

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

**PHSSC 10-2024
Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair)*, Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Craitor*, Diodati*, Easton*, Insinna, Jordan*, Kaiser*, Morocco (Committee Co-Chair), Rigby, Seaborn*, Siscoe, Whalen*, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Foster, Ip, Sorrento

Staff: C. Banach, Director, Housing Services, A. Basic, Legislative Assistant, R. Hill, Legislative Assistant, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Children's Services, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk*, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, D. Vanecko, Director, Clinical Services (Acting), P. Varias, Acting Director, Senior Services, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

* indicates participants who attended the meeting electronically, all others participated in person

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Councillor Witteveen read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 **Board of Health Evaluation**

Diane Vanecko, Director, Clinical Services, and Dr. Azim Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, provided information respecting Board of Health Evaluation. Topics of the presentation included:

- Background
- Top Strengths and Results
- Top Areas for Improvement
- Next Steps

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **COM 31-2024**

Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Funding Announcement

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That Report COM 31-2024, dated November 5, 2024, respecting Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Funding Announcement, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Report COM 31- 2024 **BE RECEIVED** for information regarding the Provincial announcement that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has reinstated the previous program delivery funding (PDF) model for 2025, ending the funding freeze since 2018, to address the steady rise in Ontario Works (OW) caseloads;
2. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** leveraging existing levy contribution to attract provincial funding (50/50) in order to deliver the mandated social assistance program; and
3. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the conversion of 21 temporary full-time equivalents (FTE's) to 21 permanent FTE's effective January 1, 2025. This is supported by the new provincial funding with no levy increase.

Carried

6.2 COM 32-2024

Child Care and Early Years 2024 Budget Adjustment

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Siscoe

That Report COM 32-2024, dated November 5, 2024, respecting Child Care and Early Years 2024 Budget Adjustment, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That a gross operating budget adjustment in the amount of \$3,043,856 gross and \$0 net, to be fully funded through the Ministry of Education (MEDU), **BE APPROVED** to support Niagara Region's early years and child care system.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information on the number of children who fall outside of the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program.
Councillor Easton.

6.3 COM 33-2024

Housing Services Property Management Services Agreements

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report COM 33-2024, dated November 5, 2024, respecting Housing Services Property Management Services Agreements, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Commissioner of Community Services or designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to enter into agreements, in a form satisfactory to the Director, Legal Services, for the provision of property management services by the Regional Municipality of Niagara to third-party non-profit and co-operative housing providers and community agencies to support new and existing community and supportive housing projects. This is contingent on the approval of the resources noted in the 2025 budget that would be funded through cost recovery for these services.

Carried

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There were no consent items for information.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Supportive Housing

Councillor Siscoe requested information respecting the supportive housing strategy, specifically when a strategy would be made available, and when Councillors can expect to use this strategy in lobbying efforts with the provincial and federal government. Henri Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that a framework would be provided to Council outlining the current state of the strategy and what challenges staff are facing.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Chiochio
Committee Co-Chair

Azra Basic
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk