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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), 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*, attended the meeting at 9:32 AM
Councillor Anderson*
Councillor Carter*
Councillor Dies*
Councillor Roy*
Councillor Wotten*
Regional Chair Henry*
***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Foster

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
T. Cheseboro, Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Financial Management, Social Services
A. Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, CAO's Office
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
J. Rankin, Director, LTC and Services for Seniors, Social Services
J. Riches, Deputy Chief, Region of Durham Paramedic Services
A. Robins, Director, Housing Services, Social Services
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services
E. Valant, Program Manager, Housing Services
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(28) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

5.1 Robert Horgan, Durham Resident, re: Lack of Regional and Community Supports
for Men being Abused and their Children and Homelessness

Robert Horgan, Durham Resident, provided a delegation with regards to the lack of regional and community supports for men being abused, their children, and homelessness.

R. Horgan stated that he delegated to the Region of Durham in 2016 with regards to concerns about the lack of resources for men experiencing domestic violence and support for their children. He stated that he was questioned on his need for support as well as whether men really do get abused in relationships. He stated that men can be in relationships and suffer abuse; that there are patterns of abuse against men that are well established in research; that abuse of disabled men is significantly higher; and that there is also elder abuse. He stated that his experience from 6 years ago was that there were very few resources available or accessible.

R. Horgan stated that he has recently had to deal with domestic violence again and the only way he was able to access resources was through contacting a staff member at the Region of Durham to start the process. He stated that there is a disconnect with what resources are available and advised that some shelters cannot help because their mandate is to help women, not men. He advised that he needs support for his daughter but is unable to access that support. He also stated that he was advised of a 10-month waiting list to deal with domestic violence counselling for himself and his daughter. He stated that based on the severity of domestic violence, there needs to be a more urgent response. He concluded by stating that children and their dads need to have the same access to the many resources available to women and their children.

R. Horgan responded to questions of the Committee.

Chair Chapman requested that staff in the Social Services Department reach out to Mr. Horgan to assist him with accessing services.

6. Presentations

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

R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical of Health, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to a 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
- Childcare Absenteeism
- Wastewater Surveillance
- Recent Provincial Announcements
- Guidance for Cases & Contacts
- Current Masking Requirements
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle advised that the seventh wave continued over the summer. He advised that cases have fluctuated from 30 cases per day to 60-70 cases per day and there has been ongoing outbreaks in hospitals, congregate living settings, long-term care and retirement homes. He advised that in terms of severe impacts, hospitalizations and deaths have been minimal.

R.J. Kyle advised that in terms of vaccine administration, the number of doses administered in Durham Region has exceeded to over 1.55 million doses. He provided a brief overview of the vaccine administrations; administrations by site; and vaccination coverage. He advised that childcare absenteeism has been low and at 4.1%. He also advised that wastewater surveillance continues to be high.

R.J. Kyle stated that the province announced on August 31, 2022, that children aged 5 to 11 are eligible for a booster dose of the paediatric COVID-19 vaccine. He provided an overview of guidance for cases and contacts; current masking requirements and the current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan.

R. J. Kyle responded to questions with regards to whether there is scientific data on how long the vaccine provides immunity; whether the booster vaccine restores immunity; whether COVID is under-reported due to people treating it like the flu; whether there has been any discussion regarding further restrictions; eligibility for the latest vaccines; and whether there are issues with getting boosters around the same time as flu vaccines.

6.2 Troy Cheseboro, Chief of Paramedic Services, re: Offload Delays

T. Cheseboro, Chief of Paramedic Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Offload Delays. A copy of the presentation material was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Paramedic Services Update
- Seaton Paramedic Response Station
- Paramedic Services Call Statistics
- Call Statistics – Performance Metrics
- Hospital Offload Delay
- Hospital Offload Delay Cost 2022
- Provincial Update

T. Cheseboro stated that construction of the new Seaton Paramedic Response Station has begun and is expected to be completed by 2023. He provided an overview of the paramedic call statistics and advised that requests for ambulance services are prioritized into five categories. He stated that the number of calls and patient transfers is expected to continue to increase as the population increases and people live longer.

T. Cheseboro provided an overview of the performance metrics for call volumes from 2018 as well as patient transports. With regards to hospital offload delays, he provided an overview of offload delay hours in 2022; 90th percentile for 2022; offload delay hours in 2021; 90th percentile for 2021; and the cost of offload delays in 2022. He advised that provincial funding for the Community Paramedicine program has provided a small amount of relief and provincial initiatives will take time to implement due to training and legislative changes.

T. Cheseboro responded to questions with regards to the prioritization of calls for ambulances; the determination of codes; how the Region compares to the Greater Toronto Area; faster offloads into emergency departments; communications regarding when to call and when not to call for an ambulance; progress with Ontario Shores and whether it will make a significant difference with offloads; and the Fit-2-Sit program.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to be considered.

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

There were no Social Services Reports to be considered.

Questions to Social Services

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to questions regarding situations where men and their children are seeking help from shelters.

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 8, 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 Roy,
(29) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council