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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 3, 2019

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, October 3, 2019 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry attended the meeting at 9:33 AM

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson

Staff

Present: P. Abbey, Director, Oral Health, Dental Health
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer attended the meeting at 9:32 AM
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
S. Howson, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Communications
M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services - IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long Term Care and Services for Seniors
L. McIntosh, Director, Children's Services
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services Division
M. Wilson, Administrator, Fairview Lodge, Social Services

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(47) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

5.1 Dr. Pat Abbey, Director, Oral Health, re: The New Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

Dr. P. Abbey, Director, Oral Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "The New Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program", a copy of which was provided as a handout.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Ontario Budget 2019
- Burden of Illness
- Eligibility Criteria
- Eligible Services
- Rollout Plan
- Infrastructure
- Current Clinic Set-up
- Waiting Room

Dr. P. Abbey stated that in April 2019, the Province announced the creation of a new dental program to improve access to dental care for all low-income seniors in Ontario. She stated that 9,800 seniors in Durham Region will be eligible for treatment.

Dr. P. Abbey provided the following statistics with regards to dental health among seniors: 1/4 of seniors have not seen a dentist in 5 years; 96% of seniors have dental decay; 2/3 of seniors have no access to dental insurance; up to 36% of people have untreated decay; approximately \$31 million annually is spent on trips to the emergency room; patients attending emergency rooms are usually sent home with prescriptions for pain medication and antibiotics; and approximately 21% of Canadians over 60 have no teeth.

Dr. P. Abbey stated that the eligibility criteria for the program is as follows: 65 years of age or older; annual net income of less than \$19,300 for single individuals and less than \$32,300 for couples; and, no dental need criteria. She advised that there is also consideration of an emergency program.

Dr. P. Abbey advised that the program launch is scheduled for January 2020 and that a new site would be ideal to accommodate the required new staff as well as growth potential in the future. She advised that staff is exploring sites in Oshawa to maximize client access and leverage existing Regional infrastructure.

Dr. P. Abbey responded to questions with regards to possibly expanding the program to the northern municipalities; the likelihood of obtaining a new facility before the January launch; the possibility of a mobile program; whether dental care plays a role in other health complications in seniors; and whether there are emergency dental clinics available to those in need.

5.2 Melissa Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, re: The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue

M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue", a copy of which was provided as a handout.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue
 - Opioid Overdose Crisis
 - Prescription Opioids
 - The Root Cause of the Opioid Crisis
 - The Opioid Crisis...A Complex Multifaceted Issue
 - Durham Region 2018 Point-in-Time Count
 - Social and Genetic Factors
 - Public Health Mandate
 - Canadian Drugs & Substances Strategy Framework (Health Canada)
 - Durham Region Opioid Response Plan
 - DRHD Opioid Information & Data System (DROIS)
 - Needle Exchange Program (NEP)
 - Benefits of Needle Exchange Services
 - Best Practices for NEPs
 - Needle Exchange Program Return Rates
 - Needle Exchange Sites in Durham Region
 - Community Options for Needle Return
 - Risks Associated with Community Based Needlestick Exposure
 - HIV Rates (All Ages, All Sexes)
 - Public Health Services for Prevention and Early Intervention
 - FCM Recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on the Opioid Crisis, 2017
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario

M. Hutchinson stated that the Opioid Overdose Crisis is a complex health and social issue. She stated that trauma, adverse childhood experiences, overprescribing of prescription drugs, and use of illegal opioids greatly contribute to the opioid use. She stated that increased availability of prescription opioids fueled the overdose crisis but does not explain the situation or explore the source of the demand. Trends over the past 3 years show a decline in opioid prescribing rates yet opioid overdose rates have not declined and continue to rise. M. Hutchinson also stated that in addition to opioid prescribing for chronic pain, other factors such as reduced economic opportunity, poor working conditions and financial poverty are also root causes for the misuse of opioid and other substances.

M. Hutchinson stated that the Durham Region Opioid Response Plan includes the following:

- Coordination of surveillance activities and use of 'real-time' data from across sectors;
- Support ongoing knowledge exchange;
- Increase awareness of the connection between mental health, trauma and substance abuse;
- Increase treatment options;
- Develop a local evidence-based harm reduction strategy to foster coordination and access to services; and
- Continue addressing illicit drug production, supply & distribution.

M. Hutchinson also provided statistical data on the Needle Exchange Program. She advised that the Needle Exchange Program is not designed to treat addictions but does provide an access point for other addiction, health and social services.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,
(48) That M. Hutchinson be granted additional time in order to finish her presentation.

CARRIED

M. Hutchinson stated that the Mayor's Task Force on the Opioid Crisis calls for a pan-Canadian action plan spanning all four pillars of the national drug strategy:

- Harm reduction
- Treatment
- Prevention
- Enforcement

M. Hutchinson stated that all orders of government need to work together to address roots of addiction, with supportive housing, action on homelessness and access to crucial social services. She further advised that the Association of Municipalities on Ontario (AMO) has adopted 22 recommendations to inform a provincial response. She advised that the link to the 22 recommendations is provided in the electronic copy of her PowerPoint Presentation.

M. Hutchinson responded to questions with regards to the success of AMO's initiative as well as FCM's direction; the HIV rates and awareness campaign and what has led to the strategy seeing a decrease in numbers; the process involved in obtaining a clean needle exchange kit; whether specific data is collected on the needle exchange kits (gender etc.); access to the Durham Region Health Department Opioid Information Data System; the opioid death rate for 2019; whether opioid admittance into emergency departments has increased or decreased and whether data is collected on those admittances; and how much money has been dedicated to the crisis from the provincial government. M. Hutchinson responded to further questions regarding comparisons between loss of jobs and opioid use; and the need to educate employers with regards to job creation.

With regards to the Needle Exchange Program Return Rates, it was requested that the committee be provided with a breakdown of the 85% within each local municipality.

6. Health

6.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

6.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to consider.

7. Social Services

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Additional Provincial Funding from the 2019 Community-Based EarlyON Child and Family Centre Capital Program (2019-SS-15)

Report #2019-SS-15 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(49) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That additional unbudgeted 100 per cent one-time Provincial funding for capital costs associated with EarlyON services from the Ministry of Education in the amount of \$262,166 for the Regional Municipality of Durham Children's Services Division be received as supplementary to the 2019 Business Plans and Budgets and allocated to renovate and retrofit space for EarlyON programming within a current Early Learning and Child Care building; and
- B) That the Regional Chair and the Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the Amended Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement.

CARRIED

- B) Unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care for a Designated Behavioural Support Transitional Unit for Fairview Lodge Long-Term Care Home in Whitby (2019-SS-16)

Report #2019-SS-16 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received. Revised pages 1 to 5 of the Report were provided as a handout.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(50) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the following recommendations be adopted, pending approval by the Ministry of Long Term Care and, as such, will only be acted upon once formal approval is received by the Ministry;
- B) That the 2019 portion of unbudgeted ongoing Provincial funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MOLTC) in the amount of \$475,800 for the period September 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, be expended in accordance with the funding agreement which includes costs related to, but not limited to: staff wages and project costs associated with the operation of a Designated Behavioural Support Transition Unit;
- C) That approval be granted to increase the Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors staffing complement by eleven (11) new full-time positions effective November 1, 2019 and increase part time staffing costs to account for 24/7 operations coverage within the Unit;
- D) That the increases in 2019 will be funded entirely from the additional Provincial funding allocation as follows:
 - i. One (1) Registered Nurse at an estimated 2019 cost of \$20,158 (annualized cost of \$122,310);

- ii. Eight (8) Registered Practical Nurses at an estimated cost of \$115,039 (annualized cost of \$694,976);
 - iii. One (1) Personal Support Worker at an estimated 2019 cost of \$12,017 (annualized cost of \$72,615);
 - iv. One (1) Social Worker at an estimated 2019 cost of \$19,884 (annualized cost of \$120,127);
 - v. Increase Part-time hours for Recreation Programmer of \$4,549 to support the Unit (annualized cost is \$27,505);
 - vi. Increase Part-time hours for Nursing and Personal Care \$59,252 to account for 24/7 operations and coverage within the Unit (annualized cost is \$358,269);
 - vii. The annualized costs for incremental staffing costs noted of \$1,423,500 to be funded from the increased Provincial per diem funding;
- E) That unbudgeted one-time provincial funding in the amount of \$230,748 be used for the purpose of staff training and minor equipment purchases; and
- F) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute any required agreements related to the additional funding.

CARRIED

C) Project Update and Adoption of Terms of Reference: Durham Region Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (CSWP) (2019-SS-17)

Report #2019-SS-17 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

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

- A) That the Terms of Reference for the CSWP Steering Committee (Attachment #2 to Report #2019-SS-17 of the Commissioner of Social Services) be adopted;
- B) That Councillor Carter be appointed to the Steering Committee in accordance with the CSWP Terms of Reference (Section 3.2);
- C) That Regional Chair Henry be appointed as the alternate to the Steering Committee in accordance with the CSWP Terms of Reference (Section 3.2) and

- D) That a copy of Report #2019-SS-17 be sent to the area municipalities, Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), and CSWP Steering Committee Members.

CARRIED

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 Notice of Motion re: Opioid Overdose Emergency Resolution

Revised pages 4 and 5 to the Agenda with regards to the Notice of Motion were provided as a handout. Detailed discussion ensued with regards to the importance of acknowledging that the opioid overdose emergency is a national health crisis.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Chapman,
(52) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas the opioid overdose emergency is affecting communities across Ontario, including Durham Region; and

Whereas the prevalence of addiction and the incidence of emergency department visits and deaths associated with opioid use disorder have increased in recent years; and

Whereas addiction to prescription and illegal opioids is negatively affecting individuals, families and entire communities; and

Whereas on September 12, 2019, the Government of Ontario announced its plan to establish the Mental Health and Addictions Division (MHAD) under the leadership of Karen Glass, Assistant Deputy Ministry; and

Whereas the MHAD will lead the development and implementation of Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario will be consulting key stakeholders and the public on modernizing public health and land ambulance services; and

Whereas public health programs and services demonstrate superior value for money and return on investment; and

Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has identified a need for federal and provincial strategies that are comprehensive, coordinated and address the root causes of the opioid crisis; and

Whereas FCM has recommended an intergovernmental action plan that aligns federal, provincial/territorial and local strategies, responds to specific needs of indigenous communities and rapidly expand all aspects of the collective response; and

Whereas FCM has echoed the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on the Opioid Crisis; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) has identified the following recommendations for a provincial response to addressing the opioid overdose emergency in Ontario:

- i. That the Province publicly affirms the seriousness of the opioid overdose emergency and commit to take all necessary measures to save lives and prevent harm, including the provision of long-term funding for existing programs as well as new funding streams, where necessary;
- ii. That the Province undertakes an 'all of government' effort to develop a comprehensive provincial drug strategy that addresses the opioid overdose emergency, based on a public health approach that addresses the social determinants of health, and that takes a non-discriminatory approach to overdose prevention and harm reduction. This strategy should cascade down to guide local drug strategy development and implementation with accompanying resources so that municipalities in Ontario have comprehensive, multi-faceted, funded drug strategies in place led by dedicated local coordinators. Further, progress toward implementation should be measured with performance indicators and be evaluated for outcomes achieved;
- iii. That the Province examines, and its ministries provide, a coordinated 'all of government' response with adequate funding to address the root causes of addiction, including housing related factors, poverty, unemployment, mental illness, and trauma;
- iv. That the Ministry of Health provides more funding to support, enhance and expand evidence- based consumption, treatment and rehabilitation services, addiction prevention and education, and harm reduction measures in all areas of Ontario;
- v. That the Ministry of Health targets funding for addiction and mental health services that would assist in treating people with mental illness to reduce and/or eliminate self-medication and would provide services to help people overcome their addiction;

- vi. That the Ministry of the Solicitor General provides enhanced funding to enforce laws surrounding illicit drug supply, production, and distribution;
- vii. That the Province enhances funding for diversion programs, mobile crisis intervention teams, and further promote harm reduction approaches among police services;
- viii. That the Ministry of Health examines community paramedicine as a viable option to provide treatment and referral services;
- ix. That the Ministry of Health funds a public education campaign, including on social media, to complement the efforts of individual communities;
- x. That the provincial coordinator work with the Ministry of Education to add a health promoting youth-resiliency program to the school curriculum that includes coping skills to get through obstacles in life, e.g. social competence, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, and informed decision-making;
- xi. That the Ministry of Health fully funds (100%) Naloxone for all municipal first responders (paramedics, police, and fire services) and provide training in its use;
- xii. That the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services work together with municipal human service system managers to better link social service and health supports including to help people overcome addiction and address mental health;
- xiii. That the Ministry of Health works toward a goal of establishing and maintaining 30,000 supportive housing units in the province; and
- xiv. That the Province advocates to the federal government for appropriate and supportive measures that will support effective provincial and local responses;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Government of Canada and Ontario recognize, acknowledge and declare a national health epidemic in respect to the opioid overdose emergency across Canada;
- B) That AMO's recommendations with respect to Ontario's opioid overdose emergency be endorsed;
- C) That the Government of Ontario be urged to continue funding the important work of public health units to help address the current opioid crisis;

- D) That the Government of Canada and Ontario be advised that the opioid emergency is not limited to major urban centres and that federal and provincial representatives work directly with the Region of Durham, to develop and fund a full-suite of prevention and addiction services, affordable social and supportive housing to address the crisis in our communities; and
- E) That the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Health and Children, Families and Social Development, and Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Durham's MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health, Ministers of Children, Community and Social Services, Finance, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, Durham's MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, AMO, aPHa, FCM, all local municipalities, and all Ontario boards of health be so advised as well as be provided with a copy of the presentation from M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, regarding The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue.

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING
RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

No

Councillor Carter

None

Councillor Dies

Regional Chair Henry

Councillor Roy

Councillor Wotten

Councillor Chapman, Chair

Members Absent: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair

Declarations of Interest: None

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,

- (53) That the presentation from M. Hutchinson, Manager, Population Health, regarding The Opioid Crisis: A Complex, Multifaceted Health and Social Issue be presented to Regional Council on October 23, 2019.

CARRIED

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(54) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk