

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

**PHSSC 1-2019  
Tuesday, January 8, 2019  
Council Chamber  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bellows, Butters, Chiocchio, Darte, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen

Absent/Regrets: Regional Chair Bradley, Diodati, Heit

Staff: A. Biscaro, Director, Family Health, H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management and Planning/ Deputy Treasurer, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, R. Faber, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, D. Lorenzo, Associate Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

**3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health**

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2019-2020 term.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Councillor Greenwood **BE NOMINATED** as Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for a two-year term (2019-2020).

**Carried**

3.2 Motion to Close the Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Public Health Department. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Dart

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2019-2020 term, **BE CLOSED**.

**Carried**

3.3 Voting for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Public Health

There being only one nominee for the position, the Regional Clerk announced that Councillor Greenwood would be the Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Public Health Department for the 2019-2020 term.

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2019-2020 term.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Councillor Chiocchio **BE NOMINATED** as Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for a two-year term (2019-2020).

3.5 Motion to Close the Nominations for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Community Services Department. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Darte  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2019-2020 term, **BE CLOSED.**

**Carried**

3.6 Voting for Committee Co-Chair aligned to Community Services

There being only one nominee for the position, the Regional Clerk announced that Councillor Chiocchio would be the Public Health and Social Services Committee Co-Chair aligned to the Community Services Department for the 2019-2020 term.

At this point in the meeting, Committee Co-Chairs Greenwood and Chiocchio assumed the chair.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

Moved by Councillor Darte  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Paul Bryant, Resident, Town of Pelham, and Jennifer Ziraldo, Resident, Town of Pelham, **BE PERMITTED** to appear as delegates with respect to the EarlyON site in Fenwick, Town of Pelham.

**Carried**

5.1 Closure of EarlyON Site in Fenwick, Town of Pelham

Paul Bryant, Resident, Town of Pelham, along with Jennifer Ziraldo, Resident, Town of Pelham, appeared before Committee to provide information respecting their personal experience with the EarlyON site and expressed their concern with the impending closure of this site.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the Co-Chairs of the Public Health and Social Services Committee **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to Family and Children's Services Niagara expressing the Committee's concern regarding the slated closure of the Fenwick EarlyON Centre and requesting they consider keeping the centre open.

**Carried**

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 PHD 01-2019

Cannabis Legalization

David Lorenzo, Associate Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and Renata Faber, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, provided Committee members with information respecting Cannabis Legalization. Topics of the presentation included:

- Cannabis Legalization
- Data and Health Impacts
- Financial Considerations
- Community Impact
- Areas of Work for Niagara Region Public Health & Emergency Services

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Report PHD 01-2019, dated January 8, 2019, respecting Cannabis Legalization, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back on Niagara Region Public Health & Emergency Services' (NRPH & ES) response to cannabis legalization in Q4 of 2019.

**Carried**

6.2 PHD 02-2019

Outdoor Second-hand Smoking By-law Amendment

Moved by Councillor Darte

Seconded by Councillor Bellows

That PHD 02-2019 **REVISED**, dated January 8, 2019, respecting Outdoor Second-hand Smoking By-Law Amendment - **REVISED, BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That By-law No. 112-2013 **BE AMENDED** to harmonize with the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* to include vaping and cannabis, as an interim measure for consistency, with an appropriate sunset clause;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to consult with the Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) and the public to build a consensus on an updated Regional By-law to protect children and vulnerable persons from exposure to outdoor second-hand smoke; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to report back to the Public Health and Social Services Committee in a timely manner on the learnings from this consultation with the recommended next steps.

**Carried**

6.3 PHD 03-2019

Preventing Deaths by Suicide on Public Infrastructure

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Acting Commissioner, Public Health provided Committee members with information respecting Preventing Deaths by Suicide on Public Infrastructure. Topics of the presentation included:

- Contagion
- Statistics on Suicide in Niagara
- Recent Events in Context
- Framework for Suicide Prevention
- Summary of Recommendations

Moved by Councillor Whalen  
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Report PHD 03-2019, dated January 8, 2019, respecting Preventing Deaths by Suicide on Public Infrastructure, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council, as the Board of Health, **RESOLVES** that current public discourse around suicide has caused contagion and **REQUESTS** local media and others with a public audience to adhere to the Canadian Psychiatry Association's 2017 "Media Guidelines for Suicide Reporting" to prevent further contagion of suicide;
2. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **ENDORSE** the proposed framework for preventing suicides on public infrastructure;
3. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **ENDORSE** the importance of considering a barrier at the location of multiple recent deaths by suicide and **DIRECT** staff to proceed with planning for such a barrier for installation in 2019, reporting back by spring 2019 with a final recommendation, detailed cost estimates, and budget options;
4. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **DIRECT** staff to develop and report back in spring 2019 with detailed cost-estimates and budget options for:
  - a. Suicide identification/intervention training
  - b. Suicide risk assessment capacity-building
  - c. Support for a Mental Health Hub/Clubhouse in St. Catharines
5. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to engage with the Ministry of Transportation on opportunities for provincial funding to support possible infrastructure barriers as in recommendation #2; and
6. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to include consideration of barriers on any future major infrastructure projects, and to include details of their consideration in reports to Council for approval of such projects.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik  
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Clause 3 of the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

3. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **ENDORSE APPROVE** ~~the importance of considering~~ a barrier at the location of multiple recent deaths by suicide and **DIRECT** staff to proceed with planning for such a barrier for installation in 2019, reporting back by spring 2019 with a final recommendation, detailed cost estimates, and budget options **incorporation in the 2019 Capital Budget.**

Recorded Vote:

Yes (11): Bellows, Butters, Chiocchio, Darte, Gibson, Greenwood, Ip, Jordan, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen,

No (2): Insinna, Rigby

**Carried**

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report PHD 03-2019, dated January 8, 2019, respecting Preventing Deaths by Suicide on Public Infrastructure, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council, as the Board of Health, **RESOLVES** that current public discourse around suicide has caused contagion and **REQUESTS** local media and others with a public audience to adhere to the Canadian Psychiatry Association's 2017 "Media Guidelines for Suicide Reporting" to prevent further contagion of suicide;
2. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **ENDORSE** the proposed framework for preventing suicides on public infrastructure;
3. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **APPROVE** a barrier at the location of multiple recent deaths by suicide and **DIRECT** staff to proceed with planning for such a barrier for installation in 2019, reporting back by spring 2019 with a final recommendation, detailed cost estimates, and incorporation in the 2019 Capital Budget;

4. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **DIRECT** staff to develop and report back in spring 2019 with detailed cost-estimates and budget options for:
  - a. Suicide identification/intervention training
  - b. Suicide risk assessment capacity-building
  - c. Support for a Mental Health Hub/Clubhouse in St. Catharines
5. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to engage with the Ministry of Transportation on opportunities for provincial funding to support possible infrastructure barriers as in recommendation #2; and
6. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to include consideration of barriers on any future major infrastructure projects, and to include details of their consideration in reports to Council for approval of such projects.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Bellows

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring a report to the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting, being held on February 19, 2019, proposing a framework for preventing death by suicide through other methods.

**Carried**

6.4 COM 01-2019

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment  
Plan 2019-20

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report COM 01-2019, dated January 8, 2019, respecting Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan 2019-20, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

That the Ministry mandated Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative investment plan for the 2019-20 funding allotment **BE APPROVED**.

**Carried**



7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **NRH 15-2018**

Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report (Q3)  
July 1 to September 30, 2018

Moved by Councillor Insinna  
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Correspondence Item NRH 15-2018, being a letter from Henry D'Angela, Niagara Regional Housing Board Chair, dated November 16, 2018, respecting Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July 1 to September 30, 2018, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Butters

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

CWCD 330-2018

A memorandum from Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated October 5, 2018, respecting Opioid Work Update.

CWCD 353-2018

A memorandum from Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated October 26, 2018, respecting Opioid Work Update.

CWCD 379-2018

A memorandum from Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated November 16, 2018, respecting Opioid Work Update.

CWCD 407-2018

A memorandum from Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated December 7, 2018, respecting Opioid Work Update.

CWCD 440-2018

A memorandum from Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, dated December 28, 2018, respecting Opioid Work Update.

**Carried**

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That staff PROVIDE updates respecting Opioid Work on a quarterly basis.

**Carried**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 EMS Paramedics and Dispatchers

Councillor Butters raised concerns of a resident respecting the working conditions of EMS staff and dispatchers.

Kevin Smith, Chief/Director Emergency Medical Services, advised that EMS has a number of programs that focus on mental wellness. Chief Smith noted that funding from the Ministry of Health is being used to hire a Facilitator/Coordinator to focus on improving mental health programs in the workplace as well as a clinical psychologist to provide advice and guidance to leaders on best practices.

8.2 alPHa Conference

Councillor Greenwood advised Committee Members of the alPHa conference being held on February 21, 2019.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

There were no closed session items.

**10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There were no closed session items.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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Councillor Greenwood  
Committee Co-Chair

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Councillor Chiochio  
Committee Co-Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk