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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 4, 2020

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 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 Chapman, Chair  
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Carter  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Roy left the meeting at 10 AM  
Councillor Wotten  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\*all members of the Committee except Councillor Chapman and Regional Chair Henry participated electronically**

Also  
Present: Councillor Highet

Staff  
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Dies,  
(17) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 5, 2020, be adopted.

CARRIED

#### **4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

#### **5. Delegations**

##### **5.1 Colin Barnard, Durham Region resident re: Durham Region Rent Geared to Income Housing**

C. Barnard withdrew his delegation request prior to the meeting.

##### **5.2 Anthony Cecchetto, Durham Region resident re: Vaping**

A. Cecchetto provided a verbal presentation regarding vaping. A copy of his speaking notes was provided to the Committee via email.

A. Cecchetto stated that according to his research, smoking rates among youth have gone down due to the use of vaping. He stated that youth are using vaping products daily instead of turning to smoking and that his father who has been a smoker his whole life, has been smoke free for almost a month due to determination and a nicotine delivery system.

A. Cecchetto also stated that he speaks to vapers on a daily basis as well as smokers looking to quit and has begged smokers give vaping products a chance to work. He further stated that vaping is an effective tool for quitting smoking and some studies have misled the public into believing that vaping is bad.

A. Cecchetto stated that he would like to know why vaping isn't allowed at vape shops and would like to see the data that supports this.

#### **6. Presentations**

##### **6.1 Dr. Robert Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health and Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, regarding Health and Social Services COVID-19 Response Update**

Dr. R.J. Kyle and S. Danos-Papaconstantinou provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Health and Social Services COVID-19 Response Update. A copy of the presentation was provided to Committee members via email.

Highlights of the presentation included the following:

- Health Response to COVID-19
  - Enhanced Surveillance Testing
  - Case & Contact Management
  - Reopening of Businesses

- Enhancements to the Data Tracker
- Public Health Adaptive Restoration Plan
- Working in Collaboration
- Social Services Response to COVID-19
  - Support to the Community
  - Looking Ahead

Dr. Kyle stated that the Health Department has been working around the clock to keep the residents of Durham Region safe. He provided statistical information as of June 2, 2020 with regards to the number of phone interactions, completed nursing assessments, investigations re: priority populations, follow-ups with Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes, calls to Region of Durham Paramedic Services, and patients transported to hospitals.

Dr. Kyle stated that the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has noted that data suggests that Ontario is moving past the peak of COVID-19 infection. Dr. Kyle stated that the data supports movement past the peak in Durham and noted that the data also shows that community spread is still occurring. He advised that case and contact management continues to be a main focus of COVID-19 response activities.

With regards to the reopening of businesses, Dr. Kyle advised that a new online Community Reopening Toolkit with downloadable signage and flyers to provide businesses and the community with information on the safe reopening of services was launched on May 29. It includes links to resources from a variety of industry agencies and numerous guidance documents for sector-specific businesses and services and will be updated as new openings and phases are announced. Dr. Kyle further advised that a Public Health Adaptive Restoration Plan has been developed with a planned restoration period from July to September.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou provided updates with regards to Early Learning and Child Care; Long-Term Care; Financial Assistance; Family Services Durham; Support to the vulnerable sector (human trafficking victims, unsheltered population, shelters/hotel program); and the Newly formed Health, Homelessness and Housing Committee, developed to plan and implement a collective response to address COVID-19 in Durham and post-pandemic.

With regards to support to the community, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that there is a COVID-19 Community Assistance Fund that is available as a one-time allocation for non-profit organizations in Durham Region and is available to agencies providing urgent help to homeless residents and residents at risk of homelessness impacted by the pandemic. She also advised that there is a Funders Table which ensures that funding allocations are informed by data and coordinated to avoid duplication for meeting community needs, as well as a Virtual Outreach Team which provides priority areas of support for individuals requiring outreach.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou further advised that the Social Services Department is currently assessing program deliverables and provisions for a planned restoration of services.

Dr. Kyle and S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to questions with regards to whether there have been any cases of COVID-19 in children at the childcare centres; testing at the assessment centres; compliance of the order at Orchard Villa and the present situation.

Dr. Kyle was requested to provide information to Councillor Dies regarding the availability of translation services for the Toolkit. He was also requested to provide information to Councillor Anderson regarding the additional \$4 per hour offered to Public Service Workers in Ontario.

**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

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services Reports to consider.

**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**

11.1 Delegation from Anthony Cecchetto, Durham Region resident re: Vaping

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(18) That the delegation from Mr. Anthony Cecchetto be referred to staff in the Health Department to provide further information and statistics to Mr. Cecchetto directly on the issues raised in his delegation.

CARRIED

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2020 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 Anderson,  
(19) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk