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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 4, 2021

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 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 Anderson
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Barton
Councillor Collier
Councillor Drew
Councillor Foster
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Nicholson
Councillor Smith
Councillor Yamada

***all visiting Councillors participated electronically**

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair was absent due to municipal business

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
J. Kilgour, Director, Emergency Management
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health

P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health
J. Nesbitt, Director, Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer
V. Olmstead, Manager, Population Health
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(8) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 4, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

5.1 Ben Earle, Executive Director, Feed the Need in Durham, re: The Economic Impacts of Basic Income in Canada

Ben Earle, Executive Director, Feed the Need in Durham, provided a delegation with regards to The Economic Impacts of Basic Income in Canada. A copy of the PowerPoint was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

B. Earle stated that he works with Basic Income Canada network and UBI Works. He advised that the purpose of the research conducted with regards to Basic Income Programs was to look at the economic impacts of two specific basic income programs. He stated that basic income can support the prosperity of the economy in Canada and Ontario and can be thought of as an investment. He also stated that basic income, if designed and funded properly, can speed up Canada's recovery and grow the economy sustainably while ending poverty and growing the middle class.

B. Earle provided an overview of the poverty reduction impacts of basic income. He stated that basic income would raise the disposable income of households, and not just lowest income households. He stated that at a national level, it could lift about 3.2 million Canadian households out of poverty. He also stated that in Durham Region, basic income could potentially lift 16 to 20 thousand households out of the most extreme poverty while improving the disposable income and livelihood of another 75,000 middle income households in the community.

B. Earle also stated that basic income can be good for business and the economy and can be a self-sustaining investment.

B. Earle responded to questions of the committee.

6. Presentations

6.1 R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, re: COVID-19 Vaccination Update

R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to a COVID-19 Vaccination Update. A copy of the PowerPoint was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Vaccines – Current State
- Planning Structure
 - Durham Region COVID-19 Vaccine Community Planning Table
 - Durham Region – Health Department
- Provincial Plan
- Local Implementation
- Local Clinics
- Clinic Hours
- Priority Populations
- Communications
- Funding

R.J. Kyle stated that there are three approved vaccines in Canada (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca) with only the Pfizer vaccine being available in Durham Region. He advised that Durham Region is expected to receive the Moderna vaccine but timelines have not yet been confirmed. All vaccines require two doses and the timing of the second dose is being reviewed by the province. He advised that the vaccine is recommended for use in teenage years and beyond. With regards to the provincial plan, R.J. Kyle advised that Durham Region is in Phase 1 of a three-phase provincial plan. He advised that Phase 1 includes the vaccination of immediate priority groups.

With regards to local implementation, R.J. Kyle advised that general direction is set by the province. He advised that Durham Region was asked to develop an Immunization Playbook which is flexible, adaptive, and responsive. He also advised that currently only Lakeridge Health and the Health Department has responsibility for immunizing clients locally but that other delivery streams are expected, once Durham moves into Phase 2.

R.J. Kyle further advised that a local online booking system has been developed; plans for a Durham specific call centre to register clients unable to book appointments are being finalized; vaccine management and clinic operations plans are in place; and security requirements have been addressed.

R.J. Kyle provided a list of the local clinics, one in each municipality, and advised that when all clinics are fully operational, the plan is to immunize up to 10,000 clients per day at maximum capacity. He advised that the priority populations are set by the government and include: long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents; Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation; priority health care workers, medical first responders, essential caregivers; and residents 80 years of age and older. He further advised that planning for urban indigenous population including non-indigenous household members is underway.

R.J. Kyle advised that Durham Region has developed a communication plan to generate vaccine awareness in the community; provide accurate and evidence-based information regarding vaccines; and provide timely and accurate information regarding the availability of vaccines. He also advised that the Region will continue to incur the necessary costs to protect the residents through the Public Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including the roll-out of the vaccine program and that the Ministry of Health has provided assurance that a process for public health units to request reimbursement of 2021 COVID-19 extraordinary costs will be established.

R.J. Kyle, P. McTavish, J. Nesbitt, and V. Olmstead responded to questions with regards to the following: requirements for further vaccination locations in the future; whether there are any concerns with the Pfizer vaccination storage and transportation in northern communities; the hiring of part time vaccinators; what consideration was given to the determination of vaccination locations; any thoughts of having mobile units service rural communities; the communication tool used to reach out to residents to provide information on vaccines; and whether information is sent out to senior centres etc.

R.J. Kyle, P. McTavish, J. Nesbitt, and V. Olmstead also responded to questions with regards to whether residents can travel to vaccination clinics outside of their municipalities; the anticipated timeline between registration and potential vaccination; the process of reviewing vaccine locations in Oshawa and how the vaccination sites were chosen; whether there was any consultation with transit with regards to assistance with transportation for priority populations to access the clinics; whether there is a process where elected officials can offer suggestions; the communication strategy with regards to residents who do not have access to computers; and whether regular information can be sent to council members so they can be better informed on services.

Additional questions responded to were as follows: whether there is technology and personnel in place to avoid the on-line booking system from crashing on March 8 when booking starts for residents 80 and over; possible side effects of not getting the vaccine; thoughts on providing communications to employees and having them share on their social media; thoughts given to the at-risk population that don't meet the regulations as well what is needed to register; whether the telephone lines will be accessible for the hearing impaired; details of the waitlist structure for online bookings; whether residents get the option of choosing a date and time that is more convenient for them; whether there is a mechanism in place to stop double booking; whether physicians that do residential calls will be able to pick up and administer vaccines to residents at home; and the timeline for use of the second transit bus for mobile vaccination or testing.

6.2 A. Robins, Director, Housing Services, regarding Community Housing End of Mortgage (EOM) (2021-SS-3) [Item 8.2 B]

Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Community Housing End of Mortgage.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- End of Operating Agreements Task Force Position Paper
- Service Manager Task Force Position Paper
- Current Framework
- Funding Formula
- End of Mortgage (EOM)
- Task Force Priorities
- Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act
- Moving Forward

A. Robins stated that the purpose of Report #2021-SS-3 of the Commissioner of Social Services is to endorse the recommendations of the Task Force Position Paper: Municipal Recommendations to Continue Investing in Local Housing and Homelessness Systems. He advised that the position paper affirms that:

- Service Managers are best positioned to invest, plan and manage tax funded resources to both sustain community housing and address other local housing priorities;
- Proposed approach to mortgage subsidy savings at End of Mortgage (EOM) differentiates between:
 - current inflexible funding formula under the Housing Services Act;
 - new streamlined framework introduced under the Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act;
- Balances interests of service managers and housing providers; and
- Supports At Home in Durham, the Durham Housing Plan 2014-2024.

A. Robins provided a brief overview of the Current Framework, Funding Formula and End of Mortgage. He stated that the three Priorities of the Task Force are as follows:

1. Capital needs of community housing providers in line with local housing plans, like At Home in Durham;
2. Housing and homelessness pressures identified in local plans, such as redevelopment, supply and homelessness supports; and
3. Other municipal pressures, provided all housing needs are met per local plans.

A. Robins responded to questions with regards to housing provider mortgage payments; clarification of neutrality at end of mortgage; whether the Region will be able meet its obligation of building 1000 units in the next five years, while doing capital repairs of existing units and continuing to invest in new units while moving forward with the Community Housing End of Mortgage (EOM) initiative.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence dated March 3, 2021 from June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington, to The Honourable Lindsey Park, MPP, re: Wilmot Creek Vaccinations
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Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(9) That the correspondence dated March 3, 2021 from June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington, to The Honourable Lindsey Park, MPP, re: Wilmot Creek Vaccinations be received for information.
CARRIED

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

- A) 2020 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics (2021-SS-2)

Report #2021-SS-2 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(10) That Report #2021-SS-2 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

B) End of Mortgage Service Manager Task Force Recommendations (2021-SS-3)

Report #2021-SS-3 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(11) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse the End of Mortgage Service Manager Task Force position paper, Municipal Recommendations to Continue Investing in Local Housing and Homelessness System and its recommendations and priorities; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2021-SS-3 of the Commissioner of Social Services be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs).

CARRIED

C) Recovery and Renewal: Ontario's Vision for Social Assistance Transformation (2021-SS-4)

Report #2021-SS-4 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(12) That Report #2021-SS-4 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

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 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(13) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk