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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 3, 2022

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 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 Carter  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Roy  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\*all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Highet  
Councillor Smith

Absent: Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Wotten

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  
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, 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 Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Carter,  
(8) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**5. Delegations**

5.1 Rev. Christopher White, Co-Chair, and Ben Earle, Co-Chair, Spirit of Service Sponsorship Program, re: Request for Funding

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Rev. Christopher White, Co-Chair and Ben Earle, Co-Chair, Spirit of Service Sponsorship Program provided a delegation with regards to a Request for Funding.

Rev. White advised that the Spirit of Service Homeless Sponsorship Program began originally as an initiative by Mayor Carter to bring faith communities and social service agencies together to help reduce poverty in Oshawa. He stated that the pilot project is now in its second year and has sponsored five individuals. He indicated that the anchor organization is Carea Community Health Centre.

Rev. White stated that the program has been very challenging and successful, and the key has been the community surrounding the individuals. He also stated that the complexity of individuals is different than the complexity of refugees which they had previously sponsored, and they must use a different model to engage and help those individuals to move forward. He advised that their request for funding is to allow for more sponsors and participants to expand their program.

B. Earle advised that their current funding has been from donations from their faith community, grants received, and the administrative support from Carea. He also advised the program has been supported by in-kind contributions from the organizations around the executive table such as Community at Kedron and Feed the Need in Durham.

B. Earle advised that he is one of six members of the executive committee and steering committee and has spent approximately 500 hours on behalf of Feed the Need in Durham. He also advised that they require financial support as well as the support of organizations and stated that having the support of Carea is vital to this program continuing.

B. Earle stated that the program provides financial support to individuals, such as rent supplement, which is slowly decreased throughout the program until individuals become sustainable and independent as they move to exit the program.

Rev. White and B. Earle responded to questions of the Committee.

Councillor Carter requested that correspondence received from Rev. White and B. Earle be provided to members of the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,

(9) That the delegation meet with staff to discuss the matter further and that staff report back to Committee.

CARRIED

## 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
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccine by Administration Site
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- School and Childcare Absenteeism
- Wastewater Surveillance
- Easing Public Health Restrictions
- Education and Enforcement Activities
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle stated that we are currently in the fifth wave of the pandemic and that lab confirmed cases have gone down. He also stated that COVID-19 cases are continuing and there is a slight uptake currently. He advised that over the coming weeks, the information on the data tracker will be streamlined and will move from daily updates, to thrice weekly updates, and then to weekly updates.

R.J. Kyle advised that the number of hospitalization cases and ICU admissions has continued to decrease over the last couple of weeks. He advised there are currently 454 active cases in Durham Region, and the number of deaths is just under 400. He also advised that the number of outbreaks continues to decline and there are currently 4 outbreaks at this time.

R.J. Kyle stated that Durham Region has administered over 1.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. He also stated that vaccine coverage for those aged 12 and

up for the first dose is at 89%, second dose is at 87%, and third dose is at 51%. R.J. Kyle advised there is higher vaccine coverage with increasing age.

R.J. Kyle advised that school and childcare absenteeism is staying low with childcare absenteeism at 4.6%, elementary school absenteeism at 2.9%, and secondary school absenteeism at 2.8%, and no schools have had to close due to operational issues.

R.J. Kyle advised that the wastewater surveillance signal strength is medium at all 7 sampling sites and indicated the trend is either stable or decreasing. He also advised that wastewater surveillance is a proxy for what is going on in the community.

R.J. Kyle stated that effective March 1, 2022, the Province has entered the reopening exit step which has lifted capacity limits in all settings and lifted proof of vaccination requirements. He advised that the Ontario Roadmap Exit Step guidance document has been posted to Durham Region's COVID-19 guidance page.

R.J. Kyle advised that all residents five years and older are eligible to be vaccinated. He also advised that the Health Department continues to host school vaccination clinics for children five to 11 years old and indicated there have been 81 school clinics held with 952 doses administered. R.J. Kyle advised youth 12 to 17 years old are eligible to receive a third dose 168 days following completion of their primary series.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions regarding the school boards covered by the Durham Region Health Department; and the availability of transit to mass immunization clinics.

## **7. Health**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

There were no communications to consider.

### **7.2 Reports**

#### **A) Amending By-laws 18-98 and 19-98 to Update Fees for Health Protection Regional Activities and Ontario Building Code Activities (2022-MOH-2)**

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Report #2022-MOH-2 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Carter,  
(10) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That a by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #1 to Report #2022-MOH-2 of the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, that amends Regional By-law 18-98 (as amended by By-laws 14-2007, 01-2016 and 16-2019), which establishes a tariff of fees on applications for and issuance of permits under the Building Code Act, 1992, effective April 1, 2022, be approved; and
- B) That a by-law, generally in the form included as Attachment #2 to Report #2022-MOH-2, that amends Regional By-law 19-98 (as amended by By-laws 31-98, 15-2007, 02-2016 and 17-2019), which establishes a tariff of fees and charges for certain services provided by the Health Department, under the Planning Act, effective April 1, 2022, be approved.

CARRIED

### Questions to Health

R.J. Kyle responded to questions regarding inspections and health requirements for food vendors at the Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival.

## **8. Social Services**

### 8.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence from Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa, re: Regional Municipality of Durham's Built for Zero Monthly Report Card

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Dies,  
(11) That Correspondence from Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa, re: Regional Municipality of Durham's Built for Zero Monthly Report Card be referred to staff.

CARRIED

### 8.2 Reports

- A) Community Housing Projects in Difficulty as at December 31, 2021 (2022-SS-2)

Report #2022-SS-2 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Carter,  
(12) That Report #2022-SS-2 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

Questions to Social Services

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that on March 2, 2022, Regional Chair Henry was joined by Minister Hussen and MP Ryan Turnbull to announce the \$4 million rapid housing initiative funding that Durham Region is receiving in partnership with the Federal government and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. She advised that the funding is intended to build 36 new affordable housing units in Oshawa and Whitby, and that \$2.8 million will go to 26 units at the Muslim Welfare Home and \$1.2 million will go to 10 units for the Oshawa microhomes. S. Danos-Papaconstantinou thanked her team for their work in preparing the proposals.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to questions regarding funding for the micro homes in Oshawa; micro home communities being developed in other municipalities in Durham Region; and the partnership with North House regarding service hubs in Brock.

**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 7, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(13) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk