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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 4, 2021

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, November 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 Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Crawford
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Yamada

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Gaskin, Manager, Wage Subsidy, Children's Services, Social Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
L. McIntosh, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, 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 Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(43) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, October 7, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Presentations

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

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

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Current Status
- Variants of Concern
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- Weekly Epi Stats – Vaccination Rates in Durham Region
- Weekly Epi Stats – Percent Positivity
- Weekly Epi Stats – Effective Reproduction Number
- Weekly Epi Stats – Vaccination Status
- Provincial Announcements
- COVID-19 Resources
- Support to Businesses and Organizations
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R. J. Kyle advised that the fourth wave is being fueled by the Delta variant and that daily case counts are mostly in the single digits. He also advised that in terms of vaccination administration, as of October 8, 2021, through all the vaccine delivery channels, Durham Region exceeded over one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines being administered, and third doses are now being offered.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the vaccination coverage. He noted that for those aged 12 and up, we have now exceeded 86% for first doses and 83% for second doses; that workplace immunization policies being adopted has had an impact on the 18 to 39 demographics; and a new category has been added called “fully vaccinated with additional dose” to reflect those who have received a third dose.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the various provincial announcements regarding expanded booster eligibility; capacity limits for outdoor organized public events; and capacity limits in select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required.

R.J. Kyle outlined the support provided by the Health Department and Ministries to businesses and organizations in Durham Region. He also provided an overview of the current COVID-19 vaccine plan.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions regarding the rate of infection among unvaccinated residents; the importance of getting a third dose and getting the first dose for children aged 5-11; whether herd-immunity works; whether schools will be going back to full in-class learning; and, if residents should be getting the flu vaccine, and if there has been any reported cases of the flu yet.

6.2 Lisa McIntosh, Director, and Julie Gaskin, Manager, Early Learning, Children’s Services Division, re: The Children’s Services Division, Durham’s Early Years and Child Care Service System Manager Update (2021-SS-12) [Item 8.2 A]

Lisa McIntosh and Julie Gaskin provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to The Children’s Services Division, Durham’s Early Year and Child Care Service System Manager Update. A copy of the presentation material was provided to members prior to the meeting.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- The role of Children’s Services Division
- Informed planning and engagement
- Canada-wide early learning and child care plan
- The ELCC Service System Plan Priorities 2018-2022
- Maximize funding support for licensed child care
- Reduce the waitlist for child care fee subsidy
- Increase, attract and retain high quality RECEs
- Fostering professional learning
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Support and expand the licensed home child care sector
- Develop and implement a strategy to support children with special needs from birth to age 12
- Special Needs Resourcing

- Supporting Children with Special Needs

L. McIntosh advised that they are currently in year four of the five-year plan approved by Council, and that Children's Services is currently in the planning process for the 2023-2027 Service Plan. She stated that Children's Services is committed to reduce fees for preschool care by an average of 50% by the end of 2022, and have an average fee of \$10 per day for regulated child care by 2026.

L. McIntosh stated that the ELCC Service System Plan Priorities for 2018-2022 include maximizing funding support for licensed child care; reducing the waitlist for child care fee subsidy; increase, attract and retain quality Registered Early Childhood Educators; support and expand the licensed home child care sector; and, develop and implement a strategy to support children with special needs.

J. Gaskin stated that Children's Services provides system management and funding to five special needs resourcing agencies in Durham. She also stated that over 300 centres in Durham Region receive special needs resourcing services and provide access to over 20,000 children in child care.

J. Gaskin provided an overview of the special needs resourcing and how these services help to support educators and parents, so that children with special needs are supported.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to consider.

Questions to Health

E. Baxter-Trahair responded to questions from Councillor Anderson with regards to the Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions from Councillor Carter with regards to the Needle Exchange program and the harm reduction program for those suffering with IV drug use; and, opioid and overdose calls in Canada and Durham Region.

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

- A) The Children's Services Division, Durham's Early Years and Child Care Service System Manager Update (2021-SS-12)
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Report #2021-SS-12 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
(44) That Report #2021-SS-12 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

- B) Sole Source Award to Arxium Innovation Pharmacy Solutions and Approval for Unbudgeted Capital to Purchase Automated Dispensing Cabinets for the Region of Durham's Long Term Care Homes (2021-SS-13)
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Report #2021-SS-13 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

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

- A) That unbudgeted capital purchases for 2021 in the amount of \$190,048 for the purchase of Automated Dispensing Cabinets at each of the four (4) Long Term Care Homes be approved;
- B) That a sole source agreement with Arxium Innovation Pharmacy Solutions for the provision and maintenance of Automated Dispensing Cabinets at the Region of Durham's four (4) Long Term Care Homes be awarded at an estimated cost of \$190,048;
- C) That financing in the amount of \$190,048 for the purchase of the Automated Dispensing Cabinets be provided as follows:

Medication Safety Technology Program Funding	\$183,402
Available surplus from Long-term care operations	<u>\$ 6,646</u>
Total Financing	<u>\$190,048</u>

- D) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary agreements.

CARRIED

- C) Unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care for Increase in Staffing Hours and Supporting Professional Growth for the Four (4) Regional Municipality of Long Term Care Homes (2021-SS-14)
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Report #2021-SS-14 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

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

- A) That the 2021 portion of unbudgeted ongoing Provincial funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) in the amount of \$1,206,856 for the period of November 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, be expended in accordance with the Long-Term Care Staffing Increase Funding Policy;
- B) That the 2021 portion of unbudgeted ongoing Provincial funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) in the amount of \$45,433 for the period of November 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, be expended in accordance with the Supporting Professional Growth Funding Policy;
- C) That approval be granted to increase the Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors Staffing Complement by sixty (60) new full-time positions effective November 1, 2021, and increase part time staffing costs to account for 24/7 operations coverage within the four (4) long-term care homes;
- D) That the increases in 2021 will be funded entirely from the additional Provincial base funding allocation as follows:
 - i) Four (4) Registered Nurses at an estimated 2021 cost of \$94,844 (annualized cost of \$569,066);
 - ii) Fourteen (14) Registered Practical Nurses at an estimated 2021 cost of \$219,387 (annualized cost of \$1,316,323);
 - iii) Thirty-two (32) Personal Support Workers at an estimated 2021 cost of \$418,582 (annualized cost of \$2,511,490);
 - iv) One (1) Occupational Therapist at an estimated 2021 cost of \$22,221 (annualized cost of \$133,327);
 - v) Eight (8) Recreation Programmers at an estimated 2021 cost of \$104,646 (annualized cost of \$627,874);
 - vi) One (1) Registered Dietitian at an estimated 2021 cost of \$21,636 (annualized cost of \$129,814);
 - vii) Increase in part-time hours for Nursing and Personal Care of \$282,722 to account for 24/7 operations and coverage (annualized cost of \$1,696,337);

- viii) Increase in part-time hours for Recreation Programmer of \$42,818 to account for 7 days per week programming (annualized cost of \$256,908); and
- E) That the unbudgeted base funding in the amount of \$45,433 to be used for the purpose of eligible staff training costs as outlined in the Provincial Supporting Professional Growth Fund Funding Policy.

CARRIED

Questions to Social Services

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to questions from Councillor Pickles with regards to provincial funding for Long Term Care Homes and the Social Service Relief Fund. S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised she would provide an update regarding the recent announcements for funding and whether any of the funding applied to the Region of Durham. S. Danos-Papaconstantinou stated she is aware of the wage announcement for Personal Support Workers and that it is temporary funding.

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, December 9, 2021 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk