

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

**PHSSC 2-2025  
Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
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\*, Insinna, Morocco (Committee Co-Chair), Rigby, Seaborn, Siscoe\*, Whalen\*, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Diodati, Easton, Foster, Ip, Jordan, Kaiser, Sorrento

Staff: C. Banach, Director, Housing Services, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, S. Dupuis, Associate Director, Community Strategic Priorities, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services\*, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, S. Klair, Director, Children's Services, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, P. Maposa, Director, Asset Management, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, L. Panetta, Associate Director, Mental Health, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, J. Sinclair, Manager, Homelessness Services, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, P. Varias, Director, Senior Services

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

#### 4. **PRESENTATIONS**

##### 4.1 Niagara Well-Being Tool

Megan Henry, Program Evaluator & Data Analyst, Community Safety & Well-Being, Community Services, provided information respecting the Niagara Well-being Tool. Topics of the presentation included:

- About the Niagara Well-Being Tool
- Demonstration
- Next Steps

##### 4.2 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Directed Growth Plan Update

Satinder Klair, Director, Children's Services, provided information respecting CWELCC Directed Growth Plan Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- What is Directed CWELCC Expansion
- Niagara's Provincial Targets
- Accomplishments to Date
- Licensed Child Centre-based Growth
- Licensed Home Child Care Growth
- CWELCC Expansion Impacts: Economic
  - Children
  - Non-Profit Support
- CWELCC Expansion Challenges: Process, Permits and Zoning
  - Demand
  - Workforce
- Council Strategic Priorities

#### **Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting how many more child care spaces would be needed to meet the current child care service demand. Councillor Seaborn.

4.3 Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Update

Christene De Vlaming-Kot, Manager, Early Years and Diane Legros, Manager, Early Years, provided a presentation respecting Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Program Description
- Program Goal
- Council's Strategic Priorities 2023-2026
- Service Delivery Model
- Importance of HBHC Program
- HBHC Screens by Municipality
- Program Indicators for 2024
- Aligning with Provincial Priorities

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide additional information respecting how often Healthy Babies Healthy Children screening services are declined. Councillor Insinna.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Shelter Beds and Mental Health & Addiction Services in Niagara Region

5.1.1 Steven Soos, Resident, City of Welland

This delegation request was withdrawn.

5.1.2 Cheryl Rowe, Resident, City of Welland

This delegation request was withdrawn.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 PHD 2-2025

New Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Team

Moved by Councillor Insinna

Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That Report PHD 2-2025, dated February 4, 2025, respecting New Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Team, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the posting of up to 12 permanent full-time equivalents (FTE)s in February 2025, in advance of Council's approval of the FTEs planned for the March 2025 committee cycle.

**Carried**

**7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Rigby  
Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

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

COM 3-2025

Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report: October-December 2024

COM 4-2025

Seasonal Shelter

NRH 1-2025

Single Source Acquisition of Modular Trailers for Permanent St. Catharines  
Shelter Site

**Carried**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8.1 Shelter Diversion Workers**

Councillor Siscoe requested information respecting steps required to ensure there are dedicated diversion workers at shelters to perform diversion activities with every entry into the shelter as well as funding sources. Henriette Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that the information would be provided at the next Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting in March.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

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Councillor Morocco  
Committee Co-Chair

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Councillor Chiochio  
Committee Co-Chair

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Rebecca Hill  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk