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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 7, 2024

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, November 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 Brenner*
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Foster*
Councillor Jubb*
Regional Chair Henry
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

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

Absent: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair, absent on municipal business

Staff

Present: S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
A. Di Pietro, Director, Health Protection, Health
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Financial Management, Social Services
S. Foroutani, Area Manager, Income, Employment and Homelessness Support, Social Services
J. Gaskin, Director, Children’s Services, Social Services
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

P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Struna, Manager, Health Protection, Health
A. Swirski*, Epidemiologist, Health
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
E. Valant*, Director, Housing Services
A. Wakeford, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
C. Wallace, Assistant Director/Deputy Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Health
T. Zupancic*, Climate Change and Health Specialist, Health
*** 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 Carter,
(37) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. **Presentations**

5.1 Tara Zupancic, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, and Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, re: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impacts of Extreme Heat

Tara Zupancic, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, and Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, both participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impacts of Extreme Heat.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Why Assess Climate and Health Vulnerability?
- Report Series: 2024-2025
- Report Features
- What is Extreme Heat Vulnerability?
- Overview of Extreme Heat in Durham Region

- What is known About Local Health Impacts?
- Where are More Severe Health Impacts Expected?
- Who should be Prioritized?
- What are our Strengths and Resources?
- What are our Knowledge Gaps?
- Next Steps
- Key Messages

Staff responded to questions with regards to how societies without access to air conditioning cope with extreme heat and incorporating their mechanisms into our strategies; how to highlight alternate ways to deal with heat other than using air conditioning; whether any technology is available to track a person's temperature and notify them they are too warm; and the different mechanisms being used to connect with older adults.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS): Two Ford Explorers to Support Community Program for Long Term Care (CPLTC) (2024-MOH-4)

Report #2024-MOH-4 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

R.J. Kyle responded to a question with regards to whether purchasing the two ford explorers was a current priority.

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

That the unbudgeted purchase of two Ford Explorers, at an estimated upset cost of \$109,344, be approved to address the need in Durham Region and financed 100 per cent from savings within Provincial funding of the Community Program for Long Term Care.

CARRIED

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-71 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: Changes to Child Care Resulting from the 2025 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Funding Model Update

In response to a request from Councillor Neal to comment on the impact the loss of funding will have on non-profit centres not enrolled in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program, J. Gaskin advised that when the announcement regarding the change to the funding model taking place beginning in 2025 was made, the funding was to move Provincial funding over to the Federal program as part of the Provincial Federal Agreement. J. Gaskin indicated that 42 centres in Durham Region will lose funding to support wages and fee subsidies. J. Gaskin noted that the supports Durham Region provides to all child care centres for children with special needs will continue, but cannot increase the funding for them to increase the number of staff they have in program .

J. Gaskin responded to questions with regards to the number of childcare centres in Durham Region that did not opt in to CWELCC; and potential changes on the horizon when the current CWELCC agreement expires in 2026.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
(39) That Information Report #2024-INFO-71 of the Commissioner of Social Services, re: Changes to Child Care Resulting from the 2025 Canada-Wide Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Funding Model Update, be received for information.

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services reports to be considered.

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

10.1 Reports

A) Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Social Services – Closed matter with respect to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency or any of them, regarding Capital Projects Submitted under the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiatives (OPHI) (2024-SS-11)

Confidential Report #2024-SS-11 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter, (40) That we recommend to Council:

That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2024-SS-11 of the Commissioner of Social Services be adopted.

CARRIED

11. Other Business

11.1 Investigation into 600 Townline Road, City of Oshawa

Councillor Carter requested that staff conduct an investigation into 600 Townline Road, in the City of Oshawa to see if purchasing the building would be suitable to provide services similar to those provided at 1635 Dundas Street West, Whitby.

Councillor Foster requested that Clarington residents be included in the investigation process due to the proximity of the facility to the Oshawa/Clarington border.

11.2 Beaverton Heights Update

Councillor Jubb requested a brief update on Beaverton Heights given the impending opening of the facility.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that the occupancy agreements were signed last week; the facilities group is finishing up work that was not part of the original contract; residents will begin moving in around November 18th; all residents are from North Durham and are being interviewed and connected to services; and residents will be phased into the building in small groups.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to a question with regards to whether all agreements will be signed prior to residents moving into Beaverton Heights.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 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 Carter, (41) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk