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**The Regional Municipality of Durham**

**MINUTES**

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:31 AM

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair  
Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Carter  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Roy  
Councillor Wotten attended the meeting at 9:34 AM  
Regional Chair Henry

**Staff**

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Regional Solicitor's Office  
T. Chesboro, Director and Chief of RDPS  
H. Drouin, Commissioner of Social Services  
J. Finlayson, Manager, Corporate Communications  
D. Holmes, Director, Business Affairs and Finance Management  
S. Howson, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Communications  
J. Jordison, Superintendent, Durham Paramedic Services  
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services  
G. Longo, Multi-Media Coordinator, Social Services  
K. O'Brien, Director, Income & Employment Support  
S. Rashad, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
K. Rideout, Family Services Manager  
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 Carter, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,  
(7) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 10, 2019, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

### **4. Delegations**

#### **4.1 Teri Norrie re: Access to Transportation Services for Homeless or Poverty-Stricken Youth as well as Access to Transportation for community members**

T. Norrie appeared before the Committee with regards to access to transportation services for homeless and poverty-stricken youth as well as access to transportation for community members. She stated that students at Trent University are working in collaboration with The Refuge to raise funds and awareness for youth who experience poverty and/or homelessness. She stated that The Refuge has identified an immediate need for public transportation for the youth utilizing their services in Oshawa and is exploring solutions to resolve these transportation issues.

T. Norrie stated that The Refuge is a consistent, stable contact for youth in need and services approximately 450 to 600 youth each year. She advised that The Refuge provides services such as: therapeutic programs; evening drop-ins to engage in social activities; counselling sessions; housing first program; a co-op program; and encouragement for youth to learn a variety of skills. She stated that The Refuge relies on external donations and fund-raising to supplement youth transportation but is forced to allocate transportation to some youth while others are denied due to the shortage of funding.

T. Norrie requested that the Region investigate a long-term solution to address the lack of funding of public transportation to the youth who utilize The Refuge for services.

T. Norrie responded to questions of the committee.

#### **4.2 Derek Giberson, City Councillor, City of Oshawa, re: Primary Care Outreach Pilot**

D. Giberson, City Councillor, City of Oshawa appeared before the committee with regards to his support of the Primary Care Outreach Pilot.

D. Giberson stated that he is addressing the Committee in his capacity as a Ward 4 City Councillor, an Oshawa resident and the Board President of the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty. He stated that Ward 4 is unique in that it encompasses the downtown area of Oshawa and the area around downtown, which is an area that experiences the highest level of urban poverty in Durham Region. He stated that the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty helps to relieve the burdens of poverty and social dislocation within the street population of Oshawa. The Mission provides drop-in services such as: meal tickets; coffee/snacks; emergency food supplies; clothing services; free tax clinic; and

foot care. He advised that the Mission is located in downtown Oshawa and has been there for over 20 years.

D. Giberson stated that a large portion of the street population in the downtown core are used to dealing with people in uniform in a negative way. He advised that the Primary Care Outreach Pilot provides a unique experience for those in need as it builds trust with individuals on the furthest margins of society which, in turn, leads to positive experiences. He stated that new challenges require new strategies and new approaches and some of these new challenges are unique in terms of the volume of addictions and the volume of homeless people. He advised that he is starting to hear from other municipalities within Durham Region who are experiencing similar unfortunate circumstances and stated that the Primary Care Outreach Pilot is going to be very important in terms of building new strategies towards addressing these problems.

D. Giberson responded to questions of the committee.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Chief Troy Cheseboro, Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS), re: Primary Care Outreach Pilot Update**

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Chief T. Cheseboro, RDPS, provided a PowerPoint and video presentation with regards to the Primary Care Outreach Pilot Update. A copy of the presentation was provided as a handout.

Chief Cheseboro stated that the Primary Care Outreach Pilot (PCOP) was launched on July 23, 2018 and consists of an Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) and Social Worker providing outreach and service navigation services to vulnerable priority populations in the City of Oshawa. He advised that the team uses a rapid response vehicle to commute to priority neighbourhoods and services are provided from 8 AM to 4 PM on Mondays to Fridays. He stated that the PCOP is funded within the approved 2018 Health Department and Social Services Department Budgets and continuation of the PCOP is subject to 2019 budget deliberations.

Chief Cheseboro stated that the primary goal of the PCOP is to address the complex needs of hard to reach populations such as: urgent health needs; crisis support; physical and mental health issues; substance abuse; assistance with service navigation; ongoing connections to/use of physical and mental health services; and transition to more stable housing situations. He provided detailed breakdowns of the outreach services provided; the client population; statistics regarding substance abuse among the populations serviced; successes of the PCOP; and the amount of time spent by the social worker and the ACP on specific services. He also advised that other than engagement and assessment, the most time is spent on service navigation and counselling rather than paramedic services.

Chief Cheseboro stated that an evaluation of the first 5 months of the PCOP has been completed and an evaluation of the full 8-month pilot will be completed in the near future. He advised that evaluation results show that the greatest needs of the client population are for social services and advised that clients would benefit from transportation support as well as supplies. He further advised that expansion of the program would help support other vulnerable populations in Ajax, Pickering and Whitby.

Chief Cheseboro advised that the PCOP will continue until March 2019 with ongoing operations dependable on available funding and 2019 budget deliberations.

Chief Cheseboro responded to questions with regards to extension of the program to other municipalities; whether there have been any interactions with the Local Health Integration Network with regards to the success of the program; whether there are other paramedics and social service workers available to help with the program; and what is done to assist the population in finding employment and integration back into society.

Councillor Roy requested that Chief Cheseboro provide her with a detailed list of supplies required by the client population.

It was requested that the evaluation report reflect the importance of highlighting that support from other agencies, and that interventions and services are crucial as well as the need for resources from the government. It was also requested that the video presentation be shared on social media platforms to outline the work that has been done. It was further requested that staff speak to the Commissioner of Works and Works staff with regards to the possibility of bottling water from the Ajax Water Supply Plant to provide to the client population.

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

- A) That the Health and Social Services Committee endorse the Primary Care Outreach Pilot Program in the 2019 Budget;
- B) That Health and Social Services staff research all opportunities for additional funding programs at both the Provincial and Federal levels of government; and
- C) That the presentation from Chief Troy Cheseboro, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, regarding the Primary Care Outreach Pilot be presented at Regional Council.

CARRIED

**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**

There was no other business to consider.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 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 Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Dies,  
(9) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Chapman, Chair

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk