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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 10, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Carter  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Roy  
Councillor Wotten  
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Councillor Joe Neal

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair, was absent due to jury duty

Staff

Present: P. Abbey, Director, Oral Health, Dental Health  
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
T. Chesboro, Director and Chief of RDPS, Emergency Medical Services  
H. Drouin, Commissioner of Social Services  
J. Finlayson, Manager, Corporate Communications  
L. Fortuna, Director, Health Protection, Environmental Health  
B. Goodwin, Director, Health Administration  
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
J. Nesbitt, Director, Public Health & Chief Nursing Officer, Public Health  
S. Rashad, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
R. Walton, Regional Clerk/ Director of Legislative Services, attended for part of the meeting  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Carter,

- (1) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, be adopted.

CARRIED

**3. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**4. Delegations**

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,

- (2) That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to hear Mr. A.J. Kehoe as a delegation.

CARRIED on a 2/3rds vote

**4.1 A.J. Kehoe, Durham Resident, re: Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) Terms of Reference and live-streaming of the DNHC meetings**

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A.J. Kehoe appeared before the Committee with regards to the Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC). A.J. Kehoe stated that he has been an observer at DNHC for the past six years and is requesting that all DNHC meetings be recorded for streaming purposes on the Region's website.

A. J. Kehoe stated that the DNHC meetings produce valuable information for Council, staff and a wide variety of observers including government officials, concerned citizens, and members of non-governmental organizations. He stated that a unique and valued feature of the DNHC is that observers are allowed to ask questions during meetings which helps to keep everyone informed at that time. He also stated that the annual nuclear emergency planning meeting is the only opportunity for the province to interact publicly with those responsible for nuclear emergency planning and advised that the annual meeting is scheduled to take place on January 11, 2019 in Meeting Room LL-C at Durham Region headquarters. He further stated that the DNHC meetings take place during weekday business hours which leaves a lot of people relying on minutes to determine what happened at the meetings, which are not inclusive of all the questions, answers, concerns, recommendations and other details as discussed at the DNHC meetings.

A.J. Kehoe further stated that the Meeting Room LL-C at Durham Region headquarters is equipped with recording equipment that can be used for recording the DNHC meetings. He requested that the committee request that all DNHC meetings be recorded for streaming on the Region's website.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Dr. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, re: Health Department Overview and Orientation**

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Dr. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding an overview of the Health Department. A copy of the presentation was provided as a handout. He also provided an overview of the online Board of Health manual as well as two videos on the Public Oral Health Program and Infant and Child Development Program in the Health Department.

Dr. Kyle stated that in addition to governing legislation that determines what the Health Department provides, there are detailed standards which describe what the Department is required to do; protocols for how things are supposed to be done; and guidelines regarding the approaches to take for certain programs.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Public Health in Ontario
- Health Protection and Promotion Act
- Paramedic Services in Ontario
- Ambulance Act
- Health Department
- Health Programs & Services
- Accountability Framework
- Current & Future Issues
- Resources

Dr. Kyle advised that the Health Department's vision is to lead the way to a healthier Durham. The mission is to excel at providing a diversity of health enhancing services that address the growing and changing needs of the community.

Dr. Kyle responded to questions with regards to new government initiatives and how they are dealt with including implementation; the process to apply for funds for unique health outreach initiatives for the area municipalities; and the Health Department's mandate to investigate occupational environmental health hazards.

## **6. Health**

### **6.1 Correspondence**

There were no communications to consider.

6.2 Reports

There were no Health reports to consider.

7. **Social Services**

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Social Services reports to consider.

8. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

9. **Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. **Other Business**

10.1 Notice of Motion re: Cannabis Use in Public Places

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Discussion ensued with regards to the use of cannabis in public places and the necessity to petition the province to review legislation and to prohibit the smoking of cannabis in all public places.

Dr. Kyle responded to questions regarding the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes in public places; the definition of public places; how restrictions would affect recreational practices in public places; provisions in the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 with regards to cannabis use.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the province allowing for recreational use of cannabis but benefit/insurance providers not being able to provide coverage for medicinal cannabis due to the lack of research.

Councillor Wotten stated that it would be helpful for sources to be provided when making statements such as those cited in the motion. Dr. Kyle advised that the statements were sourced from the Health Department, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Health Canada.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Chapman,  
(3) That we recommend to Council:

- A) Whereas the use of cannabis became legalized in Canada on October 17, 2018; and
- B) Whereas every time cannabis is used it can adversely affect learning and remembering, mental health, and mood and feelings; and
- C) Whereas regular cannabis use over a prolonged period of time can injure the lungs, adversely affect mental health, and lead to physical dependence or addiction; and
- D) Whereas cannabis use in public places combined with its known health effects can adversely affect community safety, such as through impaired driving, etc.; and
- E) Whereas Section 11 of Schedule 1 (*Cannabis Act, 2017*) of *The Cannabis, Smoke-Free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*, S.O. 2017, c. 26 – Bill 174 prohibited the use of cannabis in public places; and
- F) Whereas Section 11 of Schedule 1 (Amendments to the Cannabis Act, 2017 and Other Acts) repealed Section 11 (Restrictions on places of consumption) of the *Cannabis Act, 2017*; and
- G) Whereas Section 12 of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* prohibits the smoking or holding of lighted cannabis in only enclosed public places and workplaces; and
- H) Whereas it is desirable to mitigate the human health effects of cannabis use and to de-normalize the use of cannabis in all public places, particularly with respect to children and youth; and
- I) Whereas it is also desirable to mitigate the community safety impacts of cannabis use in all public places;
- J) Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham urges the Government of Ontario to amend the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* such that the smoking or holding of lighted cannabis is prohibited in all public places; and
- K) Now be it further resolved that the Councils of Durham's lower-tier municipalities are requested to endorse this resolution; and

- L) Now be it further resolved that the Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Attorney General of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Durham's MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, AMO, alPHa and all Ontario Boards of Health be so advised.

CARRIED

10.2 Webstreaming of DNHC Meetings held in the LL-C Meeting Room, at Regional Headquarters

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Discussion ensued with regards to the webstreaming of the DNHC meetings that take place in Meeting Room LL-C, at Regional Headquarters.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,

- (4) That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to introduce a motion regarding the webstreaming of DNHC Meetings.

CARRIED

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,

- (5) That staff be directed to investigate the feasibility and costing of videotaping and webstreaming the DNHC meetings that are held in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C) at Regional Headquarters.

CARRIED

10.3 Waiting List for Subsidized Daycare

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Councillor Joe Neal had questions with regards to the length of the waiting list for subsidized daycare and possible options available to assist a single mother facing difficulty in trying to work and find daycare for her child. He stated that it should be a priority to shorten the waitlist from one year to six months.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**12. Adjournment**

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Dies,

- (6) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk