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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Health & Social Services Committee was held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 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 Roy, Chair
Councillor Dies, Vice-Chair
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter* attended the meeting at 9:36 AM
Councillor Foster* attended the meeting at 9:32 AM
Councillor Jubb*
Regional Chair Henry
* **denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Also
Present: Councillor Crawford*
Councillor McDougall*
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Schummer*
Councillor Wotten*
* **denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Staff
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
M. Brolly, Manager, Population Health Division
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services
J. Dixon, Director, Business Affairs and Finance Management, Social Services
J. Gaskin, Director, Children's Services, Social Services
A. Harras*, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
M. Laschuk, Director, Family Services, Social Services
L. MacDermaid, Director, Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors, Social Services
L. McIntosh, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services
P. McTavish, Associate Medical Officer of Health

G. Muller, Director, Affordable Housing Development & Renewal
A. Skan*, Manager, Housing Services, Social Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
C. Taylor, Manager, Budgets & Finance, Social Services
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
K. Thangaraj, Director, Population Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Health
T. Tyner Cavanagh, Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships
E. Valant, Director, Housing Services
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Brenner, Seconded by Councillor Dies,
(14) That the minutes of the regular Health & Social Services Committee
meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Michele Brolly, Manager, Population Health Division, re: Immunization Program

Michele Brolly, Manager, Population Health Division, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Immunization Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Immunization Program – Goal
- Immunization Programs and Services
- Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)
- Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA)
- Vaccine Storage and Handling
- Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs)
- School Clinics
- Catch-up Clinics
- COVID Clinics
- Vaccine Promotion
- Challenges and Opportunities

M. Brolly responded to questions with regards to how the Province is providing communication for those hesitant to get vaccinated; recommendations on ensuring immunizations are up to date; the process for getting an exemption from vaccinations; and, whether there is any lobbying being done to review the process of being exempt from vaccinations.

Discussion ensued with regards to vaccinations being provided by pharmacists and the costs associated with obtaining vaccinations by a pharmacist not being fair to individuals and pharmacies as this can contribute to vaccine hesitancy; and the need for the costs incurred by pharmacies to be covered through OHIP.

Staff was directed to send a letter to the Minister of Health and the Province of Ontario requesting that pharmacies be able to recover the costs incurred for administering vaccines by a pharmacist the same way they would be if the vaccine was administered by a healthcare provider, and that the letter also be circulated to Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and any health care network Durham Region works with.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Health

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

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) Region of Durham Community Security and Clean-up Policy (2024-SS-3)

Report #2024-SS-3 from S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services, was received.

Staff responded to questions with regards to how warming centres, homelessness hubs, transitional housing facilities, supportive housing facilities and community housing are being affected by the policy; the level of security being provided at locations; and whether other regions are providing similar programs.

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

That Regional Council endorse the Community Security and Clean-up Policy
(Attachment #1 to Report #2024-SS-3 of the Commissioner of Social Services).

CARRIED AS AMENDED LATER IN THE
MEETING
(See Following Motion)

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Carter,
(16) That the main motion (15) of Councillor Anderson and Regional Chair
Henry be amended by adding the following as a new Part B):

“B) That in those limited areas where there is demonstrated need for additional
services and supports for vulnerable populations, staff be instructed to meet
with local officials to discuss area-specific requirements, should the need
arise, and to report to Council on the outcomes of such discussions.”

CARRIED

Staff responded to additional questions with regards to whether any concerns
were raised from the area municipalities that may be affected by the policy; when
discussions with the local area municipalities as referenced in the report took
place; whether the policy was circulated to the area municipalities for comment;
whether private security is being considered for this policy; whether a policy for
warming stations and hubs will be considered; and, how public input is being
taken into consideration for this policy.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou advised that there will be a presentation at the June
Health and Social Services Committee meeting regarding homelessness and that
an update on what was learned and seen at the warming centres can be provided
to foresee if a similar policy should be considered for warming centres.

The main motion (15) of Councillor Anderson and Regional Chair Henry was then
put to a vote and CARRIED AS AMENDED.

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

11.1 Thank you to Outreach Workers

Councillor Carter expressed his sincere gratitude to all outreach workers for their
incredible work in helping people navigate the complexities related to

homelessness and making a difference by providing them with the tools necessary to find new pathways.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Health & Social Services Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Anderson,
(16) That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 AM

Respectfully submitted,

E. Roy, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk