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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 9, 2021

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

Also
Present: Councillor Crawford
Councillor Highet
Councillor Smith

Staff
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Gaskin, Manager, Wage Subsidy, Children's Services, Social Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
L. McIntosh, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, 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 Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(48) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

5.1 Jim Kerr, Courtice Resident, re: Concerns of parents and grandparents in Courtice regarding the mandatory vaccine for children aged 5 – 12 years old

Jim Kerr, Courtice Resident, was not available by phone to provide his delegation.

6. Presentations

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

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

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Current Status
- Variants of Concern (VOCs)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- Weekly Epi Stats – Vaccination Rates in Durham Region
- Weekly Epi Stats – Percent Positivity
- Weekly Epi Stats – Effective Reproduction Number (Rt)
- Weekly Epi Stats – Vaccination Status
- Recent Provincial Announcements
- Instructions – Sports and Recreational Facilities
- Enforcement Activities
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle stated that we are currently in the fourth wave and that the Delta Variant continues to be driving the fourth wave. He also stated that the Omicron Variant is the newest variant of concern.

R.J. Kyle stated that the daily case counts have risen and provided an overview of the current cases and outbreaks. He stated that most COVID-19 infections are in younger age groups and Durham Region is reporting 4 hospitalizations and 2 ICU admissions.

R.J. Kyle advised that the current focus of local, provincial, and federal governments is on ascertainment and enhanced case and contact management. He also advised that the Durham Region data tracker now includes the Omicron Variant.

R.J. Kyle advised that Durham Region is set to administer 1.1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of December. He provided an overview of the vaccination coverage and noted that for those aged 12 and up, the Region is at 89.3% for first doses and 84.8% for second doses, and for those aged 5 to 11, the Region is at 24% for first doses.

R.J. Kyle advised that the Region's test positivity has gone up to 2.7%. He also advised that the preferred effective reproductive rate is to be below 1.0, however it is currently at 1.01 which is an indication that the pandemic is growing. He also provided an overview of the vaccination status of Durham Region COVID-19 cases.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the various provincial announcements regarding COVID-19 booster dose eligibility; vaccine eligibility for children aged 5 to 11; enhancement of testing by expanding testing locations; and the paused lifting capacity limits in remaining settings where proof of vaccination is required.

R.J. Kyle advised that he issued letter of instruction, after consultation with the office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), on December 8, 2021 to owners and operators of sports and recreation facilities regarding the implementation and enforcement of a vaccination policy for anyone attending the facility.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the enforcement activities under the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA) and stated that Durham Region Health Department works in collaboration with several local and provincial partners to enforce the ROA.

R.J. Kyle provided an overview of the current vaccine plan and advised that children 5 years of age and older are eligible to be vaccinated.

R.J. Kyle responded to questions regarding recommendations of which COVID-19 vaccination to get if a person has had a past infection of COVID-19.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to consider.

Questions to Health

R.J. Kyle responded to questions regarding the percentage of Durham residents aged twelve and up that have had their first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; and the ratio of people that are hospitalized and in the ICU that are unvaccinated versus vaccinated. R.J. Kyle advised members to view the Science Table COVID-19 projections that are available online for exact figures.

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent dated November 10, 2021 regarding: Support Resolution from the Council of Huron County passed October 20th re: Homelessness Task Force
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Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Roy,
(49) That the correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent dated November 10, 2021 regarding support resolution from the Council of Huron County passed October 20, 2021 re: Homelessness Task Force, be referred to Item 11. A) of Other Business.
CARRIED

8.2 Reports

- A) Naloxone Administration in Income and Employment Support Offices (2021-SS-15)

Report #2021-SS-15 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(50) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That authorization be provided for naloxone nasal spray kits to be purchased and made available in each Income and Employment Support office for a one-year pilot to assess utilization and effectiveness in having access to these kits permanently at an estimated cost of \$2,200 to be funded from the approved Social Services Business Plans and Budget; and

- B) That authorization be provided to allow corporate Health and Safety training to be provided to First Aid certified personnel in Income and Employment Support Division (IESD) and Business Affairs and Financial Management (BAFM), on a voluntary basis, to administer naloxone to counteract the effects of an opioid overdose at an estimated cost of \$805 to be funded from the approved Social Services Business Plans and Budget.

CARRIED

- B) Authorization to Extend the Existing Laundry Management Services Standing Agreement (C002104) with K-BRO Linen Systems (Ontario) Limited (2021-SS-16)

Report #2021-SS-16 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Roy, Seconded by Councillor Anderson

(51) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That a single source extension be authorized to extend the standing agreement (C002104) with K-BRO Linen Systems (Ontario) Limited on the same terms and conditions at an estimated cost of \$493,000, to be funded from the annual Social Services Business Plans and Budget, for a six (6) month term from November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 for the supply and delivery of laundry management services to the Region of Durham's four (4) Long-Term Care Homes in order to develop the necessary scope of work to facilitate a competitive bid process; and
- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute any related, required agreements and amendment agreements.

CARRIED

Questions to Social Services

There were no questions to Social Services.

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) Correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent dated November 10, 2021 regarding: Support Resolution from the Council of Huron County passed October 20th re: Homelessness Task Force
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Moved by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Chapman,

(52) WHEREAS on November 8, 2021 the Council for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent supported the following resolution:

“THAT the County of Huron, due to the substantial increase in chronic homelessness not only in Huron County but across Ontario and Canada, requests the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to identify Homelessness a “Provincial” and “National Crisis” across the Province of Ontario and Canada.

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada acknowledge that lack of resources to support addiction and mental health programs to be a leading cause of homelessness.

AND FURTHER THAT the County of Huron requests the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support for housing and homelessness programs as well as increase funding to mental health and addiction services.”;

And whereas the Region of Durham has seen a significant increase in the incidence of homelessness since 2020 which has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic;

And whereas the increase of homelessness is impacting the entire community both socially and economically;

And whereas the Region is responding to urgent homelessness issues with a cross-sector task force of key stakeholders that includes: the health sector, social services, law enforcement, community partners, local municipalities, and business groups and those with lived experience;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Region of Durham supports and endorses the November 8, 2021 Chatham-Kent resolution;

And further that the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada expedite meaningful measures to appropriately support local Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards address the immediate homelessness crises;

And further that the Province of Ontario create a cross-ministerial task force which would include the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Health,

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and Ministry of Finance in partnership with local Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards to create a fulsome strategy to address homelessness and the root cause of homelessness, mental health and addictions;

And further that the motion be forwarded to all Durham Region municipalities, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Finance, Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM), and Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE

Yes

Councillor Anderson
Councillor Carter
Councillor Dies
Regional Chair Henry
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Wotten
Councillor Chapman

No

None

Members Absent: None

Declarations of Interest: None

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(53) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk