



**County
of Huron**

Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee



Minutes - May 29, 2006

Special Session

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Goderich, Ontario
May 29, 2006

A special meeting of the HEALTH, AMBULANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE was held at Health and Library Complex, Seminar Room No. 2, in Clinton at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except Councillor P. Klopp.

BOARD OF HEALTH

At the May 9, 2006 Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee the Director of the Health Unit, Penny Nelligan, distributed the Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee dated May 2006, for the information of committee and Council.

It was "Moved by J. Bezaire, Seconded by M. Scott, That the report be received and forwarded to the May 29, 2006 Special Meeting of the Board of Health for further review and input. Carried". The special meeting was to allow members time to review the final report for feedback.

The Director of the Health Unit and the Medical Officer of Health distributed the attached summary of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) Recommendations. The summary separates the CRC recommendations into four components for discussion: what the health unit is presently doing; local impact; what the health unit can start doing; and additional recommendations. There was open discussion as each recommendation was reviewed.

There was some discussion on performance appraisals that need to be conducted in order to complete the accreditation process for the Ministry. The Director will bring back some sample evaluations for review. There was a consensus that the process needs to be constructive. The Director stressed that the Board should complete the evaluation for the Medical Officer of Health and that the evaluation for the Director could either be done by the Board or the CAO.

Recommendation No. 29 regarding amalgamation of health units in order to achieve "critical mass" was discussed at length. The committee was informed that there is no evidence that supports the concept. It was felt that program development, costs and resources could be shared without amalgamation. The following areas were identified as positive for Huron County if an alliance was developed with collaboration/specializations with Grey Bruce and Perth: data collection/analysis; social marketing; program planning and evaluation; surge capacity with mutual aid agreements.

It was suggested that if amalgamated into an autonomous special purpose board the County would be allowed two representatives based on population. If amalgamations were to occur, the focus for the next few years would be on harmonizing collective agreements and wages. One positive outcome noted is that there would be no liability for the County (other than the Board Members representing Huron).

Some members felt that marketing should be a provincial function. It was stated that there is no evidence that supports that amalgamating would improve public health services. Concern was also expressed around data collection i.e. local statistics could be lost in a broader picture.

The Board consensus was not in favour of total amalgamation. A positive response is to be submitted concerning the possibility of developing an alliance with Grey Bruce and Perth incorporating Huron County's recommendations regarding improving services through noted collaborations and areas of specializations that could be agreed upon.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Director of the Health Unit will complete the Response Survey as per the Boards discussions today and bring it back to the June meeting for final review and discussion before forwarding the County's response to the Ministry.

That the meeting adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

CHAIR