

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

**PHSSC 3-2025
Tuesday, March 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*, Diodati*, Easton*, Insinna, Jordan*, Kaiser*, Morocco (Committee Co-Chair), Rigby, Seaborn, Siscoe*, Whalen*, Witteveen

Other Councillors: Villella

Absent/Regrets: Foster, Ip, Jordan, Sorrento

Staff: C. Banach, Director, Housing Services, D. Carnegie, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer*, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, R. Ferron, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, S. Dupuis, Associate Director, Community Strategic Priorities Community Services, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, H. Koning, Commissioner, Community Services, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer, P. Varias, 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

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 Rabies - Public Health's Role in Rabies Prevention

Anthony Habjan, Director, Environmental Health & Joe DeGiuli, Manager, Environmental Health, provided information respecting Rabies - Public Health's Role in Rabies. Topics of the presentation included:

- The Public Health Unit's Role
- Rabies - Act, Regulations & Protocols
- What is Rabies
- Recent Human Cases in Canada
- Positive Rabies Cases (Animals)
- Animal Exposure Process
- Total Bite/Scratch Investigations in Niagara
- Program/Operational Challenges
- Cost of Rabies Vaccine
- Innovative Solutions/Operational Changes
- No-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics

4.2 Niagara EMS Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program Updates

Marty Mako, Commander, Mobile Integrated Health Niagara EMS, provided information respecting Niagara EMS Mobile Integrated Health Program Updates. Topics of the presentation included:

- Niagara EMS Mobile Integrated Health - Program Updates
- Background/History of Mobile Integrated Health Model of Care
- Overview of Current Mobile Integrated Health Response Teams
- Mobile Integrated Health Key Performance Indicators/Outcomes
- Feedback from our Community Paramedicine Client Surveys
- Spotlight on Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program
- What's Next

4.3 Niagara's Homelessness Addiction and Recovery Hub

Shelly Mousseau, Program Director, Gateway Residential & Community Support Services and Alison Chambers, Mental Health and Addictions Project Manager, Niagara Ontario Health Team, and Niagara Region Community Services, provided information respecting Niagara's HART hub. Topics of the presentation included:

- HART Hub Overview
- Homelessness in Niagara
- Mental Health and Addictions in Niagara
- Engagement
- Trauma Informed and Non-Traditional Approach
- Primary Care for Addiction Medicine
- Indigenous Specific Supports
- Social Isolation in Homelessness
- Niagara's Hub Model
- Niagara's HART Hub Providers
- What's Next

4.4 Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Team

Lisa Panetta, Associate Director, Mental Health & Jennifer Julien, Clinical Team Manager, Mental Health, provided information respecting Housing First Assertive Community Treatment Team. Topics of the presentation included:

- Niagara Region Mental Health Program
- Housing First Assertive Community Treatment
- Key Principles of Housing First Assertive Community Treatment
- What Does "Assertive" Mean in Housing First Assertive Community Treatment
- Housing First Assertive Community Treatment vs Traditional Assertive Community Treatment
- Staffing Complement
- Outcome Measurement
- Hospitalizations: Assertive Community Treatment
- Next Steps

5. DELEGATIONS

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

5.1.1 Cheryl Rowe, Resident, City of Welland

This delegation request was withdrawn.

5.1.2 Steven Soos, Resident, City of Welland

Steven Soos, Resident, City of Welland, appeared before Committee respecting actions to address mental health, addiction, and homelessness and shared the recent motion passed by the City of Thorold.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 COM 6-2025

Homelessness Prevention Plan – Investment Plan 2025-2026

Moved by Councillor Seaborn

Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That Report COM 6-2025, dated March 4, 2025, respecting Homelessness Prevention Plan – Investment Plan 2025-2026, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) mandated Homelessness Prevention Plan (HPP) investment plan for the 2025-26 funding allotment **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

6.2 COM 8-2025

Last Mile Funding - Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative

Moved by Councillor Bateman

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report COM 8-2025, dated March 4, 2025, respecting Last Mile Funding – Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That a gross operating budget adjustment to the previously adopted 2025 Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) operating budget in the amount of \$2,650,000 gross and \$0 net, to be fully funded through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Last Mile Funding Program, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the impact of shelters including the length of time individuals spend in shelters, the effectiveness of shelters and the lessons learned. Councillor Witteveen.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

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

COM 9-2025

Niagara's Homelessness Addiction and Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub

COM 5-2025

Unsheltered Homeless Encampment Initiative

COM 7-2025

Homelessness Point-in-Time (Pit) Count Report

COM 10-2025

Shelter Diversion Workers

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information outlining the cost of delivering overnight outreach services. Provide an overview of the cold weather advisory response programs of other communities. Councillor Kaiser.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Measles

Dr. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health, provided information respecting the measles outbreak in southern Ontario. Dr. Kasmani shared that Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services is actively monitoring the situation and are prepared to respond to a measles outbreak in the Region. Public Health is currently investigating a possible reported case and will notify Regional Council, health care providers and the public as soon as details are available. He noted that Public Health is offering increased vaccine clinics during the school break in March, working with community partners and undertaking education and

messaging to the public. Dr. Kasmani confirmed that Council would be provided with regular updates on this issue.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Chiochio
Committee Co-Chair

Rebecca Hill
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk