



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES
SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY

210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON P8E 0R0
Telephone: (705) 862-7850
Facsimile: (705) 862-7805
http://www.mssab.net

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola, ON P8E 0R0
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
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MINUTES
of the
BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola , ON
on **December 7, 2000**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The Chair, Mr. Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Jack Barr, Pat Best, Raymond Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Les Gamble, Frank Gillis, Willy Léveillée, Laurier Low, Dale Van Every, Janet Whissell,

Staff: Gary Champagne, CAO
Paulette Poulin, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Fern Dominelli, Connie Morphet, Dan Hammond

Guests: Claude Mayer, Tim McDonald, Joachim Muetze,
Richard Rivard, Chris Stewart

Absent: 1 member from Area 1 (Espanola)
1 member from Area 3 (Markstay-Warren; St. Charles; French River & Killarney)
2 members from Area 6 (Central Manitoulin, Tehkummah, Northern Manitoulin & the Islands, Assiginack)

Condolences: The Chair extended the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's condolences to Pat Best on the loss of her husband Edward and to Laurier Low on the loss of his mother.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 00-116 Moved by: Ray Chénier Seconded by: Earle Freeborn
That the agenda be approved subject to the following amendments:

- That we add Items 10.7 Representation
11.1 OMERS
11.2 Homelessness
11.3 CRF
- That item 5.1 KPMG presentation be rescheduled at a later date.
- That the Land Ambulance item be discussed as an in-camera matter.

Carried

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None declared.

4.0 ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution No. 00-117 Moved by: Laurier Low Seconded by: Willy Léveillé
That the minutes of the October 26, 2000 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Child Care Three Year Plan Report (Doc. # 001207-010) – R. Rivard

Pat Best, Committee Chair indicated that the committee has met twice with Mr. Richard Rivard, Consultant, re: the fruits of his findings and community consultations.

Noting that the deadline for the Report's submission to MCSS has been extended until March 1, 2001, Mr. Rivard presented some of his key findings, most notable of which are:

- o the dearth of services in Sudbury-East,
 - o the falling child population stats off reserve,
 - o fact our Child Care funding was sufficient to see everyone who qualified for a subsidy accommodated there where subsidized spaces were available,
- the DSSAB is ending the year with a small surplus that can be oriented to Health & Safety needs, the cost of our consultants, et al.

His final report will be prepared once the year-end reconciliation reports are available. It will be reviewed in the new year. The CAO was given the green light to redirect those one time year-end Child Care funds possibly available to those Child Care initiatives (e.g. Health & Safety) deemed appropriate per the Ministry's criteria rather than see funds returned to MCSS when there are needs in the area.

5.2 Social Housing Transition Planning Update - C. Stewart (Doc. #001026-013)

Gary noted that Chris Stewart's consulting services were retained to assist us with the details of the DSSAB's Transition Plan. Chris' first assignment was the preparation of the DSSAB's Transition Funding Request proposal submitted to MMAH by its requested November 30, 2000 deadline.

Chris spoke to the principles and operational issues inherent to the responsibilities transferring to the DSSAB. He spoke to Bill 128, noting that it was before the House for Third and Final Reading. The gist of his Update is in the above-cited document.

Noting that the Housing Authority becomes a Housing Corporation that is responsible to one stakeholder, the DSSAB, effective January 1st, R. Chénier raised a number of questions re: the status of the future Housing Corporation, its Board and its employees post-January 1st. The general consensus expressed is that the Corporation will be redundant and should be dissolved as soon as circumstances permit post-January 1.

C. Stewart explained that we were at this time waiting to see what the legislation said re: this very matter. The CAO indicated the concern that while the Legislation should be passed within days; the Regulations would not be fully in place until March. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the transition is carried out with as little disruption as

possible to the clients served in both the Public Housing (LHA/LHC) units run by the DSSAB and the Non-Profit Housing units in our District.

Raymond Chénier commented that we should not wait for the Ministry's permission but instead forge ahead with our planning of what we believed the operational model should look like under the DSSAB and simply inform the Ministry of our plans and decisions. There was general consensus with this point of view.

Thanking the Board for their comments, the CAO indicated that their remarks reassured him that the DSSAB's Administration was on the right track in its decision to take its lead from the Cochrane DSSAB since it was a leader on this matter and was forging ahead with its intent to see the Social Housing portfolio managed and administered in-house as a distinct service unit much along the lines of our Ontario Works department. The intent would be to see the future Housing Corporation dissolved.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Open House

The logistics and details of an Open House will be examined in the New Year. It will include both past members and new members. There will be a formal recognition of the contributions of the founding Board members.

6.2 Honoraria and Travel Guidelines (Doc.#001026-002)

The Chair tabled this item to see it dealt with at the next Board meeting. Members who had any suggestions on the matter were asked to indicate these to Ray Chénier who agreed to tabulate their comments for the Board's consideration. He can be reached by fax at (705) 894-3179.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE (Doc.#001207-002 to 009)

7.1 Township of Tehkummah (Doc.#001207-002)

The CAO noted that the requested documentation had been forwarded to the Township and that other DSSABs had been canvassed re: their practices and procedures on the dissemination of Board minutes and financial reports to member municipalities.

It is the Chair's understanding that the MMA would be formally requesting that the DSSAB Chair and CAO meet with them. It was agreed that such a meeting was in order.

Resolution No. 00-118 Moved by: Earle Freeborn Seconded by: Ray Chénier
That the Board authorizes the DSSAB's CAO to provide member municipalities, with easy access to the DSSAB's minutes and financial reports.

Carried

7.2 Response from the Hon. Elizabeth Witmer (Doc.# 001207-003)

The Minister's letter indicated her readiness to honour our request for a meeting re: our concerns. Our Chair, CAO and EMS Manager will be preparing to meet with the assigned Ministry Senior Official.

8.0 REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS

7.1 O.W. Discretionary Policies (Doc.#001207-011)

The Ad-hoc Committee struck to deal with the Board's Discretionary O.W. Policies on two separate occasions. The O.W. Manager spoke to the committee's findings and recommendations. A copy of the proposed Discretionary Policies was circulated to all members in the form of the above-noted document.

Resolution No. 00-119 Moved by: Jack Barr Seconded by: Janet Whissell
As recommended by the Ontario Works Policy and Procedures Committee, the DSSAB approve the Ontario Works Policy and Procedure Manual dated August 2000 and as revised November 30, 2000.

Carried

A copy of the DSSAB's entire O.W. Policies and Procedures Manual will be posted, for reference purposes, on the DSSAB website (www.msdsb.net).

9.0 IN CAMERA ITEMS

Resolution No. 00-120 Moved by: Ray Chénier Seconded by: Laurier Low
That the Board move in-camera.

Carried

Resolution No. 00-121 Moved by: Ray Chénier Seconded by: Laurier Low
That the Board move out of camera and report.

Carried

Out of Camera Report

9.1 H. R. Report

Ray Chénier, H.R. Committee Chair, briefly reported on the status of our Collective Agreement negotiations.

9.2 Land Ambulance Report (Doc.#001207-012)

Our EMS Manager, Mr. Dan Hammond, provided the Board with an update on the issues and priorities before him for resolution in the coming weeks. The focus of the in-camera discussion had to do with the property leases questions and decisions that the DSSAB has to come to grips with prior to January 1st transition.

Mr. Hammond and Mr. Champagne received the Board's support for their recommended course of action re: the different ambulance garage leases discussed.

10.0 CAO'S REPORT

10.1 Monthly Financial Report (Doc.#001026-001A)

The Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2000 indicates that the DSSAB appears to be well on its way to ending the year with a modest operating deficit or surplus.

It was noted that this reflected a good deal of good work in the preparation of the Year 2000 budget forecast given that it was the DSSAB's first full year of operations and that the DSSAB had no historical baselines upon which to prepare its budget at the time it did.

Resolutions No. 00-122 Moved by: Janet Whissell Seconded by: Earle Freeborn
That the Board approve the Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2000.

Carried

10.2 Monthly Ontario Works Stats. Report (Doc.#001026-001B)

The cited Report speaks for itself. It is available on our Website. It indicates a total of 1427 cases for the month of October with 698 of these being Ontario Works case and 729 being ODSP cases.

10.3 Community Placements Stats. Report (Doc. #001026-001C)

October was the first month under which we operated with the new Levels of Service funding approach. We like most CMSMs waited until the last month possible to jump to this approach. It allowed us to plan accordingly for the transition. The funding we earn through this Service Level approach can be directed towards employment assistance initiatives that will help our O. W. clients in their employment readiness.

We have surpassed the provincially set 22.5% target and are well on our way to obtaining the financial incentives that can be earned when our targets are surpassed. Though the figures are unaudited, present estimates are that we have thus far earned upwards of \$100,000 with six months remaining in the applicable fiscal year.

We are exceeding our targets. Our staff is to be commended.

With our caseloads dropping and the percentage of "harder-to-serve" clients still on the books increasing it will become more and more difficult to sustain the percentages needed in each Service Level category.

10.4 TWOMO Representation

Wearing his Returning Officer hat, Gary Champagne advised the Board that, upon request for further clarification from MCSS, it was confirmed that Jack Barr met the eligibility criteria required to be a TWOMO Board representative for the three-year period commencing January 1st, 2001. Mr. Barr was informed of this turn of events and as such joins Ray Chénier and Dale Van Every as the third of the three TWOMO representatives on the DSSAB Board for the coming three years.

10.5 Innovation Funding Proposals

Round I - We have met our Round I obligations. The transportation and employment support services made available through our Round I funding (Eric Morphet and the services he offers) has greatly contributed to our ability to meet and exceed our Community Placement targets.

Round II - We have just about completed our “Innovation Fund – Round II” proposal submission to MCSS. It must be in by December 31. We are again focusing on the need for transportation and employment services throughout the area.

Round III - We will soon be turning our attention to the Innovation Fund - Round III request for proposals that MCSS has announced.

Submission request to MCSS is coming and we are in the mist of preparing round II for submission. Our geography, and the lack of funded public transportation services remains the key obstacle to be overcome in our attempts to get our clients to both our actual and potential C.P. opportunities.

The CAO has cautioned members to keep in mind that the 100% funding available through this source is one year, non-repetitive funding only. This is worrisome to us given that the transportation and employment support services available to us via this fund contributes greatly to our ability to meet and exceed our C.P. targets. We would be severely challenged in our ability to sustain our number of Community Placements without the supports and services this funding makes possible.

10.6 New Board Member Orientation

The CAO indicated that he will be preparing Orientation packages and Orientation sessions for the new Board early in January. At the November 1 Sault NOSDA meeting, the Ministry reps present indicated they would also be turning their attention to this matter though nothing has yet been forthcoming from them on this matter.

10.7 New Term [Jan.1, 2001 – Dec. 31, 2003] Board Membership

The CAO has forwarded letters to all Municipal Reeves, Mayors and Clerks indicating the designated DSSAB Act Areas that their municipalities belong to along with the request that the member municipalities in each of these Areas formally advise the DSSAB as to who are their designated representatives to the DSSAB Board for the three year term commencing January 1st, 2001.

Area 1 [Espanola] Representatives- The Chair informed the Board that the Espanola Council had formally met and decided that its two representatives for the new term were himself, Mr. Frank Gillis and newly elected councillor, Mr. Tim McDonald.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Homelessness

The Chair permitted Claude Mayer to speak to his experience and involvement with an individual in his area who was now homeless and no longer eligible for Ontario Works due to his refusal to sign a Lien re: property that he owns. While Mr. Mayer understood that the DSSAB staff dealt with the matter in a most professional, legally correct and appropriate manner, he nonetheless felt for this poor individual who felt he had little apparent recourse but to either starve, freeze or commit suicide.

Claude related that the key message that he wished to transmit is that there are very real human situations that do not fit the “boxes” and that while we need to respect and uphold the laws that are put in place we also have the duty to ensure that these same laws are not devoid of the basic and intrinsic human values such as compassion and concern for our fellow man.

Claude informed the Board, as members of municipalities, they should put pressure on the ministry regarding what could be viewed as simply inhumane situations.

In the discussion that followed, it was agreed the DSSAB should raise this and similar items at AMO, NOSDA, FONOM with other CMSMs to see what collective pressure can be brought to bear to enable the possibility of sanctioned “discretionary release valves” to deal with exceptional and inhumane situations.

11.2 CRF

MNDM rep. Joachim Muetze noted that while there was yet to be an announcement on the CRF for the year 2001, there were no major changes expected. It was pointed out that Liz Harding, from the Ministry of Finance, is meeting with municipalities on the question. It was suggested that FONOM members seek to have her invited to a future FONOM meeting to speak to the matter.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 25th, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. Espanola Board office.

Closing Remarks - Commending the members for their hard work and dedication to the DSSAB over the last year, Frank Gillis thanked members for allowing him the privilege of being their Chair over the past year.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 00-124 Moved by: Ray Chénier Seconded by: Janet Whissell
That we do now adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Carried