

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

PHSSC 6-2022

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

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), Gibson, Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair), Insinna, Rigby
Committee Members Present via Video Conference:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Britton, Butters, Foster, Ip, Nicholson, Sendzik, Siscoe, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen
Other Councillors Present via Video Conference:	Zalepa
Absent/Regrets:	Jordan
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	C. Banach, Manager, Housing Operations, H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. D'Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, D. Lorenzo, Associate Director, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, J. Spratt, Administrative Assistant to the Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services
Staff Present via Video Conference:	R. Ferron, Acting Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, J. Galloway, Manager, Early Years Child Care Services, L. Garofalo, Manager, Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention, Dr. A. Kasmani, Associate Medical Officer of Health, S. Kearns, Director, Environmental Health, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, J. Pickles, Program Financial Specialist, D. Teng, Manager, Tobacco Program

Others Present via Video Conference: S. Pulickal, Senior Manager, Colliers Project Leaders

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

3.1 Consolidated Housing Master Plan Update

Donna Woiceshyn, Director, Housing Services, and Cameron Banach, Manager, Housing Operations, provided information respecting Consolidated Housing Master Plan Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Purpose of the Master Plan
- Link to other Region Initiatives
- Analysis
- Recommendations
- Current Activities
- Next Steps

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Letter of Support - Response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario (CWCD 2022-117 - Agenda Item 6.7)

Talia Storm and Brenda Yeandle, Co-Chairs, Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN), appeared before Committee respecting CWCD 2022-117, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Letter of Support – Response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario. Ms. Storm and Ms. Yeandle provided an update of the current opioid situation in Niagara and highlighted the importance of endorsing the letter from the Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit, to the Honourable Christine Elliot, in response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PHD 11-2022

A Renewed Call for Paid Sick Leave in Ontario

Moved by Councillor Gibson

Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Report PHD 11-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting A Renewed Call for Paid Sick Leave in Ontario, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario extend the currently temporary three paid sick days in the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA) set to expire July 31, 2022;
2. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario engage in consultation with local municipalities, employers, and broader communities regarding making permanent the three paid sick days, and increasing the number of paid sick days to be in line with recommendations for adequate sick leave policies; this consultation should seek to understand the challenges to legislating these sick day policies, and identify the supports necessary to enable increasing the number of sick days and making them permanent;
3. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the Government of Ontario review the impacts of the amendments to the Canada Labour Code that provided 10 paid sick days for all federal employees across the country; and
4. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to communicate the above recommendations to the Premier, relevant Members of provincial Cabinet, Niagara's Members of Provincial Parliament, Niagara's Members of Parliament, and all Ontario Boards of Health.

Carried

5.2 PHD 10-2022

Improving Indoor Air Quality to Sustainably Prevent COVID-19, Improve Health & Keep Society Open for Good

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report PHD 10-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting Improving Indoor Air Quality to Sustainably Prevent COVID-19, Improve Health & Keep Society Open for Good, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council, as the Board of Health, **DIRECT** the Chair to write to the Provincial Government (Minister of Health; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Finance; and the Chief Medical Officer of Health) and the Federal Government (Minister of Health; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities; Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development; Minister of Finance; and the Chief Public Health Officer) requesting that they urgently:
 - 1.1 Update building codes to incorporate higher standards of air quality such that respiratory diseases, especially COVID-19 and other emerging infections, can be sustainably prevented in all new buildings, with regular updates to these building codes, as best available evidence evolves; and
 - 1.2 Create a fund to support small business and local organizations to upgrade the ventilation and filtration in their existing buildings, as well as, invest in validated air cleaning/disinfection technologies with demonstrated safety and effectiveness, so that current public spaces and workspaces can be made safer from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, including future pandemics of a respiratory virus; and
2. That the above correspondence **BE SHARED** with Niagara's Members of Provincial Parliament, Members of Parliament, and all Ontario Boards of Health.

Carried

5.3 PHD 12-2022

Approval of the 2021-2022 Public Health and Emergency Services
Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report PHD 12-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting Approval of
the 2021-2022 Public Health and Emergency Services Program Audits,
BE RECEIVED and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses and the
annual reconciliation return for the Public Health General Programs
for the year ended December 31, 2021 (Appendix 1 and 2 to Report
PHD 12-2022), **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedules of revenue and expenses for the
following programs for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022, **BE
APPROVED**:
 - Ambulance Communication Services (Appendix 3 to Report
PHD 12-2022)
 - Community Mental Health Program (Appendix 4 to Report PHD
12-2022)
 - Infant and Child Development Services (ICDS) (Appendix 5 to
Report PHD 12-2022)
 - Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) (Appendix 6 to Report
PHD 12-2022);
3. That the annual reconciliation return for the Community Mental Health
Program for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022 (Appendix 7 to
Report PHD 12-2022), **BE APPROVED**;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the
statements as presented; and
5. That Report PHD 12-2022 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit
Committee for information.

Carried

5.4 COM 17-2022

Approval of 2021/2022 Community Services Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Siscoe

Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Report COM 17-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting Approval of 2021/2022 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 17-2022) for the year ended December 31, 2021, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of Revenue and Expenses for the Reaching Home Program (Appendix 2 to Report COM 17-2022) for the year ended March 31, 2022, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to coordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
4. That Report COM 17-2022 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried

5.5 COM 19-2022

2022 Operating Budget Adjustment due to the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care: Ontario Plan

Moved by Councillor Britton

Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That Report COM 19-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting 2022 Operating Budget Adjustment due to the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care: Ontario Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an adjustment to the previously adopted 2022 Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) operating budget in the amount of \$16,020,176, to be fully funded through Ministry of Education (MEDU), under the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELLCC): Ontario Plan, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

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

PHD-C 3-2022
Ministry of Health Funding Adjustments

PHD-C 4-2022
An Observational Study of Smoking and Vaping on Beaches

COM 20-2022
Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report: January - March 2022

COM 21-2022
Medical Directors Annual Report 2021 - Long Term Care Homes

Carried

6.7 CWCD 2022-117

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Letter of Support - Response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That Correspondence Item CWCD 2022-117, being a letter from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to The Honourable Christine Elliott Minister of Health and Deputy Premier, dated May 6, 2022, respecting Letter of Support – Response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario, **BE RECEIVED**;

1. That Regional Council as the Board of Health **ENDORSE** the letter from Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit to the Hon. Christine Elliott on March 16, 2022 in response to the Opioid Crisis province-wide, advocating for the provincial government to take the following actions:
 - Create a multi-sectoral task force to guide the development of a robust provincial opioid response plan that will ensure necessary resourcing, policy change, and health and social system coordination;
 - Expand access to evidence informed harm reduction programs and practices including lifting the provincial cap of 21 Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) Sites, funding Urgent Public Health Needs Sites (UPHNS) and scaling up safer supply options;
 - Revise the current CTS model to address the growing trends of opioid poisoning amongst those who are using inhalation methods;

- Expand access to opioid agonist therapy for opioid use disorder through a range of settings (e.g. mobile outreach, primary care, emergency departments, Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine Clinics), and a variety of medication options;
 - Provide a long-term financial commitment to create more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, including people with substance use disorders;
 - Address the structural stigma and harms that discriminate against people who use drugs, through provincial support and advocacy to the Federal government to decriminalize personal use and possession of substances and ensure increased investments in health and social services at all levels;
 - Increase investments in evidence-informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood;
 - Fund additional and dedicated positions for local public health to support the critical local coordination and leadership of local opioid and substance strategies;
2. That the Regional Chair as the Board of Health Chair **WRITE** to the incoming Minister of Health articulating the above support for these actions, and particularly emphasizing the urgency to take these actions immediately; and
3. That the correspondence **BE SHARED** with the Premier, the Attorney-General of Ontario, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Niagara Members of Provincial Parliament, Niagara Members of Parliament, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and all Boards of Health.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (14): Bradley, Butters, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Insinna, Ip, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Siscoe, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (1): Britton.

Carried

6.5 COM 22-2022

Niagara Prosperity Initiative Path Forward Update

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report COM 22-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting Niagara Prosperity Initiative Path Forward Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.6 COM-C 9-2022

Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for March, April, May 2022

Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Correspondence Item COM-C 9-2022, being a memorandum from A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated June 14, 2022, respecting Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for March, April, May 2022, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

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

9.1 **Confidential COM 18-2022**

A Matter of Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by the Province of Ontario under section 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act pertaining to the allocation of provincial funding for the 2022 fiscal year for the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 5

Moved by Councillor Nicholson
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Confidential Report COM 18-2022, dated June 14, 2022, respecting A Matter of Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by the Province of Ontario under section 239(2)(h) of the Municipal Act, 2001, pertaining to the allocation of provincial funding for the 2022 fiscal year for the Social Services Relief Fund, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Chiocchio
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk