

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

**PHSSC 5-2020
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Council Chamber/Teleconference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Teleconference: Bellows, Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair)

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: M. Elia, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk

Staff Present via Teleconference: B. Brens, Manager, Program Financial Support, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, M. Todd, Manager, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Disability Exclusion - Niagara Prosperity Initiative 2020 Budget Submission (Agenda Item 6.1)

Moved by Councillor Villella
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Robert Cameron, resident, City of St. Catharines, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Committee as a delegate respecting Disability Exclusion – Niagara Prosperity Initiative 2020 Budget Submission (Agenda Item 6.1).

Carried

Mr. Cameron, resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Committee to express concerns with the exclusion of funding for the disabled community within the Niagara Prosperity Initiative process.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PHD 3-2020

Approval of the 2019-2020 Public Health Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Report PHD 3-2020, dated June 16, 2020, respecting Approval of the 2019-2020 Public Health Program Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited schedules of revenue and expenses for the following programs for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, **BE APPROVED**:
 - 1.1 Ambulance Communication Services (Appendix 1)
 - 1.2. Community Mental Health Program (Appendix 2);
2. That the annual reconciliation return for the following program for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, **BE APPROVED**:
 - 2.1. Community Mental Health Program (Appendix 3);
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
4. That Report PHD 3-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried

5.2 COM 11-2020

Approval of 2019/2020 Community Services Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Butters

Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report COM 11-2020, dated June 16, 2020, respecting Approval of 2019/2020 Community Services Program Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited annual reconciliation return for the Community Support Service Program (Appendix 1) for the year ended December 31, 2019, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of Revenue and Expenses for the Reaching Home Program (Appendix 2) for the year ended March 31, 2020, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
4. That Report COM 11-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Jordan

Seconded by Councillor Whalen

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

PHD-C 3-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services

COM-C 19-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

COM 12-2020

Niagara Prosperity Initiative 2020 Update

COM 13-2020

Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report – January to March 2020

COM 14-2020

Homelessness Services Report 2019

COM-C 16-2020

Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report January 1 to March 31, 2020

COM-C 17-2020

Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment Status Updates

COM-C 18-2020

Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for March, April and May 2020

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

That Public Health staff contact the City of Guelph to obtain information about the method used to order the mandatory wearing of masks (PHD-C 3-2020).
Councillor Witteveen.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Endorsement of Resolution Respecting Basic Income for Income Security During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (CWCD 142-2020)

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Butters

1. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the correspondence sent by Simcoe Muskoka District Health regarding Basic Income for Income Security during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (CWCD 142-2020);
2. That the Regional Chair **WRITE** a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, and Finance Minister Morneau indicating that we support the recommendation from Simcoe Muskoka District Health that the Federal government take swift and immediate action on the evolution of the CERB Benefit into legislation for a basic income as an effective long-term response to the problems of income security, persistent poverty, and household food insecurity, as well as a response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. That the letter **BE FORWARDED** to Premier Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott, Minister of Finance Rod Phillips, Niagara MPs and MPPs, Niagara local area municipalities, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Public Health Association, and Ontario Boards of Health.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That the motion respecting Basic Income for Income Security During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond, **BE REFERRED** to the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting being held on July 14, 2020, to allow staff to provide Committee members with information and recommendations respecting basic income for income security.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (10): Bellows, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Insinna, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Villella, Whalen.

No (4): Butters, Ip, Sendzik, Witteveen.

Carried

7.2 Re-opening of Public Spaces

Councillor Whalen enquired as to whether Public Health staff have been coordinating with the local area municipalities with respect to the re-opening of public spaces such as playgrounds and pools. Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, advised that discussions with the local area municipalities take place on a weekly basis with the goal of coordinating an approach for the re-openings wherever possible.

7.3 Expression of Thanks

Councillor Greenwood expressed thanks to all Regional employees for the work being done during the COVID-19 pandemic to help make Niagara a safe place to live.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk