

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION**

**PHSSC 4-2021
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

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| Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: | Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair), Rigby |
| Committee Members Present via Video Conference: | Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Sendzik, Vilella, Whalen, Witteveen |
| Other Councillors Present via Video Conference: | Diodati, Disero, Easton, Redekop |
| Absent/Regrets: | Bellows, Chiochio (Committee Co-Chair) |
| Staff Present in the Council Chamber: | L. Glynn, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, M. Koren, Senior Project Manager, Facilities, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk |
| Staff Present via Video Conference: | A. Alfieri-Maiolo, Director, Clinical Services, A. Biscaro, Director, Family Health, B. Brens, Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis, H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, S. Crocco, Legal Counsel, N. Early, Director, Corporate Strategy & Innovation, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, J. Kearon, Resident Physician, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, A. Scott, Pandemic Specialist Project Consultant, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, D. Vanecko, Acting Director, Clinical Services, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, S. Wood, Legal Counsel |

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1 **Public Health Protocols and Concerns Surrounding the Pandemic (PHD-C 8-2021 (Agenda Item No. 6.9))**

Rebecca Hahn, resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Committee to express concerns with the COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction testing at the Niagara Health System, St. Catharines site.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Dr. Kate Bezanson and Elisabeth Zimmermann **BE PERMITTED** to appear before the Committee as individual delegates respecting Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic (COM 6-2021).

Carried

4.2 **Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic (COM 6-2021 (Agenda Item No. 6.4))**

Dr. Kate Bezanson, resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Committee respecting, Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dr. Bezanson highlighted the various issues that the child care sector has faced during the pandemic and suggested some short-term actions for Council to consider. These actions include prioritizing vaccines for those who work in the child care sector and Council supporting a national child care strategy.

4.3 Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic (COM 6-2021 (Agenda Item No. 6.4))

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director, YWCA, appeared before Committee respecting Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Ms. Zimmermann highlighted the importance of the child care sector to economic recovery in Niagara and suggested next steps for the Region to consider regarding the child care sector.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 PHD 6-2021

Public Health 2021 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, and Diane Vanecko, Acting Director, Clinical Services, provided information respecting Public Health 2021 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission. Topics of the presentation included:

- Public Health Accountability Framework
- Annual Service Plan (ASP) and Budget Submission

Moved by Councillor Nicholson
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report PHD 6-2021, dated April 13, 2021, respecting Public Health 2021 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That a budget adjustment in the amount of \$16,552,272 **BE APPROVED** and **BE FUNDED** from Ministry of Health funding for 2021 COVID-19 extraordinary cost funding for the following items:
 - 1.1. COVID-19 Vaccine Program Extraordinary Costs \$13,031,345
 - 1.2. Reinstatement of Business Continuity Staffing \$ 3,520,927;and

2. That the Board of Health/Regional Council **APPROVE** the Public Health 2021 Annual Service Plan (ASP) and Budget submission to the Ministry of Health for a Total Gross ask of \$59,026,080, inclusive of the following one-time funding requests (\$22,170,280):
 - 2.1. COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs (Pandemic Response Division) (\$7,969,326)
 - 2.2. COVID-19 Vaccine Program Extraordinary Costs (\$13,496,014)
 - 2.3. Mobile Dental Clinic (\$457,940)
 - 2.4. Infection Prevention and Control Compliant Flooring (\$65,000)
 - 2.5. Needles to Support Community Based Safe Injection Activities (\$162,000)
 - 2.6. Public Health Inspector Practicum Program (\$20,000).

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the alignment between Public Health's Communication division and the Region's Communication department.
Councillor Redekop.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 COM 8-2021

Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment Project Update: Preliminary Master Plans

Henri Koning, Director, Seniors Services, and Mislav Koren, Senior Project Manager, Facilities, provided information respecting Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment Project Update: Preliminary Master Plans. Topics of the presentation included:

- Project Milestones Linhaven / Gilmore
- Design Goals and Objectives
- Ministry of Long-Term Care Requirements
- Resident Home Areas
- Innovative Design Features to Support Optimal Infection Prevention and Control
- Enhancing Wellbeing of Residents and Staff
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report COM 8-2021, dated April 13, 2021, respecting Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment Project Update: Preliminary Master Plans, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Include information in future reports and presentation regarding environmentally friendly initiatives being used in new building construction.
Councillor Sendzik.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

COM-C 17-2021

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

COM 5-2021

Medical Directors Annual Report 2020 – Long-Term Care Homes

COM 6-2021

Managing the Licensed Child Care System During the COVID-19 Pandemic

COM 7-2021

New Provincial-Municipal Vision for Social Assistance

COM-C 15-2021

Seniors Services Long-Term Care Homes Volunteer Report

COM-C 16-2021

Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program Funding

PHD-C 5-2021

Update Regarding Class Action Lawsuit Against Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors on Behalf of Canadian Municipalities

PHD-C 8-2021
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency
Services (March 2021 Update)

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Board of Health

Councillor Foster requested a report outlining the legal obligations pertaining to the Board of Health, how it is governed and it's relationship to the province.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator