he would provide a response in the new year.

5.2 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, and Tara Zupancic, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, re: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment

Sendi Struna, Manager, Health Protection, and Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Mandate to Assess Climate and Health Vulnerability
- Climate Headlines on September 7, 2023
- Assessment Objectives
- Report Plan
- Framing Vulnerability
- What is Climate Vulnerability?
- Primer Overview

- What's Included?
- Understanding Climate Change – Key Findings
- Climate Change and Health – Key Findings
- The Way Forward – Key Findings
- Durham's Setting – Key Findings
- Portrait of Community – Key Findings
- New Webpage – durham.ca/climateandhealth
- Next Steps

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

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-103 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: 2024-2028 Planned Federal Investments for Homelessness: Reaching Home Allocations

Information Report #2023-INFO-103 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services was received.

Discussion ensued with regards to ensuring the reduction in funding and the impacts this will have on homelessness is communicated to the media and other appropriate parties.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(52) That Information Report #2023-INFO-103 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: 2024-2028 Planned Federal Investments for Homelessness: Reaching Home Allocations, be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(53) That the rules of procedure be suspended in order to introduce a motion regarding Restoring Durham Region's Reaching Home Allocation.

CARRIED ON A 2/3rds VOTE

Chair Roy vacated the Chair at 11:01 AM. Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting during this time. Chair Roy resumed the Chair at 11:18 AM.

Discussion ensued with regards to which interested parties should receive a copy of the letter and motion; obtaining a legal opinion with regards to the challenges of abiding by the requirements contained in the Charter of Human Rights; and the possibility of holding a press conference on a regular basis regarding the inaction being taken by the Federal government on this matter and other issues impacting communities; requesting a reply from the Federal government by a specific date; and staff providing regular reports on how many requests for action have been sent to senior levels of government and how many responses have been received.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that staff would prepare a communications/government relations strategy on this matter to bring back to the appropriate committee in January 2024.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(54) That we recommend to Regional Council:

Whereas Durham Region, like other municipalities across Canada, is experiencing a homelessness crisis with homelessness in Durham increasing by 67 per cent from 2022;

And whereas the needs of unsheltered residents continue to outpace available supports;

And whereas Durham Region received notice that its funding allocation under the federal Reaching Home is decreasing by approximately 80 per cent by 2027-2028;

And whereas Reaching Home funding supports local agencies experiencing increasing demands and pressures including those delivering housing stability programs, respite beds and other emergency shelter operations;

And whereas the Reaching Home funding reduction will impact our community's most vulnerable residents.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Chair write a letter on behalf of Council to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities requesting an urgent revision to Durham Region's Reaching Home allocation to ensure that a minimum there is no reduction in the period of 2024-25 to 2027-28 from the \$4,956,923 funding amount committed in 2023-2024;

That staff be directed to include a request that Reaching Home be scaled up and made a permanent program be included in all federal 2024 budget consultation materials; and

That a copy of this motion and supporting letter be circulated to the Prime Minister, Federal Minister of Finance, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Leader of the Official Opposition Parties, the local MPs and MPPs, and the local area municipalities in Durham Region.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Anderson	None
Councillor Brenner	
Councillor Carter	
Councillor Foster	
Regional Chair Henry	
Councillor Jubb	
Councillor Roy	
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair	

Members Absent: None

Declarations of Interest: None

8.2 Reports

A) Approval of Unbudgeted Capital Projects and Related Financing at the Regional Municipality of Durham's Long-Term Care Homes and Directly Operated Early Learning and Child Care Centres (2023-SS-13)

Report #2023-SS-13 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Foster,
(55) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the following unbudgeted capital projects related to the Region's Long-Term Care Homes and Directly Operated Early Learning and Child Care Centres in the estimated amount of \$1,744,000 be approved:

(\$)

Long Term Care Homes

Building Upgrades – AODA Compliance	1,006,000
Network Path Diversity Upgrades	350,000
Security System Upgrades	170,000

Directly Operated Early Learning and Child Care

Storm Sewer Catch Basin and Repaving at Ajax ELCC	118,000
Closed Circuit Television Installation	100,000

TOTAL **1,744,000;**

- B) That, in accordance with Section 14.2 of the Region's Budget Management Policy, financing of the unbudgeted capital projects listed in Recommendation A) in the estimated amount of \$1,744,000 related to the Region's Long-Term Care Homes and Directly Operated Early Learning and Child Care Centres be provided from an anticipated surplus of \$2 million in the Children's Services division.

CARRIED

- B) Durham's Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan 2023-2027 (2023-SS-14)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See page 3 of these minutes]

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, January 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(56) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk