

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2022

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, June 9, 2022 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 Dies*
Councillor Roy*
Councillor Wotten*
Regional Chair Henry* attended for part of the meeting
***denotes Councillors participating electronically**

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

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
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(20) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Delegations

5.1 Matthew Schurter re: Prevention of Substance Use Initiative in Youth

Matthew Schurter provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Prevention of Substance Use Initiative in Youth.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- A rational approach to the prevention of substance misuse
- Number of opioid-related deaths among Durham Region Residents, 2013-2020
- Annual rate of confirmed opioid overdose emergency department visits by Durham Region and Ontario residents, 2013-2020
- Overall costs (in billions) by substance and cost type, 2014
- 4 Pillars Approach: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Enforcement
- Statistical Data from Iceland
- Planet Youth Evidence Based Drug Prevention
- Investment Costs
- How is this different from what public health is already doing?

M. Schurter advised that he is a family practice anesthesiologist in north Durham and founder of the website letstalkaboutopioids.ca. He stated that the number of opioid-related deaths are increasing four-fold in Durham Region and opioid overdoses in emergency rooms are increasing three-fold in Durham Region and Ontario.

M. Schurter stated that costs related to opioids are the third highest, after alcohol and tobacco, in terms of healthcare, lost productivity, criminal justice, and other direct costs.

M. Schurter stated that the four pillars approach, which has been adopted by the Durham Region Opioid Response Plan, are prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement. He noted that Iceland was one of the worst countries in Europe in terms of alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis use amongst youths, and with the four pillars approach taken by Planet Youth, it has made the most gains and has now become one of the best.

M. Schurter stated that youths are mainly influenced by family, peer groups, unstructured activities, and organized youth work. He noted that the Planet Youth approach is to identify protective and risk factors based on data obtained from youth in the community and to promote protective factors and mitigate against risk factors.

M. Schurter advised that the project would require a project manager, recurrent data analysis, and specific programs. He stated that the program is different then

what public health is currently doing in that it is more timely, comprehensive, specific to the local community, and more reliable as it links the protective and risk factors to different behaviours.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(21) That M. Schurter be granted a one-time two-minute extension to finish his delegation.

CARRIED

M. Schurter concluded by advising that the prevention program has been used in Lanark County near Ottawa and in four communities in New Brunswick which were run by the Provincial Public Health Authority.

6. Presentations

6.1 Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, Health Department, and Sarah Rice, Senior GIS Analyst, Corporate Services – Information Technology, re: Health Neighbourhoods Release 4

Alex Swirski, Epidemiologist, Health Department, and Sarah Rice, Senior GIS Analyst, Corporate Services – Information Technology provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Health Neighbourhoods Release 4. A copy of the presentation material was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Your health depends a lot on where you live
- 50 Health Neighbourhoods
- 7 Priority Neighbourhoods
- Health Neighbourhood Releases
- What's New in Release 4? June 2022
- Durham.ca/neighbourhoods
- Health Neighbourhood Profiles & Indicator Summaries
- Indicator Summaries
- Map Viewer
- Open Data
- What's New in Release 4? Indicator Updates
- Health Neighbourhoods Help us to Help Others
- Helpful Resources
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Next Steps

A. Swirski stated that your health depends on where you live and advised that the Health Department divided Durham Region into 50 Health Neighbourhoods to better understand the patterns of health in the communities. She also advised that

based on a 2016 census, the average population size of each Health Neighbourhood was approximately 13,000.

A. Swirski advised that in 2015, the Health Department identified seven priority neighbourhoods that required more focus to build on health and well-being which have the lowest income levels in Durham Region. She also advised that 1 in 6 Durham Region residents live in a priority neighbourhood.

A. Swirski advised since the Health Neighbourhoods initiative began in 2008, three external releases have been done to date with the fourth release scheduled for June 2022.

S. Rice advised that the fourth release has been upgraded to a fully interactive online data dashboard to allow communities to explore the data by different health indicators. The neighbourhood can be explored by indicator or neighbourhood and neighbourhoods data can now be explored, filtered and downloaded through the open data portal.

A. Swirski provided an overview of the new features included in Release 4 such as the addition of a report section to the Health Neighbourhoods website which includes all 96 indicators for Durham Region with comparisons to Ontario municipalities where available, as well as a frequently asked questions section.

A. Swirski responded to questions with regards to adverse childhood experiences being higher in the Township of Brock; how municipalities being shown in the presentation material were chosen; and whether there has been any communication between Dr. Shurter and Durham Region regarding data that would be helpful to his program.

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

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

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Current Status
- COVID-19 Vaccination Administration
- COVID-19 Vaccine by Administration Site
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage
- School and Childcare Absenteeism
- Wastewater Surveillance
- Recent Provincial Announcements
- Current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

R.J. Kyle advised that all of the metrics and indicators being followed are decreasing; that we are currently in the sixth wave; and we are seeing a seven-

day rolling average of confirmed cases continuing to decline. He also advised that the data tracker is only being updated weekly on Wednesday's.

R.J. Kyle provided an update on the vaccination administration and advised that with the first, second, third and fourth doses, Durham Region is close to 1.5 million vaccine doses being administered. He also stated that vaccine coverage for those aged 12 and up for their first dose is 90%, second dose is 88%, and third dose is a little under 55%.

R.J. Kyle advised they continue to follow school and childcare absenteeism which has been staying low and stated that there have been no school closures related to absenteeism since his last presentation. He also noted that the wastewater surveillance signal continues to decrease at all collection sites in Durham Region.

R.J. Kyle advised that the Chief Medical Officer of Health confirmed that masking requirements and remaining directives would be lifted as of June 11, 2022, but that masking requirements will remain in place for long-term care and retirement homes. He stated that the language with masking will be moved from "strongly recommended" to "encouraged".

R.J. Kyle advised that there continues to be four mass immunization clinics operating in Durham Region for COVID-19 in Clarington, Oshawa, and Pickering throughout the summer.

6.3 Troy Cheseboro, Chief of Paramedic Services, re: Lakeridge Health Offload Delay Crisis

Troy Cheseboro, Chief of Paramedic Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Lakeridge Health Offload Delay Crisis. A copy of the presentation material was provided in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
- May 25 and 26 Snapshot
- Impact of Offload Delays
- Emergency Department Ambulance Offload Time (AOT)
- Hospital Problem Needs Hospital Solution
- RDPS Support Strategies
- Other RDPS Supports to Lakeridge Health
- Next Steps

T. Cheseboro advised that the recommended transfer of care time that should take place under normal circumstances is 30 minutes. He provided a brief overview of an offload delay that occurred on May 25 and 26, 2022.

T. Cheseboro reviewed the impacts of offload delays such as: patients in crises in the community suffer; patients on offload delay suffer; and public safety is at risk.

He also reviewed the impacts of offload delays on paramedics and the financial burden for Paramedic Services. He advised that the cost for offload hours from December 1 to May 31 was \$2,713,960.

T. Cheseboro advised that Lakeridge Oshawa, Ajax and Bowmanville are in the 90th percentile for Ambulance Offload Time within the Province of Ontario. He also advised that a fit-to-sit program is being investigated however a memorandum of understanding is required between Paramedic Services and Lakeridge Health for this to be implemented.

T. Cheseboro responded to questions with regards to how Councillor's can help with the situation; implementation of what was originally presented in 2018 by the provincial government for paramedics and the service delivery; support programs available to paramedics and other emergency services; wait times in emergency rooms between going in by ambulance versus walking in; wait time at hospitals for paramedics with patients; and when the offload delays become a public safety issue.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

A) Correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, re: alPHa Resolutions for Consideration at the June 14, 2022 Annual General Meeting and Registration for Voting

Dr. Kyle advised that the alPHa Annual General Meeting (AGM) is taking place virtually on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 and that the AGM Resolutions Session is occurring in the morning. He stated that Durham Region is a member of alPHa and has 7 voting delegates. He advised that all members of the Health & Social Services Committee were registered as voting delegates and asked the members to confirm who is able to attend the AGM, particularly the Resolutions Session on the morning of June 14th.

The members of the Committee advised of their availability. Councillors Carter and Pickles were not in attendance and would be contacted following the meeting to confirm their availability.

Moved by Councillor Dies, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(22) That those members of the Health & Social Committee who are available to attend the alPHa Annual General Meeting be appointed as a voting delegate.

CARRIED

7.2 Reports

There were no Health Reports to be considered.

8. Social Services

8.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence from the Town of Ajax, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 19, 2022, regarding Ending Unfair Rent Increases for New Builds
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Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(23) That Correspondence from the Town of Ajax, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 19, 2022, regarding Ending Unfair Rent Increases for New Builds, be received for information.

CARRIED

8.2 Reports

- A) Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System (2022-SS-6)
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Report #2022-SS-6 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(24) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That unbudgeted provincial funding from the Ministry of Education in the amount of \$41,476,794 for the period to December 31, 2022, be expended in accordance with the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system guidelines and as outlined in Section 5 of Report #2022-SS-6 of the Commissioner of Social Services;
- B) That approval be granted to increase the Children's Services Division Staffing complement by six (6) new full-time positions effective July 1, 2022 and increase part time staffing costs to account for the additional program administration of the CWELCC program;
- C) That the proposed new positions in 2022 be funded entirely from the additional Provincial base funding allocation as follows:
- a. One (1) Policy Advisor at an estimated 2022 cost of \$77,925 (annualized cost of \$155,026);
 - b. One (1) Program Manager at an estimated 2022 cost of \$71,167 (annualized cost of \$141,690);
 - c. One (1) Quality Assurance Advisor at an estimated 2022 cost of \$65,036 (annualized cost of \$129,589);

- d. One (1) Financial Analyst 2 at an estimated 2022 cost of \$54,826 (annualized cost of \$109,427);
 - e. One (1) Senior Accounting Clerk at an estimated 2022 cost of \$46,703 (annualized cost of \$93,196);
 - f. One (1) Program Assistant at an estimated 2022 cost of \$46,703 (annualized cost of \$93,196);
 - g. Increase in temporary hours of \$490,792 to assist with program implementation;
- D) That authorization to execute agreements related to Purchase of Service with Licensees for 2022 and future years, be delegated to the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Business Affairs and Financial Management; and
- E) That staff be authorized to adjust the 2022 and 2023 Regionally Operated Early Learning and Child Care fees in accordance with CWELCC guidelines.
CARRIED
- B) Homelessness Support and Coordinated Access System Update (2022-SS-7)

Report #2022-SS-7 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(25) That Report #2022-SS-7 of the Commissioner of Social Services be received for information.
CARRIED
- C) Unbudgeted Funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments to Increase Homelessness Supports for Region of Durham Residents (2022-SS-8)

Report #2022-SS-8 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Moved by Councillor Anderson, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(26) That we recommend to Council:
 - A) That the 2022 portion of unbudgeted Federal funding from Employment and Social Development Canada in the amount of \$3,057,979 for the period of April 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, be expended in accordance with the Reaching Home program guidelines;
 - B) That the 2022 portion of unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the amount of \$772,483 for the period of April 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, be expended in accordance with the Homelessness Prevention Program guidelines;

- C) That the 2022 portion of unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the amount of \$2,769,200 for the period of April 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, be expended in accordance with the Social Services Relief Phase 5 guidelines;
- D) That the Commissioner of Social Services be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements related to the Reaching Home and Homelessness Prevention Programs; and
- E) That the Commissioner of Social Services and Commissioner of Finance be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements related to the Social Services Relief Phase 5 Program.

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

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk