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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 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 Pickles\* attended for part of the meeting  
Councillor Schummer\*  
Councillor Woo\*  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: None

#### **Staff**

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
T. Cheseboro, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health  
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services  
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Finance Management, Social  
Services  
L. Fortuna\*, Director, Health Protection, Health  
J. Gaskin, Director, Children's Services, Social Services  
A. Harras\*, Director, Legislative Services/Regional Clerk  
B. Holmes\*, Deputy General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
Z. Jaffer, Director, Business Affairs, Health  
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, Income & Employment Support, Social Services  
G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal  
N. Pincombe, Director, Business Planning and Budgeting, Finance  
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services  
N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance  
K. Thangaraj, Director, Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Health  
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships  
E. Valant, Area Manager, Income & Employment Support, Social Services  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Dies,  
(9) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(10) That the agenda be altered to consider Item 6.1 A.J. Kehoe, Durham Resident, re: Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) Meeting Format, next.  
CARRIED

**6. Delegations**

**6.1 A.J. Kehoe, Durham Resident, re: Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) Meeting Format**

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A.J. Kehoe, Durham Resident, appeared before Committee with regards to the Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) Meeting Format.

A.J. Kehoe advised that he has observed every DNHC meeting since 2013 and is requesting that in-person public participation be restored at these meetings by upgrading them to a hybrid format.

A.J. Kehoe stated that the DNHC was created by Durham Region Council to study, analyze and report on nuclear issues in Durham Region and feels that instead it has been actively promoting the nuclear industry. He also stated that DNHC meetings were unique in that they invited observers to ask questions following presentations but that prior to September 2022, questions from observers and the responses were not included in the meeting minutes. He further stated that prior to June 2019, DNHC meetings were not webstreamed or recorded, and that in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were switched to virtual participation only and did not allow for observers to participate within the meetings. He added that observers have been provided with an email address to send in any questions they may have, but these questions are not addressed during the meetings.

A.J. Kehoe stated that with a hybrid format presenters could continue to participate remotely, and the public could again attend the meeting in person which would also help the public to know who is attending.

A.J. Kehoe requested that the Health and Social Services Committee consider restoring in-person public participation by offering DNHC meetings in a hybrid format.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, re: 2024 Health Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-MOH-2)**

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Following introductory comments from N. Pincombe, Director, Business Planning and Budgets for the Health Department and Social Services Department, Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the 2024 Health Department Business Plan and Budget.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview
- 2023 Accomplishments
  - Restoration of Programs and Services and Continued COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts
  - Response to Community Needs
- 2024 Proposed Expenditures and Financing
- 2024 Strategic Investments
  - Public Health
  - Paramedic Services
- 2024 Business Plans and Budgets
  - Reductions and Deferrals
  - Risks and Uncertainties

- Beyond the 2024 Business Plans and Budget
  - Forecasted Pressures and Strategic Considerations

It was the consensus of the Committee to consider Item 7.2 A) Report #2024-MOH-2: 2024 Health Department Business Plan and Budget, next.

## 7.2 Reports

### A) 2024 Health Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-MOH-2)

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Report #2024-MOH-2 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Staff responded to questions with regards to how the budget increases were recognized within the overall budget guideline; how the 2025 Strategic Plan will guide future budgets; how departments determined where budget cuts were needed to be made; with respect to overdose calls, whether there are appropriate resources and investments included within the budget for Emergency Medical Services to meet these challenges going forward; ways to provide continued support to paramedics including how to increase operational efficiencies to reduce offload delays and code zeros; whether there is sufficient funding in the Health Department budget in order to be prepared if there were to be another pandemic; whether the 1,543 rabies investigations conducted were primarily urban or rural; how the vaccination program for animals is being promoted; whether there have been any warnings from the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding specific animals or areas at risk for rabies; actions being taken to make people aware of where ticks may be prevalent such as trail systems and conservation areas; the 1% cap on the Provincial subsidy and whether it keeps up with the rate of inflation; the shift allocation for the 16 new positions for paramedics; whether any staffing or program requests were deferred in the budget; and whether a breakdown of where funding should be coming from that are now covered by property taxes could be appropriately displayed to residents.

Regional Chair Henry requested data from the last five years on the number of calls in relation to opioids, mental health and homelessness. T. Cheseboro advised he would provide this data to Chair Henry in a few weeks.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Jubb,

(11) That we recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee for subsequent recommendation to Regional Council.

That the 2024 Business Plan and Budget of the Health Department be approved.  
CARRIED

This item will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee at their meeting to be held on March 19, 2024.

5.2 Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, re: 2024 Social Services Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-SS-2)

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Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the 2024 Social Services Department Business Plan and Budget.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview
- 2023 Accomplishments
  - Children, Individuals and Families
  - Seniors Living in Community and Long-term Care Homes
  - Housing
  - Outreach Services to Vulnerable Citizens
- 2024 Proposed Expenditures and Financing
- 2024 Strategic Investments
- 2024 Business Plan and Budget
  - Risks and Uncertainties
- Beyond the 2024 Business Plans and Budgets
  - Forecasted Pressures and Strategic Considerations

It was the consensus of the Committee to consider Item 8.2 A) Report #2024-SS-2: 2024 Social Services Department Business Plan and Budget, next.

8.2 Reports

A) 2024 Social Services Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-SS-2)

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Report #2024-SS-2 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Staff responded to questions with regards to the number of residents that are using homeless supports provided by the Region; whether there is an increase in work for case coordinators; the reasoning for why the debt charges under operating expenses increased from 2023 to 2024; efforts undertaken by staff to provide an explanation to residents on how much money the Region is required to spend on downloaded services that contribute to the increase of property taxes; whether there is a way to identify who should be paying for services if proper funding was being received from the Provincial and Federal governments; the number of individuals on the by-name list; the number of refugees that are currently unsheltered; groups that assist with getting unsheltered residents into housing; where the funding from the Pickering casino is being allocated and where future funding will be allocated; the number of asylum seekers in Durham Region; whether Durham Region saw asylum seekers prior to last year; whether Durham Region has received funding for asylum seekers and when the funding

application for asylum seekers was submitted; where the Ontario Works Provincial subsidy shortfall was reallocated from; the number of clients in receipt of Ontario Works and whether the number has grown over the last year; how the Ontario Works program and staffing is funded from the Province; whether discussions are taking place regarding increasing the basic income model for Ontario Works; who assisted with the 18 emergency Social Services incidents identified and if this is supported by funding from the Provincial government; whether the Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) interactions have increased; if there is a cost share between Social Services and Durham Region Transit (DRT) for the 2 outreach workers allocated for DRT; whether hiring Indigenous people as outreach workers for better peer to peer representation has been considered; whether there has been an increase in cases with mental health and addiction issues with those who apply for Ontario Works and whether they are being transferred to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP); whether there has been any collaboration with other municipalities to assist with or accommodate residents on any waitlists; concerns for housing projects due to the impacts of Bill 23; and the impact of the \$10 per day childcare program on the budget.

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(12) That we recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee for subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the 2024 Business Plan and Budget of the Social Services Department be approved.

CARRIED

This item will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee at their meeting to be held on March 19, 2024.

## **6. Delegations**

### **6.1 A.J. Kehoe, Durham Resident, re: Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) Meeting Format**

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This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See pages 2 and 3 of these minutes]

## **7. Health**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

There were no communications to consider.

### **7.2 Reports**

A) 2024 Health Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-MOH-2)

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This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See page 4 of these minutes]

**8. Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) 2024 Social Services Department Business Plan and Budget (2024-SS-2)

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This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See pages 5 and 6 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, April 4, 2024 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 Brenner,  
(13) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Roy, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk