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

PHSSC 6-2021
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber:	Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)
Committee Members Present via Video Conference:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen
Absent/Regrets:	Bellows
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	L. Glynn, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Present via Video Conference:	C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. D'Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Todd, Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services, S. Wood, Legal Counsel

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio 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

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 COM 13-2021
Homelessness Services Contract Extensions

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report COM 13-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Homelessness Services Contract Extensions, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the existing homelessness system contracts **BE EXTENDED** as per Appendix 1 to Report COM 13-2021, with the value of $8,293,109;
2. That an additional contingency of $100,000 **BE APPROVED** should additional adjustments be necessary; and
3. That the Commissioner of Community Services **BE AUTHORIZED** to negotiate and execute the required amendments to implement contract extensions for service providers within Homelessness Services in a form approved by the Director of Legal Services.

Carried

5.2 COM 14-2021
Approval of 2020/2021 Community Services Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report COM 14-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Approval of 2020/2021 Community Services Program Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited annual reconciliation return for the Community Support Services Program (Appendix 1 to Report COM 14-2021) for the year ended December 31, 2020, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of Revenue and Expenses for the Reaching Home Program (Appendix 2 to Report COM 14-2021) for the year ended March 31, 2021, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to coordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
4. That Report COM 14-2021 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region’s Audit Committee for information.

Carried

5.3 COM 15-2021
National Child Care Plan: Local Impacts and Recommendations

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Report COM 15-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting National Child Care Plan: Local Impacts and Recommendations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the recommendations (Appendix 1 to Report COM 15-2021) to be sent to the Ministry of Education, drafted in a response to the national child care plan by Niagara Region Children's Services, as a member of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) Children's Services Network (CSN);
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to provide a copy of this report and its recommendations to the Minister of Education and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and
3. That Regional Council **COMMUNICATE** the three recommendations specifically prioritized for Niagara, developed in consultation with local stakeholders and licensed child care service providers, in a delegation to the Minister of Education through a delegation at the annual AMO conference.

Carried

5.4 COM 18-2021
Document Execution Authority for Housing Programs

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Report COM 18-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Document Execution Authority for Housing Programs, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **AUTHORIZE** either one of the Manager of Housing Programs or the Director of Housing Services/Chief Executive Officer Niagara Regional Housing to execute all documentation related to the Niagara Renovates Program and the Welcome Home Niagara Program including but not restricted to loan agreements, related security documentation inclusive of charges on real property, postponements and discharge of charges;

2. That Council **AUTHORIZE** either one of the Manager of Housing Programs or the Director of Housing Services/Chief Executive Officer Niagara Regional Housing to execute all documentation related to the Rent Supplement suite of programs including Housing Allowance, all Rent Supplement Programs, and landlord agreements;

3. That Council **AUTHORIZE** either one of the Commissioner of Community Services or the Director of Housing Services/Chief Executive Officer Niagara Regional Housing to execute all documentation related to the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) funding stream, specifically charges and agreements for Housing Provider Capital Repair;

4. That Council **AUTHORIZE** either one of the Commissioner of Community Services or the Director of Housing Services/Chief Executive Officer Niagara Regional Housing to execute all documentation related to the New Development Housing Allowance Program; and

5. That Council **DIRECTS** staff to consider incorporation of the authority granted herein within the Schedule “A” (delegated authorities) of the next revision of By-law 09-2016, being a By-law to Govern Execution of Documents and Delegate Certain Administrative Powers and Duties to Staff.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 COM 17-2021
Homelessness Point-in-Time Count Report

Cathy Cousins, Director, Homelessness Services and Community Engagement, provided information respecting Homelessness Services Niagara Counts. Topics of the presentation included:

- Overall Results: 2021 vs 2018
- Demographics
- Health and Social Challenges
- Top 5 Reasons for Most Recent Housing Loss
- System Interactions

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Report COM 17-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Homelessness Point-in-Time Count Report, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.2 COM 16-2021
Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report – January - March 2021

Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 16-2021, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report – January – March 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.3 COM-C 22-2021
Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for March, April and May 2021

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Correspondence Item COM-C 22-2021, being a memorandum from A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated June 15, 2021, respecting Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for March, April and May 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.4 COM-C 23-2021
Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report January 1 to March 31, 2021

Moved by Councillor Jordan
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Correspondence Item COM-C 23-2021, being a letter to A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, from Niagara Regional Housing, dated May 28, 2021, respecting Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report January 1 to March 31, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, provided an updated respecting the status of COVID-19 in Niagara, vaccines and Step 1 re-opening.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Well Water Testing

Councillor Whalen requested an update respecting well water sample drop off locations for residents. Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, advised that staff have been working with some of the local area municipalities on drop off locations for well water samples.

7.2 Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy

Councillor Witteveen enquired regarding the recent provincial funding announcements as it related to a local anti-human trafficking strategy. Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that funding has been secured for the Human Trafficking Safe House project. Cathy Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, advised that a consortium proposal to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, led by the YWCA Niagara Region has been approved. This proposal included safe beds for victims of human trafficking as well as elements pertaining to prevention and education.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Councillor Chiocchio
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk