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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 5, 2019

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2019 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Councillor Wotten

Also

Present: Councillor Lee left the meeting at 9:44 AM

Absent: Councillor Roy
Regional Chair Henry

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
L. Fortuna, Director, Health Protection, Environmental Health attended for part of the meeting
S. Howson, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Communications
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
B. Kwan, Manager, Health Protection, Environmental Health attended for part of the meeting
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
P. McTavish, Assistant Medical Officer of Health attended for part of the meeting
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services Division
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(63) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, November 7, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

4.1 Jill Promoli, Mississauga resident, re: "For Jude, For Everyone" campaign and raising awareness about flu vaccinations and other tools for illness prevention

J. Promoli provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the campaign, "For Jude, For Everyone". J. Promoli advised that three years ago, she lost her son, Jude, to influenza. She stated that Jude was vaccinated but failed to develop immunity and was left unprotected during an influenza outbreak in their community. She advised that for the last three years, she's been working on helping people understand what the flu is, how serious it can be and what can be done to prevent it. She stated that an average of 3,500 Canadians die from the flu every year; 12,200 are hospitalized and many more will visit doctors, clinics and emergency rooms. She stated that this puts a strain on healthcare workers and has an impact on patients that require care for other ailments.

J. Promoli stated that flu prevention works best as a community effort and the flu shot being the best defence. She advised that the flu shot is not a guarantee as some fail to develop immunity and because the flu is an unstable virus, but the flu shot program in Ontario has reduced cases by 61%.

J. Promoli stated that anyone can get the flu and anyone can suffer the most severe effects. She stated that by deciding whether to get the flu shot or not, we are deciding whether we want to increase or decrease the risk posed to every person we come contact with. Everyone who gets the flu gets it from someone else. She requested that the Region work towards building a healthier community together by adopting and promoting a flu prevention strategy.

J. Promoli responded to questions of the Committee.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Health

6.1 Correspondence

A) Information Report #2019-INFO-87: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in Durham Region

Discussion ensued with regards to the important work done by staff to ensure that everyone is immunized.

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(64) That Report #2017-INFO-87 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health be received for information.

CARRIED AS AMENDED (See Following Motion)

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(65) That the main motion (64) of Councillors Dies and Wotten be amended by adding the following words, "and that Health and Social Services staff, and public health nurses, continue the current programs and strategies surrounding immunization", after the word, "information".

CARRIED

6.2 Reports

A) A By-law to Appoint an Acting Medical Officer of Health ([2019-MOH-11](#))

Report #2019-MOH-11 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(66) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council approve and pass the by-law to appoint an Acting Medical Officer of Health for The Regional Municipality of Durham in the form attached to Report #2019-MOH-11.

CARRIED

B) Appointment of an Associate Medical officer of Health ([2019-MOH-12](#))

Report #2019-MOH-12 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received. Dr. R.J. Kyle introduced Dr. McTavish and provided a brief overview of her background and the appointment process.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(67) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the appointment of Dr. Elspeth McTavish as Associate Medical Officer of Health for The Regional Municipality of Durham be confirmed; and
- B) That the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health be authorized to seek approval of the appointment by the Minister of Health, in accordance with section 64 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

CARRIED

7. Social Services

7.1 Correspondence

- A) Information Report #2019-INFO-83: The Region of Durham joins the Built for Zero Canada campaign

Staff responded to questions with regards to the 2014 initiative taken by the federal government to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% in a ten-year period; whether there a similar initiative by the province; and with regards to the Coordinated Access System, where will the data come from, what will it include, and how it is collected. Staff also responded to questions with regards to how local municipalities will access information. It was stated that it is imperative that the data be provided on a timely basis to the local municipalities to better deliver and provide services. It was also stated that the data collected from the Welcoming Streets initiative in the City of Oshawa would be beneficial to the data being collected.

Staff also responded to questions with regards to what the City of Toronto is doing and whether the Region can try to be a part of any initiative undertaken by the City.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,
(68) That Report #2019-INFO-83 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

7.2 Reports

There were no Social Services Reports to consider.

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 Micro Homes Project in the City of Oshawa

Councillor Carter stated that the City of Oshawa is continuing to work with the province with regards to the micro homes initiative. He stated that the initiative will help create affordable housing at a time when many are faced with high rent and high home purchasing costs. He encouraged the Committee to visit the micro home in Oshawa.

10.2 "Welcoming Streets" Initiative in the City of Oshawa

Councillor Carter stated that the "Welcoming Streets" initiative is a collaborative effort between the City of Oshawa, the Downtown Oshawa BIA and CAREA Community Health Centre. It includes a health care provider and an outreach worker that work with local businesses to improve relationships between homeless individuals and business owners. Councillor Carter encouraged the Committee to learn more about the program.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(69) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk