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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 7, 2022

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, April 7, 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 Anderson
Councillor Dies
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Grant
Councillor Highet

Absent: Councillor Roy
Councillor Carter

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
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 Councillor Dies, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(14) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 3, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Presentations

6.1 Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services, re: 2021 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics and Critical Priority (2022-SS-3) [Item 8.2 A]

Alan Robins, Director, Housing Services, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the 2021 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics and Critical Priority A copy of the presentation material was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Household on DASH Wait List – December 31, 2021
- DASH Wait List 2006-2021
- DASH Applicant Incomes
- DASH Assisted Applicants – 2021
- Future Investments

A. Robins advised that Housing Services uses the DASH waitlist for the initial occupancy of new affordable housing projects. He advised that Durham Region is the only municipal service manager to have a fully vacancy driven waitlist and advised that the City of Toronto is currently under a pilot project and will begin implementation in 2022.

A. Robins stated that as of December 31, 2021, there were 8,231 applicants on the DASH waitlist, with an additional 76 for modified units. He advised that there were 462 applicants with special priority (SPP) and that SPP applicants have priority over all other DASH applicants. A. Robins also stated that there are 764

on the DASH waitlist who are already housed in rent geared to income (RGI) units in Durham that are seeking a transfer to another community.

A. Robins advised that the DASH waitlist has more than doubled since 2006, however the number of RGI units has remained stagnant. He also advised that 68% of those on the waitlist are receiving social assistance or another type of fixed income, and 29% of DASH applicants residing in Durham are homeless or provisionally accommodated.

A. Robins advised that in 2021, non-priority applicants housed were on the DASH waitlist for 6.7 years and priority applicants for approximately one year. He stated that the Durham Portable Housing Benefit and the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit housed 116 applicants. He also stated that single non-seniors are the most under-served cohort on the waitlist.

A. Robins stated that there are currently no critical priority applicants on the waitlist and staff are recommending that it be revoked in favour of a more flexible approach to meeting the needs of priority applicants through the provision of housing benefits like the Durham Portable Housing Benefit.

A. Robins responded to questions with regards to adults being considered to reside in senior residence buildings within Durham Region.

6.2 Dr. 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 of 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
- Masks Are Recommended
- Recent Provincial Announcements
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle advised that we are seeing an increase in the number of confirmed cases and are currently in the sixth wave. He also advised that the data tracker is updated on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

R.J. Kyle stated that as of April 15th, 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 90%, second dose is 88%, and third dose is at 53%.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the school and childcare absenteeism and stated that childcare centre absenteeism is at 8%, elementary school absenteeism is at 5.3%, and secondary school absenteeism is at 3.7%.

R.J. Kyle advised that staff are relying on wastewater surveillance as a proxy for what is going on about COVID-19 activity in the community and stated that signals have been going up across all test sites.

R.J. Kyle advised that the sixth wave is being fueled by the Omicron BA.2 variant and is recommending the continued use of wearing of masks in enclosed public spaces as COVID-19 continues to circulate in the community. He also advised that masks are required on public transit, long-term care homes, retirement homes, health care settings, shelters, and congregate care and living settings.

R.J. Kyle advised that as of April 7th the Province is expanding eligibility for fourth doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 60 and older and indigenous persons and their non-indigenous household members aged 18 and older.

R.J. Kyle advised that it is being recommended that eligible populations receive their fourth dose at an interval of 140 days (5 months) following their third dose, and no earlier than 3 months following their third dose. He also advised that school clinics are still being run and are focusing on second dose administration. He added that there are currently four operating mass immunization clinics in Clarington, Oshawa Centre, Pickering, and Whitby.

R.J. Kyle advised that all eligible long-term care residents have received their fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose. He stated that the Janssen vaccine is being offered by appointment and the Novavax vaccine is being delivered early next week.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions with regards to the number of cases per day being reported; and vaccine availability at pharmacies.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Provincial Policy Framework for Community Paramedicine (2022-MOH-3)

Report #2022-MOH-3 from R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, was received.

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

- A) That in alignment with advocacy efforts by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC), the Region of Durham advocates for the provincial government to introduce legislative measures to formalize community paramedicine, and provide full and sustained provincial funding to municipalities for community paramedicine programs; and
- B) That a letter from the Regional Chair on behalf of Regional Council, along with a copy of Report #2022-MOH-3 of the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health be sent to the Minister of Health, Minister of Long-Term Care, all Durham MPPs, AMO, and OAPC, for their information and consideration.

CARRIED

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

- A) 2021 Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) Wait List Statistics and Critical Priority (2022-SS-3)
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Report #2022-SS-3 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

A. Robins responded to a question with regards to having applicants on the DASH wait list who are residing outside the service manager area.

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

That Regional Council revoke Critical Priority on the Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) wait list, and the needs of such priority applicants be instead addressed through portable housing benefits, like the Durham Portable Housing Benefit (Durham PHB).

CARRIED

- B) Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Program 2021-2022 Take-up Plan (2022-SS-4)
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Report #2022-SS-4 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(17) That Report #2022-SS-4 of the Commissioner of Social Services be
received for information.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

10. Confidential Matters

10.1 Reports

- A) Confidential Report of the Commissioner of Social Services – Closed Matter with respect to information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them, regarding Capital Projects Submitted under the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) (2022-SS-5)
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Confidential Report #2022-SS-5 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

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

That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2022-SS-5 of the Commissioner of Social Services be adopted.

CARRIED

11. Other Business

11.1 Ukrainian Refugees

Councillor Grant requested staff to comment on the role that Durham Region will play in taking in Ukrainian Refugees and the recent Provincial announcement that will provide a suite a services for healthcare, education and employment.

E. Baxter-Trahair advised that Durham Region is heavily engaged in preparing for refugees from Ukraine as well as continuing to manage other refugee situations. She also advised that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office, through its immigration partnership, is leading the charge by meeting with a number of community agencies to ensure they have information on all of the programs available and access to those programs. E. Baxter-Trahair stated that staff could provide a walk through on how Durham Region has prepared for Ukrainian refugees.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou stated that the Emergency Social Services team has been in contact with Toronto's Emergency Social Services team with regards to

this this topic and have completed a questionnaire on how Durham Region intends to support the community. S. Danos-Papaconstantinou stated the announcement from Province in support of Ukrainian refugees is encouraging they would not have been eligible for social assistance without these opportunities.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that Social Services has looked at local hotels to support people coming in and whether the team needs to be at the airport to meet them when they arrive. She also advised that staff are prepared to work evenings and weekends to support the Ukrainian refugees as needed.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that there is currently no hotline for those with questions to call and noted they could be directed through the Social Services office for assistance. E. Baxter-Trahair also advised that the GTHA CAOs and City Managers are striving to be as coordinated as they can across the geographic area and suggested recommending the hotline at their next meeting.

Staff responded to questions regarding the community partners needed to assist Ukrainian refugees and how Durham Region can assist.

Chair Chapman advised that the Durham Local Immigration Partnership Council reports through the CAO's office and the secretariate has been connecting with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Durham to narrow down what is needed when Ukrainian's arrive in Durham. He also advised that churches and organizations have been collecting funds and supplies to send to Ukraine.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 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 10:23 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk