



**County
of Huron**

Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee



Minutes - February 7, 2006

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Goderich, Ontario
February 7, 2006

The HEALTH, AMBULANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE met in the Auditorium of the Health and Library Complex, Clinton at 9:00 a.m. with all members present.

1. Minutes

Moved by M. Scott

Seconded by K. Oke

That the minutes of the Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee meeting of January 10, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor's Issues

Councillor J. Bezaire questioned the attendance expectancy for the upcoming meeting between municipal officials and hospitals concerning the County's position on non-emergent transfers. A discussion ensued. Councillor K. Oke suggested that there is an abuse of the system occurring with MD's at hospitals bumping transfers to emergency status needlessly. Councillor J. Bezaire suggested that a policy regarding suspended transfers in specific emergency situations should be developed.

BOARD OF HEALTH

2. Report of the Executive Director

Penny Nelligan, Executive Director, presented the Chief Medical Officer of Health's report for the information of the committee and Council. A Health Unit staff submission to the Public Health Capacity Review was discussed. Attached is correspondence dated January 6, 2006 and the 2005 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to the Ontario Legislative Assembly (Appendix A).

Discussions included: SARS; Pandemic Flu; the Walkerton outbreak; and the Health Units' roll in cases of potential outbreaks. County staff are trained for response and strategic plans are in place. There was a lengthy discussion on the potential of amalgamations with Huron and Perth. There was some opinion that if county health units were merged it could result in less service and funding. There was a consensus that Huron County's existing model is preferred.

Moved by P. Klopp

Seconded by K. Oke

That the Huron County Board of Health supports the model outlined by our staff letter to Dr. Susan Tamblyn dated January 2006; and further that this letter be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

CARRIED

Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by D. Shewfelt

That the report be received.

CARRIED

3. Report of the Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Beth Henning, Medical Officer of Health, presented the attached Board of Health Orientation presentation regarding liability for the information of the committee and Council.

Moved by K. Oke
Seconded by P. Klopp
That the report be received

CARRIED

4. Safe Water Program

Pam Scharfe, Public Health Manager, presented the attached report (Appendix B) for the information of committee and Council.

Councillor J. Bezaire questioned how the public was notified when adverse drinking water results occur. The committee was informed that notices are up to the system operators. It is common practise to knock on doors and special pamphlets can be left to hang on doors. There are also phone tree systems in place, as well as, residents are notified annually by letter. Educational awareness will be increased. The Health Unit will be implementing a public education campaign in the spring.

Moved by M. Scott
Seconded by Warden R. Morley
That the report be received.

CARRIED

5. Supermarket Food Safety Report

Pam Scharfe, Public Health Manager, presented the attached report (Appendix C) for the information of committee and Council.

Moved by K. Oke
Seconded by P. Klopp
That the report be received.

CARRIED

6. Universal Influenza Immunization Program

Laura Farrell, Public Health Manager, presented the attached report (Appendix D) and answered questions for the information of committee and Council.

Moved by J. Bezaire
Seconded by P. Klopp
That the report be received.

CARRIED

7. Accounts

Accounts for January 2006 were reviewed.

General Health Programs	\$206,904.07
Healthy Hearts	\$25,150.61
Huron Addiction Services	\$1,026.96

Moved by K. Oke
Seconded by P. Klopp
That the accounts be received.

CARRIED

AMBULANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

8. Land Ambulance Services

David Lew, Manager of Land Ambulance Operations, submitted the EMS February update (Appendix E) for the information of committee and Council. Mr. Brad Lucas presented the report and answered questions of the committee. The update includes the following:

- i. Influenza letter to Field Office 051201
- ii. 2005 Flu Report
- iii. Regulation 257/00, Part III, Sect. 6, ss (g), Ambulance Service Patient Care and Transportation Standards, Part C, Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 5
- iv. 11 February 2006 Invitation re: Huron/Perth Non-Emergent Transfers
- v. Draft Ambulance Service Review, Executive Summary Report, County of Huron
- vi. 060111 letter of reply to Emergency Health Services Branch, Investigation, Certification and Regulatory Compliance Group

There was question about some of the deficiencies listed in the service review. Data collection challenges were noted which could be attributed to staff training deficiencies in regards to computer programs. Policies are in place and staff are continually monitored. Mr. Lucas noted that overall Huron County has a good system and added that the Highways Department does an excellent job maintaining the vehicles. Critical Care Paramedics (CCP) and procedures for patient refusals where also discussed.

The Warden thanked Mr. Lucas for the department's efforts and improvements. Overall the review is very positive and all EMS staff are to be congratulated.

Moved by D. Shewfelt
Seconded by M. Scott
That the report be received.

CARRIED

9. Accounts

Emergency Management Services accounts for January 2006 totalling \$ 31,754.30 were reviewed.

Moved by J. Bezaire
Seconded by Warden R. Morley
That the accounts be received.

CARRIED

10. Report from the Social Services Department

John MacKinnon, Social Services Administrator, presented the attached report (Appendix F) for the information of committee and Council.

Moved by D. Shewfelt
Seconded by M. Scott
That the report be received.

CARRIED

11. Children's Services

Evy McDonagh, Children's Services Manager, presented the attached report (Appendix G) entitled, "Best Start Network, Implementation Plan 2006" and answered questions of the committee.

There was a lengthy discussion on funding. The committee was informed that should the program funding be discontinued the fifty allotted spots would be sustained under subsidized spacing and one staff contract would end.

It is recommended the Best Start Implementation Plan proceed with the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Moved by P. Klopp
Seconded by D. Shewfelt
That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

12. Huron County Housing Services

Don Brisson, Manager of Housing Services, submitted the following reports for the information of committee and Council.

- a) Housing Services Report (Appendix H)

Moved by D. Shewfelt
Seconded by M. Scott
That the report be received.

CARRIED

- b) Housing Allowance Take-up Plan (Appendix I)

It is recommended that the attached Housing Allowance Take-up Plan be approved for submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Moved by K. Oke
Seconded by P. Klopp
That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

c) Annual Bad Debt Write-Offs (Appendix J)

It is recommended that the following bad debts as outlined in the report for the period January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 be written off.

Moved by P. Klopp
Seconded by M. Scott
That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

d) Affordable Housing Program, Home Ownership Component (Appendix K)

It is recommended that the County of Huron submit an expression of interest to participate in the Home Ownership component of the Affordable Housing Program.

Moved by D. Shewfelt
Seconded by J. Bezaire
That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

13. Accounts

Social Housing accounts for January 2006 in the amount of \$175,464.41 were reviewed.

Moved by P. Klopp
Seconded by K. Oke
That the accounts be received.

CARRIED

14. Correspondence Attached – For Information

- a) Social Benefits Tribune re: Social Benefits Tribunal 2004/2005 Annual Report.
- b) Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re: reorganization of ministry over next two years.
- c) Ministry of Children and Youth Services re: Best Start Networks, further direction to support the development of the multi-year plan and the full vision for Best Start within the communities.
- d) List of BOH Correspondence for February 2006, Available Upon Request.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, received January 27, 2006 regarding Home Ownership allocations due March 31, 2006.

FOR INFORMATION

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

16. Adjournment

Moved by K. Oke

Seconded by J. Bezaire

That the meeting adjourn at 12:45 p.m. and be declared a full day meeting for those Councillors in attendance for more than two and half hours.

CARRIED

.....
Chair