



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

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MINUTES
of the
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at the Espanola DSSAB Board Room
November 27, 2003

Present: Pat Best, Gary Brown, Ray Chénier, Ken Ferguson
Leslie Gamble, Jim Gerhart, Frank Gillis, Vince Lacroix
Willy Léveillé, Marcel Rancourt, Dale Van Every

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance
Dexter Adams, Human Resources Manager
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services
Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor

Regrets: Jack Barr, Earle Freeborn, Ray Vaillant

Guest : Bruce Killah

Press: Cindy Laundry

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and, as this was the last meeting to be attended by some of the current Board members, he thanked all members for their contribution over the past three years.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 03-119 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Pat Best
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

4.0 MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2003

Resolution No. 03-120 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Willy Léveillé
THAT the minutes of the October 23, 2003 Board meeting be approved.

Carried

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1. NOSDA Representation on SHSC Board

The CAO informed members of Mr. Ed Metzler's resignation as a member of the Board of the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) and of the SHSC's subsequent letter to NOSDA Chair Jo-Ann Thompson requesting that NOSDA indicate its recommendation as to who should be appointed to fill Mr. Metzler's vacated "DSSAB position" on the SHSC Board for the remainder of his term which expires on December 31, 2004.

The CAO pointed out that there were thus far two nominations, the one from the Thunder Bay DSSAB and the other from the Timiskaming DSSAB. He noted that at a NOSDA CAOs & Commissioners teleconference discussion re: same, CAOs agreed to raise the matter with their respective Boards since they may in turn wish to nominate other possible names.

As background, the CAO reminded members that:

- the SHSC is an independent, Service Manager controlled corporation that the Province established under the Social Housing Reform Act to enable Public Housing Service Managers (SMs) and Non-Profit Housing providers alike to benefit from the cost savings and efficiencies that can be generated by pooling their resources on a number of specific fronts;
- while the members of the SHSC's current Board of Directors - which is its first Board - were appointed by the government - the intent was to see the members that must hail from the ranks of the province's present 47 CMSMs - be they Service Manager (employees or politicians) - take office effective January 1, 2005.
- It is a requirement that two Service Manager Board members come from the North and a requirement that at least one of these two Northern members come from a DSSAB. The SHSC Board member who thus far held this position is Mr. Ed Metzler from the Thunder Bay DSSAB.
- While the mechanics of the process leading to the selection of the two Northern Service Manager members to sit as part of the SHSC Board had yet to be worked out, the SHSC had requested of NOSDA - and NOSDA had accepted - that it play a key role in recommending who these parties might be.
- While the mechanics had not yet been fully determined (as the anticipated date of the new appointments was to be January 1, 2005), Mr. Metzler's resignation from the SHSC Board has precipitated the need to see his vacated DSSAB position on the SHSC Board filled for the balance of his term to the end of December, 2004.

Mr. Gillis summarised the Board's discussion of the matter as follows:

- Since the NOSDA nomination mechanics have not yet been worked out; and
- Since there are already two nominations put forth; and
- Since the SHSC would like to see the position filled as soon as possible; and
- Since the appointment would only be until the end of December 2004, ... it was his recommendation that our Board indicate to NOSDA that:
 - our DSSAB not put forward a nomination of its own at this time,
 - our DSSAB indicate to NOSDA that it is not prepared to choose between the two interested and competent candidates advanced by the Thunder Bay and Timiskaming DSSABs, and that it thus indicate its wish to be neutral on this matter.

It was the consensus of all of the Board members that this DSSAB take a neutral

position on the nomination of a representative on the SHSC Board at this time, and that the CAO inform NOSDA of this decision.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

6.1.1. H.R./Policy Committee

Verbally reporting on those items discussed at the H.R./Policy Committee's meeting of the night before, Committee Chair Ray Chénier proceeded to recommend the Board's adoption of the two following H.R. Committee resolutions emanating from said meeting.

1. Collective Agreement Negotiations

Resolution No. 03-121 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Pat Best

WHEREAS the Board, through its Human Resources Committee, will have the opportunity to approve the Board's negotiations mandate; and
WHEREAS the Board will be apprised of the progress of negotiations; and
WHEREAS the Board will ratify the agreement reached with the Union(s);
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, the Human Resources Manager and other management representatives as required to conduct all negotiations for renewal of the Collective Agreement(s) with the Union(s) up to and including signing of the memorandum of settlement on behalf of the Board. If requested, the Board will designate a Director from the Board to be available as a Board Representative on the Negotiating Committee.

Carried

2. DSSAB OMERS PLAN

Resolution No. 03-122 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Pat Best

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to amend Resolution #10, dated January 27, 2000, with respect to employee membership in OMERS, the Board of Directors of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB (The Employer) enacts as follows:

Amend resolution #10 by replacing Clause 6:

"Every person who becomes an employee of the Employer on or after the effective date, if such person is employed on an other-than-continuous full-time basis, shall, as a condition of employment, become a member of OMERS."

With:

"Every person who becomes an employee of the Employer on or after the effective date, if such person is employed on an other-than-continuous full-time basis, will be eligible to become a member of OMERS, based on the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Pension Benefits Act."

This amendment is effective November 27, 2003.

Enacted and passed this 27th day of November 2003.

Carried

6.2. CAO Report

6.2.1. Operational Management Reports

6.2.1.1. Children's Services

There were no questions regarding the circulated Children's Services Report.

6.2.1.2. EMS Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated EMS Report.

6.2.1.3. Social Housing Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Social Housing Report.

Resolution No. 03-123 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Vince Lacroix
WHEREAS the Federal Funding has been increased due to override assistance for Non-Profit Housing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approve the transfer to Non-Profit Capital Reserve, any funding not transferred in year to Non-Profit Providers.

Carried

6.2.1.4. Ontario Works Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Ontario Works Report.

6.2.1.5. Finance & Administration

Third Quarter Financial Report -There were no questions regarding the circulated Third Quarter Finance Report.

Discussion followed regarding the 2004 budget preparations. Since a new Board will be taking over in January, it was felt that an ad hoc budget committee made up of some of the present Board members who will be on the new Board of Directors in 2004 be struck to work with Administration on the 2004 Budget until a new Budget Committee is put in place in the new year. Proceeding this way will afford all newly incoming Board members the opportunity to sit on this committee when the new Board takes over in January.

Resolution No. 03-124 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
WHEREAS the Board's Working Reserve Policy is such that it is:

- To maintain a Working Reserve that is set at a maximum of 15% of the annualized municipal share of the DSSAB's operating current budget; and
- To see any interest earned on the Working Fund Reserve first applied to maintaining the Working Reserve at its maximum of 15% level; and
- To see any year-end operating surpluses first applied to maintaining the Working Fund Reserve at its maximum of 15% level; and
- To see all remaining Working Reserve Fund interest or annual operating surpluses returned to the municipalities as per the apportionment formula of the previous year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approves:

- a) The transfer of the portion of the final Year 2003 surplus that is attributable to EMS, both the MOHLTC and Municipal portions, to the DSSAB's EMS Reserves; and
 - b) The transfer of the remaining surplus to the working reserve following the approved Policy.
- Carried**

Power Dams and Apportionment - In response to Pat Best's inquiry on the matter of including Power Dams in the apportionment formula, the CAO indicated that all municipal replies were now in and that the Report was almost complete. It was agreed that this was a matter that would be left to the new Board to decide upon in the New Year.

6.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

The CAO reported on a few key points:

- A new **Ministry of Children's Services** - Gary mentioned that he had occasion to meet with this new Ministry's new Deputy Minister, Sandra Lang. Sandy is no stranger to either Northern Ontario or Children's Services or to Gary. Sandy is coming

out of retirement to take on this new assignment as a result of the opportunity that it offers her to influence the foundational underpinnings of a "Children's Ministry" that she has long advocated to see established. Its realisation provides her the opportunity to significantly influence something that she has been passionate about for many years. Having worked with her in the past, Gary sees her arrival as "most promising". This new Ministry's key challenge will be to see the silo mentality and territoriality of the various players in the children's sector work across silos to ensure the local availability and responsiveness of services and supports that tangibly make a difference in the developmental growth of the children they are there to assist and the families they are there to support. (A question of making programs fit children, families and communities and not a question of making children, families and communities fit designed programs).

That Ministry intends to unfold its game plan in Phases. As part of Phase 1, this Ministry becomes responsible for the programs funded under that CFSA legislation (key amongst which are Children's Aid, Children's Mental Health), and the Day Nurseries Act (i.e. - the Child Care programs we Service Manage), and, **most encouraging to hear**, was a responsibility for the Ontario Early Years initiatives that it seemed to be indicated would no longer continue to operate as a distinct provincial government corporately service managed operation that nonchalantly steamrolled about its business with little regard to the concerns or interests or responsibilities or accomplishments of consolidated municipal service managers and their child care service system management responsibilities. Gary indicated that he hoped he was correct in understanding that there would be an attempt to ensure that CMSMs are given their due place in realising the local planning and coordination portions of their divested Service Management mandate. Gary shared with Sandy that our DSSAB had developed a three year child care plan, that was based on the developmental needs of our children and that we indicated our readiness to fund our 20% share of the financial commitment needed to see the equitable availability of the early childhood services and supports needed across our territory. Ours was a Children's Services plan and not a child care plan. Gary shared with Sandy that it came to a grinding halt and we reverted to a simple ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT mode when the government rammed through the misguided local introduction of an Ontario Early Years initiative in a manner that even its founders - Dr. Fraser Mustard and the Hon. Margaret McCain - publicly decried and denounced. It appears that our role will be validated and our input welcomed. Time will tell. The challenge that is there for municipalities is to ensure that their raison-d'être goes beyond the simple good management and good administration of those services they are responsible for; it must also be anchored in a strong, well-established commitment to seeing the services that are available in their communities, are planned, managed, coordinated and funded according to the best means of ensuring their responsiveness to the developmental needs and supports of the children, families and communities involved.

- **The transition to January 1, 2004 EMS In-House Delivery** - The transition is entering its final and most critical stage. While we had anticipated the possibility of the difficulties that are presenting themselves out there, we did not and still do not see any those problems becoming major obstacles to seeing things fall in place come January 1st. While some of the behind-the-scenes matters that we would have hoped to see behind us come January 1st may not be behind us, we are still confident that the transition will be transparent to the clients who rely upon the services of the EMS. These paramedics are competent, professional people who deliver the goods when it comes to the clients who count upon their services.

- **The Social Housing Department** is managing well. We are concerned as to

the escalating cost of insurance and energy over the coming year but feel we have a good grasp on our ability to effectively and efficiently manage what is within our control. There is every reason to believe that we will be ending this month in a "zero arrears" situation; something that had yet to ever be realised with this portfolio. We are coming close to completing what we wanted to see realised in Sultan and Foleyet. With the new wells in Sultan up and running we already know it will cost some \$35,000/annum less to manage that housing stock if we were to stay in the business in that community. We will be providing the new Board with a more thorough status report on the Sultan and Foleyet stock and confirming the route we want to pursue as to the options before us. We are not anticipating any major budget issues for next year.

- **On the OW front**, there are a few major policy questions that are before government. There are decisions for them to make relative to children's allowances and housing allowances for the poor; it has also been recommended to them that they take OW and ODSP allowances off the municipal property tax rolls.

We have also indicated to them that we are ready, willing and able to take on ODSP delivery - we already pay 50% of the cost and end up being the ones their ODSP clients call upon to address their discretionary needs and supports. We have the present capacity needed to manage this program in a more client responsive manner than is presently the case. We have asked the government – via NOSDA – to consult with its DSSABs in the possible redesign of these initiatives.

- **Inter-Ministerial/DSSAB CAO Working Group** – The CAO noted that he attended last week's MCSS driven Municipal-Provincial Social Services Working Group (M-PSSWG) meeting in Toronto to speak to and to answer any questions there may be re: the confirmation of the new M-PSSWG sub-committee dedicated to examining issues particular to the North's DSSABs. The Committee was confirmed and should meet for the first time in January. Though an important and significant milestone in possibly cleaning up a number of the administrative communication difficulties that we experience by not simply having the MMAH as our lead as do the province's other 37 CMSMs, it is still not yet a confirmation of the desired MNDM coordinated InterMinisterial Table that DSSABs are seeking, thru NOSDA, to deal with the more strategic questions as to where the Province should go with its DSSABs. I am still trying to confirm the realisation of an MNDM co-ordinated spring of 2004 NOSDA-Interministerial meeting to look at the governance and accountability future of the North's DSSABs.

Resolution No. 03-125 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Leslie Gamble
THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

Carried

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. Kenora DSSAB Resolution re OW Benefits Rates

This resolution is the same as last month's Nipissing DSSAB resolution that we agreed to leave to the new Board to debate.

7.2. Cochrane DSSAB Resolutions re OW Benefits Rates, OW Service Delivery System and National Child Benefit Clawback

The first Resolution re OW Benefits Rates was referred to the new Board. The other two resolutions led to the following Resolutions being presented.

Resolution No. 03-126 Moved by: Vince Lacroix **Seconded by:** Pat Best
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB shares the concerns of the District of

Cochrane Social Services Administration Board with respect to the Ontario Disability Support Program funding and delivery;
 AND WHEREAS income support costs should be removed from the property tax base and the Ontario Disability Support Program should be funded 100% provincially;
 AND WHEREAS the Ontario Disability Support Program was designed to assist disabled persons within our communities;
 AND WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has the infrastructure in place to provide the higher level of service to the Ontario Disability Support Program clients and is already servicing these individuals, on a daily basis, with the provision of discretionary benefits not provided by the Ontario Disability Support Program;
 AND WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is already on record as endorsing the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers (NOSDA) resolution that Ontario should undertake a review of its Ontario Disability Support Program in consultation with the province's CMSMs;
 AND WHEREAS the recommendations included in the "Denial by Design" report on the Ontario Disability Support Program provide further grounds for an ODSP review;
 NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario be encouraged to undertake said recommended joint review of both the funding model for the Ontario Disability Support Program and the service delivery sooner rather than later;
 AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Children's Services; the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Northern Ontario Services Deliverers Association (NOSDA); the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA); the Ontario Municipal Association (AMO); the local MLA's and all DSSABs/CMSMs.

Carried

Resolution No. 03-127 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Willy Léveillé
 WHEREAS the Liberal party has committed to eliminate the National Child Benefit claw back from the most vulnerable families with children and return the funds to those for whom it was originally intended;
 AND WHEREAS CMSMs/DSSABs have created a number of successful innovative programs and services that directly support vulnerable families in need through the funds collected by the NCB claw back;
 NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board petition the Premier of the Province of Ontario to work quickly on its promise to eliminate the National Child Benefit claw back;
 AND FURTHER THAT the Province examine alternate funding models for community programs designed to assist those most in need;
 AND FURTHER THAT the Province involve and consult its CMSMs as to the best means of proceeding on these fronts;
 AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Children's Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the local MLA's, FONOM, NOSDA, OMSSA and all CMSMs and DSSABs for their support.

Carried

7.3. Kenora DSSAB and Rainy River DSSAB re Judson Closure

The following points were raised in the discussion of the Kenora and Rainy River DSSAB requests that we support their resolution calling upon the MOHLTC to reverse their decision to close the Judson Street Store which supplies emergency medical

services equipment to the province's EMS service providers.

- While it was appreciated that there were economies to be realized by EMS Service Providers and Municipal Service Managers alike by enabling said EMS providers to continue to access said EMS services and supplies via one central province-wide source, members debated whether the province's taxpayers would not indeed realize even greater economies by seeing this central coordinating source consist of a private sector or co-op based operation in lieu of the provincial government managed, civil servant staffed operation that is Judson's.
- Notwithstanding the lack of data as to the cost of the Judson operations or any data that speaks to the cost-benefit of other non-civil servant run options and appreciating the time pressures needed to assure that a central service continue to exist, it was at this time deemed preferable to support the request that the government continue to provide the service as in the past and the following resolution was presented.

Resolution No. 03-128 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Gary Brown
 WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB supports the continued availability of one central store, such as Judson's, which supplies emergency medical services equipment to the province's EMS service providers; and
 WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB does not dispute that there are cost savings to be realised by seeing such emergency services supplies continue to be available to the province's EMS deliverers via one central province-wide source; and
 NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB lacks the data needed to determine if the continuance of Judson's is the most cost-efficient means of ensuring the continued presence of one central province-wide source that provides said EMS programs and services to the province's EMS providers, and
 WHEREAS the DSSAB does realise that there are time pressures which at this time deem it preferable to support the request that the government continue to provide the service as in the past,
 NOW BE IT THERFORE RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board indicate to the MOHLTC that it should at this time postpone its decision to close the Judson Street Store. **Carried**

7.4. Raymond Chénier - Leave of Absence

The Chair read a letter from Raymond Chénier requesting a leave of absence from the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB for an undetermined period of time as he is seeking the Liberal Party nomination to represent his riding in the federal government. Should Mr. Chénier be successful with his nomination, he will have to resign from the Board. He should know within the next two months.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Board Orientation

An orientation session for the new Board members, to which past Board members will be invited to attend, will be scheduled some time in January. The merits of attaching the orientation to the Board's first meeting will be examined.

The DSSAB's Administration will contact all member municipalities to request that they identify their area's representative on the new Board as soon as possible and hopefully before the end of the calendar year.

8.2. Farewells and Best Wishes

Gary Champagne sought to have it noted that both Earle Freeborn and Jack Barr were absent as a result of both being hospitalised. He noted that Jack was there for what was best described as a relapse and that Earle had been hospitalised to undergo planned heart surgery that he was undergoing as we spoke. Board members asked the CAO to extend their heartfelt best wishes to both these men.

The Board members present who will not be returning in the New Year are: Gary Brown, Ken Ferguson, Vince Lacroix, Willy Léveillé, Marcel Rancourt and Jim Gerhart. They all expressed best wishes to the Board members who will be remaining with the Board. Not present but also known to not be returning to the DSSAB Board are Ray Vaillant and Jack Barr.

Willy Léveillé stated that he was very proud of the accomplishments that the DSSAB had made during his tenure with the Board. He indicated that the DSSAB was a well established, well managed organisation. He indicated that he was not worried about the DSSAB or its future. He indicated that he had a good deal of confidence in and respect for the DSSAB's CAO and the Administrative Management staff. He spoke to his confidence in the continued solid community leadership that this DSSAB's Management and returning Board members would no doubt continue to show.

Ken Ferguson said that he had enjoyed working with the Board and the staff, that his initial concerns about the DSSAB were quickly dispelled, and that his time with the Board had been a great learning experience.

Vince Lacroix stated that when he learned about the opportunity to be on the DSSAB's Board, he jumped at the chance. He indicated that it was a privilege to have been on the Board, that it has made him a better person and provided him with a number of lasting friendships with both the Board and the staff.

Marcel Rancourt stated that although he had spent only two years on the Board, it had been very enlightening for him when he realized how very much work Chair Gillis and the original Board had done to build the DSSAB from the ground up. He added that a major Board accomplishment that he was most impressed with was its ability to surround itself with such a highly professional and dedicated staff. He indicated that while the work involved in managing the past four years' provincial "downloading to municipalities" had really fallen more on the DSSAB's shoulders than those of its member municipalities, his experience on the Board left him personally confident that the rate payers of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts are in good hands and that the DSSAB is serving their best interests. Mr. Gerhart stated that, although only on the Board for a short time, he had enjoyed it and thanked everyone.

Gary Champagne thanked the outgoing members for their contributions to the DSSAB's advancement and for the advice and support provided to him personally over the years. He thanked them on their ability to look at the interests of the whole area and not simply at the interests of their given community. He asked them to continue to promote the DSSAB where they could and to continue to offer him their criticism and advice. He noted that he saw them as "senators" of sorts whom he continued to count on as DSSAB ambassadors.

Frank Gillis, Chair, thanked all of the Board members for their dedication over the last three years and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding job they had done on behalf of their communities. He noted that while there had been some very rough times, in the very beginning, things got a whole lot better over time as its members decided to row together as a group of people dedicated to the woes of others, to children, to the less fortunate. He expressed his belief that, at the end of the day, the Board had done

its job, and done well, and that it was all due to the make-up of the Board. To those who would not be back next year, he wished them well in their endeavours and the best of the season to them and their families.

9.0 NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 03-129 Moved by: Marcel Rancourt **Seconded by:** Ken Ferguson
THAT we do now adjourn at 11:35 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on
January 22, 2004 in the Espanola DSSAB Office Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)