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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 9, 2019

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Carter attended the meeting at 9:37 AM due to municipal business
Councillor Dies
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: A. Andrews, Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives attended for part of the meeting
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Regional Solicitor's Office
T. Cheseboro, Director and Chief of RDPS
H. Drouin, Commissioner of Social Services
L. Fortuna, Director, Health Protection, Environmental Health
B. Goodwin, Director, Administration
S. Howson, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Communications
J. Hunt, Director, Legal Services, Corporate Services – Legal attended for part of the meeting
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
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 Roy, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(24) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, April 4, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Delegations

- 4.1 Stephanie Bell, Executive Dean, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Durham College; Audrey Andrews, Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, Social Services Department, Region of Durham; and Jason Hunt, Director of Legal Services, Corporate Services, Region of Durham regarding Access to Justice Hub
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Mark Frayne, Professor, Lawyer and Coordinator of the Paralegal Program, Durham College; Audrey Andrews, Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, Social Services Department, Region of Durham; and Jason Hunt, Director of Legal Services, Corporate Services, Region of Durham, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham's Access to Justice Hub. Mark Frayne attended in place of Stephanie Bell.

J. Hunt stated that the Access to Justice Hub ("The Hub") is a 5-year pilot project and a partnership between the Durham Community Legal Clinic and Durham College. He stated that the Social Services Department of the Region of Durham has also been involved in bringing a financial empowerment lens to the project.

M. Frayne stated that social and justice services are facing extreme demands and pressures and a gap in needs assessment in Durham Region confirms that many residents face multiple barriers in accessing assistance with their legal, social and financial needs. The hope is that The Hub will assist in addressing these problems.

M. Frayne stated that The Hub is a unique project and is the first of its kind in Canada. It provides a "one stop shop" for legal, financial and social services available to Durham residents. He stated that it is also an education and research centre created to improve community collaboration and partnership; promote an accessible and fair justice system; and contribute towards poverty prevention and reduction. He also advised that The Hub is located close to priority neighbourhoods and transit.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,
(25) That M. Frayne be granted a one-time 2-minute extension in order to finish his delegation.

CARRIED

M. Frayne stated that next steps for The Hub are as follows: continued community outreach and awareness to local municipalities, Durham Region Law Association and local agencies; recruitment of Board and Executive Members; finalization of by-laws and not-for-profit incorporation status; and continuation in seeking funding and grants to assist the initiative.

J. Hunt and M. Frayne responded to questions of the committee.

5. Presentations

5.1 Dr. R. J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health regarding Public Health Restructuring

Dr. R. J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Public Health Restructuring. A copy of the Presentation was provided as a handout.

Dr. Kyle stated that the provincial government is implementing its priorities as expressed in the 2019 Ontario budget which includes changes to public health and ambulance services. He provided an overview and background information as it relates to the public health restructuring.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
 - Ontario Releases Expert Panel Report on Public Health (July 20, 2017)
 - COMOH (Council of Medical Officers of Health) Submission – EPPH Report (October 12, 2017)
 - alPHA Submission – EPPH Report (October 17, 2017)
 - alPHA Pre-Budget Submission (January 25, 2019)
 - alPHA Public Health Resource Paper (January 25, 2019)
- 2019 Ontario Budget
 - alPHA Memo – 2019 ON Budget (April 11, 2019)
 - alPHA News Release – 2019 ON Budget (April 12, 2019)
 - alPHA Speaking Points – Toronto Board of Health (April 15, 2019)
 - alPHA Position Statement – PH Restructuring (April 25, 2019)
 - CMOH Memo – PH Modernization (April 29, 2019)
 - alPHA Letter to the Minister (May 3, 2019)
- Local Impacts
 - Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)

- Legislation and Ontario Public Health Standards
- 2019/2020 PH Grant
- Regional vs Local Public Health Entities
- Governance – Role of Municipalities?
- Leadership/Management
- Regional vs. Local Programs & Services
- Back-office Functions – Finance, HR, IT, etc.
- Labour Relations
- Current Leases etc.
- Other

During the presentation, Dr. Kyle stressed the following key points:

- Previous government had a 'Patients First' agenda.
- Local public health capacity has been eroding over years of no increases in budgets and the system will not withstand the large-scale system disruption proposed.
- Restructuring is happening at a time when there is less provincial investment in public health.
- alPHA's News Release in April 2019 announced the province's plans to reduce funding by \$200 million per year which represents about a 26% reduction in the province's investment in public health units.
- Public health is funded by obligated municipalities (upper and single tier municipalities) however, discretionary grants can be administered by the Minister.
- The government has exercised its discretion by cutting back provincial advancements to public health with the understanding that municipalities will pay for public health services.
- Not only are municipalities required to fund public health but what they do is heavily prescribed by the province either in legislation or Ontario public health standards.
- After a phone call with the Ministry, the expectation is that the impact of the Region's grant will be minimal.
- The Region's Health Department still has to provide programs and services while the restructuring is happening.
- While all the restructuring is happening, there is the creation of the new Ontario Health Super Agency and the Ontario Health Teams.
- The Region's Health Department will be expected to implement the low-income seniors' dental program when announced.
- Further details are expected in the weeks and months ahead.
- Expectation that the governing legislation (the Health Protection and Promotion Act) will be opened up in the fall to make provision for regional public health entities, etc.

5.2 Troy Cheseboro, Chief of Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS),
regarding Region of Durham Paramedic Services Update

T. Cheseboro, Chief of Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Paramedic Services Update. A copy of the Presentation was provided as a handout.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Call Volume
 - Priority 1-4
 - Priority 1-4 +8
 - 39% Increase since 2014
- Total Patient Carrying Calls
- Current Patterns
- Calls vs Vehicle Hours
- Vehicle/Staffing Changes
- Provincial Update
 - April 15, 2019 – received notice that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care intends to look at restructuring paramedic services
 - April 16, 2019 – emergency Board meeting with Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) to receive update
 - April 16, 2019 – notified staff of information received and to await details
 - April 17, 2019 – OAPC provided media release
- Information
 - OAPC has long supported changes to dispatch system in the form of CAD updates as well as call prioritization software
 - OAPC has suggested creation of a College of Paramedics
 - OAPC has suggested changes to provincial oversight

T. Cheseboro responded to questions with regards to whether the Primary Care Outreach Pilot will be impacted; the amalgamation of all services together and how that will affect the final union collective agreement; the creation of separate unions for paramedics; timeline with regards to the changes; and public input.

6. Health

6.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated May 3, 2019 regarding Modernizing Ontario's Health Units
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A copy of the correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated May 3, 2019 regarding Modernizing Ontario's Health Units was provided as an attachment to the Addendum.

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

- A) That the correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies regarding Modernizing Ontario's Health Units be endorsed; and
- B) That whereas in the 2019 Ontario budget, the Government announced its plan to restructure Ontario's public health system and reduce public health funding by \$200 million per year; and

Whereas it has proposed changing the cost-sharing arrangement such that the provincial share is reduced to 70% and the municipal share is increased to 30% for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, with the provincial share to be further reduced to 60% in 2021-2022; and

Whereas the cost-sharing changes will apply to all 100% provincially funded programs; and

Whereas it is replacing 35 local boards of health and creating 10 Regional Public Health Entities, governed by autonomous boards of health; and

Whereas boards of health are mandated to provide public health programs and services in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act, other relevant legislation and in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability; and

Whereas the creation of 10 Regional Public Health Entities is likely to cause major disruptions in every facet of the public health system; and

Whereas public health programs and services demonstrate superior value for money and return on investment; and

Whereas public health programs and services protect and promote the health and well-being of local residents thus reducing the demand on acute care services; and

Whereas the Regional Municipality of Durham is a member of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA); and

Whereas alPHa has been fully engaged in representing and advancing its members' interests with respect to public health restructuring including the attached letter to the Deputy Minister & Minister of Health and Long-Term Care;

Now therefore be it resolved:

That the Ontario government is urged to:

- Maintain its current provincial funding level to the Durham Region Health Department for 2019-2020,
- Consider deferring any future changes to the cost-sharing formula until it has consulted with alPHa, AMO, boards of health and obligated municipalities, including the Regional Municipality of Durham;
- Consult with local municipalities to inform decisions regarding boundaries, funding, governance, mandate, organizational structure, operations, etc. of the proposed 10 Regional public health entities, and

Be it further resolved that the Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier & Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Minister of Finance, Durham's MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, AMO, alPHa and all Ontario boards of health be so advised.

CARRIED

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, June 6, 2019 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
(27) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk