

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 9, 2021

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, September 9, 2021 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 Anderson
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry
***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Grant
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr attended the meeting at 9:35 AM
Councillor Smith

Absent: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair absent on municipal business

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
L. Mizzi, Assistant Administrator, Hillsdale Estates
J. Nesbitt, Director, Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, 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 Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,
(29) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, June 3, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

At this time, Chair Chapman announced the retirement of Jean Nesbitt, Director of Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer. J. Nesbitt was thanked for her exceptional leadership work and her many years of service at the Region of Durham.

5. Delegations

5.1 Joe Otavnik, Oshawa Resident re: Oshawa Micro-Homes Pilot Project

Joe Otavnik, Oshawa resident, provided his delegation later in the meeting due to connectivity issues.

5.2 Dr. Mark Katz, Beaverton Resident, re: The Clinical and Support Needs of Clients of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Proposal

Dr. Mark Katz provided a delegation with regards to the Clinical and Support Needs of Clients of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Proposal. A copy of his presentation material was provided to members prior to the meeting.

Dr. Katz advised that he is a Psychiatrist with 29 years of clinical experience and a recent resident of Beaverton. He stated that Beaverton has no existing mental health or substance use supports; no primary care physician or part time community health clinic with nurse practitioners; limited EMS supports nearby; the nearest hospitals are 45-50 minutes away; and there is a lack of community support for the supportive housing proposal.

Dr. Katz advised that he has had discussions with experts and is of the opinion that required supports for the Beaverton Supportive Housing are as follows: nursing to support various needs; support workers to help with day to day living challenges; security supports who are trained in non-violent crisis intervention, conflict resolution, and mental health emergencies; case management to provide employment support; recreation therapy and programming; teams to help those with mental illness; and individual and group counselling. He inquired whether the Region is prepared to budget for and provide the services required to make the site for this proposal work.

Dr. Katz responded to questions of the Committee.

5.1 Joe Otavnik, Oshawa Resident re: Oshawa Micro-Homes Pilot Project

Joe Otavnik, Oshawa resident, provided a delegation with regards to the Oshawa Micro-Homes Pilot Project.

J. Otavnik stated that local communities are not on board with the Oshawa Micro-Homes Pilot Project. He stated he feels that the property is not being used for what it was originally expropriated for and residents should be given the opportunity to provide their input. With regards to zoning, J. Otavnik believes that the project does not meet all zoning requirements. He further stated that he believes the project will make the City of Oshawa a magnet for the homeless population.

6. Presentations

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

R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the COVID-19 Update. A copy of the PowerPoint was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- COVID-19 Update
- Current Status
- Variants of Concern
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- Roadmap to Reopen Indicators
- Recommendations for Establishing a Vaccination Policy for your Workplace
- Proof of Vaccination in Select Settings
- Outdoor Special Events
- Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes and Congregate Living Facilities
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle stated that the Delta Variant is currently driving the fourth wave and provided an overview of the vaccination administration in Durham Region. He stated that Durham Region is currently in Stage 3 of the provincial reopening map and has exceeded the Stage 3 targets.

R.J. Kyle advised that the Health Department has issued recommendations to local workplaces to create a vaccination policy to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community and to protect their workers and the public. He stated that as of September 22, 2021, the province will require patrons to provide proof of vaccination in select settings such as: facilities used for sports and fitness; restaurants and bars; sporting events; and concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas. He advised that the requirements will not apply to outdoor settings or where people receive medical care or grocery stores.

R.J. Kyle advised that as of August 18, 2021 residents born in 2009 are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and that a third dose is being offered to individuals at highest risk of a reduced or waning immune response to the vaccine. He further advised that based on increased demand, the mass immunization clinics at the Audley Recreation Centre in Ajax and the Ontario Tech Campus Ice Centre in Oshawa will remain open until December 2021. Plans for mobile and pop-up clinics will focus on target populations and communities with lower vaccination rates. School-based clinics are being planned in collaboration with the school boards.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions with regards to the percentage of Durham Region residents currently vaccinated and how that number compares to other Regions; factors that contributed to the outbreak at Hillsdale Estates; municipal responsibilities with regards to the September 22nd proof of vaccination policy; and whether vaccinations will be available for children under the age of 12.

6.2 L. Mizzi, Assistant Administrator, Hillsdale Estates re: Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commissioner – Report Overview (2021-SS-8) [Item 8.2 A)]

Lisa Mizzi, Assistant Administrator, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission Report Overview. A copy of the PowerPoint was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Background to LTC COVID-19 Commission
- State of LTC Prior to COVID-19
- Key Findings
- Key Recommendations
- Key Recommendations and Regional LTC Status
- Closing Remarks

L. Mizzi stated that the Commission was created by the provincial government to investigate the cause of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in long-term care and its effect on residents, staff, families, and volunteers. She advised that the Commission received over 700 submissions in the preparation of the report.

L. Mizzi advised that the report states that Ontario was not prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic and that staffing in long-term care was a concern prior to the pandemic and especially during the first two waves. She also stated that staff composition and capacity were ill-suited to pandemic management; long-term care funding was described as insufficient and underfunded; and there are differences in staffing, quality of resident care, infrastructure and consumer preference between for-profit and not-for-profit homes.

L. Mizzi provided a detailed overview of the key findings and recommendations and advised that the Commission provided 85 recommendations to the provincial government as a result of the investigation. She advised that the Ministry of Long-Term Care has announced support to further enhance staffing, staffing mix, IPAC measures and the inspection process, and noted the Region's long-term care homes are well on their way to meeting many of the recommendations set out in the report.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

- A) Information Report #2021-INFO-67 of the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health re: The Health Costs of Climate Change: How Canadians Can Adapt, Prepare and Save Lives
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Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,

- (30) That Information Report #2021-INFO-67 of the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health regarding the Health Costs of Climate Change: How Canadians Can Adapt, Prepare and Save Lives, be received for information.

CARRIED

- B) Correspondence from the Municipality of Hastings Highlands re: Resolution passed at their Council Meeting held on June 2, 2021, endorsing 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline
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Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,

- (31) That the correspondence from the Municipality of Hastings Highlands regarding the Resolution passed at their council meeting held on June 2, 2021, endorsing 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline, be received for information.

CARRIED

- C) Correspondence from the City of Pickering re: Resolution passed at their Council Meeting held on June 28, 2021, endorsing 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline
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Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(32) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the correspondence from the City of Pickering re: Resolution passed at their Council Meeting held on June 28, 2021, endorsing 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline be endorsed; and
- B) That Durham MPs, MPPs, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Ministers of Health (provincial and federal), Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, all Durham Region Post-Secondary Education partners, Durham Regional Police Services, Emergency Management Services, Lakeridge Health and Pinewood Centre of Lakeridge Health, be so advised.

CARRIED

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to consider.

8. **Social Services**

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission (2021-SS-8)

Report #2021-SS-8 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(33) That Report #2021-SS-8 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Updated Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness Terms of Reference (2021-SS-9)

Report #2021-SS-9 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(34) That we recommend to Council:

That the updated Terms of Reference for the Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness be adopted.

CARRIED

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

A) Feed the Need in Durham - Push Against Hunger 2021

Chair Chapman advised that the Push Against Hunger event will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 10 AM to 1:45 PM. The event will start at Oshawa City Hall and is scheduled to end at Regional Headquarters.

B) Feed the Need in Durham – Community Food Drives

Chair Chapman advised that the Fill the Tank event will be held on September 11, 2021 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Sobey's Oshawa, 1377 Wilson Road North, Oshawa.

Chair Chapman also advised that the Cram-a-Cruiser event will be held on September 11, 2021 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Sobey's Whitby, 1615 Dundas Street East, Whitby.

C) Tour of Downtown Oshawa

Regional Chair Henry requested that Committee members be provided with a tour of downtown Oshawa to better understand the City's challenges with regards to various addictions.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(35) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council