



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 Public Library
October 23, 2003

Present: Jack Barr, Pat Best, Gary Brown, Ken Ferguson
Earle Freeborn, Jim Gerhart, Frank Gillis,
Willy Léveillé, Marcel Rancourt, Ray Vaillant

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: Ray Chénier, Leslie Gamble, Vince Lacroix, Dale Van Every

Guests : Jack Cruickshank, Senior Field Manager, MOHLTC, Northern Region
Richard Rivard, Deputy Returning Officer, TWOMO Elections

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 CLOSED SESSION – H.R. & Property Matters

Resolution No. 03-108 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Ray Vaillant
THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 03-109 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Jack Barr
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:20 a.m.

Carried

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 03-110 Moved by: Willy Léveillé **Seconded by:** Marcel
Rancourt
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

4.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5.0 MINUTES**5.1. Adoption of Minutes of September 25, 2003**

Resolution No. 03-111 Moved by: Pat Best **Seconded by:** Jack Barr
THAT the minutes of the September 25, 2003 Board meeting be approved.

Carried

5.2 Business Arising from the September 25, 2003 Board Minutes**5.2.1. Report on TWOMO Election**

The CAO introduced Richard Rivard, whose services were retained to act as 2003 TWOMO Elections' Deputy Returning Officer for the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB TWOMO representation purposes.

Mr. Rivard gave a précis of his circulated written report highlighting several key points around the inequities between the MCFCS TWOMO elections process and the MMA municipal elections process under the Municipal Election Act; i.e. where MCFCS' Resource Guide speaks to the "selection process" of TWOMO representatives, the Election Act speaks to the election process; where the Resource Guide uses old Municipal Act terminology, the Election Act uses new Municipal Act terminology.

Mr. Rivard suggested that, although there are only 10 DSSABs in the province;

- the provincial government should incorporate the DSSAB's member election process in the Municipal Election Act, as it does with School Boards; and
- DSSABs should explore meeting with the government to discuss this possibility.

Mr. Rivard added that this DSSAB has been lucky that the circumstances of the TWOMO election process have resulted in the fact that its three representatives do come from each of the three distinct TWOMO Regions from within the DSSAB catchment area – as the DSSAB has always preferred – i.e. – one TWOMO representative from each of Sudbury North, Sudbury East and Manitoulin. Since this type of TWOMO representative distribution is neither a requirement of the DSSAB Act nor of the MCFCS TWOMO Resource Guide – *as is the case when it comes to other DSSABs* – it is currently possible to have all three TWOMO members hail from the same TWOMO region.

He recommended that the DSSAB advocate to see the Regulations changed to see it become a requirement that each of the three TWOMO representatives elected to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB represent a different TWOMO region of the DSSAB catchment area - for example, area 7 North, area 8 Manitoulin and area 9 Sudbury East.

Mr. Rivard also expressed a need for the MCFCS guidelines to be changed to reflect the Municipal Election Law and reference the Deputy Returning Officer's Handbook.

Mr. Rivard commented that since the guidelines currently include the possibility of a mail-in vote, it would be his recommendation that this DSSAB confer with the Algoma DSSAB as to the pros and cons of in future using this method of election given their experience with it.

Mr. Rivard thanked the Board for the opportunity to take part in this interesting

experience.

Resolution No. 03-112 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
THAT the recommendations of Deputy Returning Officer, Richard Rivard, be accepted and that the process be started in the New Year when the new Board of Directors is in place. The recommendations are:

THAT the Ministries of Community, Family and Children's Services and Municipal Affairs & Housing actively commence the process to incorporate the DSSAB TWOMO process

within the requirements of the Municipal Election Law prior to the next municipal-school board-DSSAB elections.

THAT the DSSAB regulations are amended to indicate that the residents shall select one (1) member from Area 7, one (1) from Area 8 and one (1) from area 9.

THAT Ministry guidelines are amended to reference the availability of relevant material from the Publishers of Municipal World; and

THAT Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB contact the Algoma DSSAB to determine the merits of mail-in-balloting.

Carried

The Chair thanked Richard Rivard for his work, said that he felt that the DSSAB had received good value for its money, and commended him as a consummate professional.

5.2.2. Power Dams and Apportionment Update

Connie Morphet reported that there were still three municipalities (Billings, Gore Bay and St. Charles) that had not yet responded to the DSSAB's information request regarding power dams in their area.

The CAO reported that, notwithstanding same, the preliminary findings indicated that if this DSSAB chose to pursue an apportionment formula that saw the municipal power dam "grants" that some of its member municipalities receive factored into the DSSAB cost apportionment formula used to determine the share attributable to each of its member municipalities, ... this would significantly impact all of the DSSAB's municipalities.

The decision to either change the apportionment formula or to continue with the present formula remains with the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that the decision should be left to the incoming Board of Directors.

5.2.3. Report on Urban Native Housing Funding

The CAO gave a short report on the DSSAB's concerns regarding the anticipated future years federal funding attributed to the Urban Native Housing projects the DSSAB is responsible for. Our concerns lie in the following:

- the fact that the funding formula for these projects was determined by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing in concert with the Federal Government,

(and without the input of CMSMs/DSSABs who pay a minimum of 50% of the cost); and

- the fact that the federal funding allocated to these projects is based on a benchmark set at a predetermined date in time (1995/96) that is no longer relevant to the circumstances of the day that drive present costs.

The CAO noted that, as it now stands, indications are that our Urban Native Housing project's projected 2004 budget calls for a larger subsidy than that provided to offset the federal and provincial governments' forecasted increases. The CAO noted that the DSSAB's Social Housing Department is keeping an eye on the situation and the DSSAB has indicated its concerns to the Ministry.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

6.1.1. H.R./Policy Committee

September 24, 2003 Committee Minutes

Resolution No. 03-113 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Pat Best
THAT the Board accept the minutes of the H.R./Policy Committee meeting held on September 24th, 2003.

Carried

6.1.2. EMS Transition Committee

September 24, 2003 Committee Minutes

Resolution No. 03-114 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Jack Barr
THAT the Board accept the minutes of the EMS Transition Committee meeting held September 24th, 2003.

Carried

In response to his query re: the status of the Northeast Field Manager position, Earle Freeborn was informed that Mr. Mario Danis had accepted to occupy the position effective December 1, 2003. In response to Ken Ferguson's enquiry re: the employment packages for paramedics, the CAO reported that everything is proceeding as planned. The DSSAB continues to anticipate that all of the paramedics presently employed by each of the DSSAB's three contracted service providers will be employed by the DSSAB come January 1, 2004 with all paramedics paid no less than they are now paid and with a benefits package that is very similar, if not identical to the benefits packages now in place. The transition should be a transparent one with no interruption in pay or work.

Mr. Freeborn circulated a draft design of the crest to be used for the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB EMS uniforms.

7.0 CAO REPORT

7.1. Operational Management Reports

7.1.1. Children's Services

Child Care Pay Equity - The CAO reported that the government has come to an agreement with 5 unions representing childcare centre workers for pay equity

purposes. Per the Memo of Settlement, \$240,000,000 of new funding is available for redistribution. The concerns for this DSSAB's child care providers are:

- ◆ Manitoulin Family Resources is potentially eligible to see their year 2003 Pay Equity obligations funded; yet, according to the \$240M Memorandum of Settlement, would not see themselves eligible for any reimbursement of the Pay Equity sums they paid in prior years to be compliant with their Pay Equity obligations.
- ◆ Chappleau Child Care Centre is eligible for both current and outstanding proxy obligations.
- ◆ Sudbury's Child Care Resources is eligible for both current and outstanding proxy obligations.

The recommendation from the Children's Services Department is to support a Resolution regarding this matter, passed by the Rainy River DSSAB.

Resolution No. 03-115 Moved by: Gary Brown **Seconded by:** Ray Vaillant
 WHEREAS a settlement was reached between the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services and five unions representing child care staff; and
 WHEREAS eligible proxy agencies may receive funding to assist with their pay equity obligations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services reimburse Child Care Service Providers who have maintained their Proxy Pay Equity Orders at the expense of other Program costs for the period 1999 to 2002; and FURTHER THAT the Pay Equity Payment increases be funded on an annual basis; and

FURTHER THAT Child Care Service Providers who did not receive Proxy Pay Equity Orders, but achieved Pay Equity, be entitled to reimbursement for the period 1999 to 2002 from the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services, and that these increases be funded on an annual basis.

Carried

7.2.1.2. EMS Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated EMS Report.

7.2.1.3. Social Housing Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Social Housing Report.

7.2.1.4. Ontario Works Report

The CAO reported that there is a meeting planned with the MCFCS regarding its Ontario Works Levels of Service funding rules. There is a concern that the Provincial Auditor's findings are pushing the Ministry to either change the rules or begin to change how it interprets the rules; ... all of which could affect our Ministry accepted past practice and local approach to the management of our Levels of Service funding. This DSSAB is confident that it can live within any of the parametres set, provided that they are clear and accurate since their interpretation clearly affects how we choose to do business.

7.2.1.5. Finance & Administration

The next quarterly report will be provided at the November meeting. To date, the DSSAB is operating well within budget. There have been some unforeseen expenses,

such as the replacement of the roof on the “old section” of the Mead Blvd offices which has in turn exposed a need to make certain electrical wiring changes in the near future.

8.2.2. Strategic Issues Report

The CAO stated that, with the new Liberal government taking office on October 24th, some changes are expected to DSSAB operations. The minutes of the NOSDA Annual Meeting have been distributed, and it is still hoped that a meeting can be held with new government ministries in the spring of 2004 to go over DSSAB specific governance and accountability issues that see DSSABs on a different playing field than their CSM counterparts. This DSSAB's key concern remains the “central administration infrastructure” concerns identified in NOSDA correspondence and documentation shared with the previous Conservative government's Ministries of Northern Development, Municipal Affairs, Health, and Community and Social Services.

Resolution No. 03-116 Moved by: Willy Léveillé **Seconded by:** Ken Ferguson
 THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.
Carried

8.0. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Rainy River DSSAB correspondence re: Dental Care

As background, Fern Dominelli informed the Board that AMO and OMSSA are advocating that the government plan to remove children from the welfare system. If they are removed, the question is where will the children of the lower wage working Ontarians get their dental and medical benefits.

The Rainy River DSSAB resolution asks that the Province of Ontario be requested to develop a fair and consistent dental care program for the lower wage earners, with eligibility for this program to be based on graduated payments and eligibility determined by commonly-used criteria such as GST Rebate and/or NCB Eligibility and that this supplementary dental program be funded through the Ontario Health Tax. Mr. Dominelli noted that it was its Administration's recommendation that the Board support the following modified version of the Rainy River resolution.

Resolution No. 03-117 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
 WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB shares the Rainy River DSSAB and Council of Lennox & Addington concerns as to the inconsistency, anomalies and unfairness in the availability of Dental Care Services in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Dental Care Services and Drug Benefits are an important component of physical health and personal wellbeing that affect social acceptance and employability; and

WHEREAS many residents of Ontario do not have adequate Dental & Drug Coverage as part of their employment benefits; and

WHEREAS persons working in low income positions are not in receipt of social assistance payments but may have thousands of dollars in dental and drug costs or may decline treatment due to cost issues; and

WHEREAS persons on Ontario Works may refuse additional employment for fear of

losing drug and dental benefits which may in turn create and support their continued dependency on social assistance; and

WHEREAS persons on social assistance (Ontario Works or ODSP) have partial access to dental care services based on discretionary decision making; and

WHEREAS this creates a system with frequent inconsistencies, anomalies and unfairness;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario be requested to develop a fair and consistent drug and dental care program to be targeted at lower income Ontarians **including** recipients of social assistance, with eligibility determined by commonly-used criteria such as GST Rebate and/or NCB Eligibility and that this supplementary drug and dental program be funded through the Ontario Health Tax; and

FURTHER that this would remove the provision of Dental and Drug coverage from the Social Assistance system and would break the dependency on Social Assistance for the purposes of Drug and Dental coverage; and

FURTHER that the new program created for lower income Ontarians be, at minimum, equivalent to the Drug benefit coverage currently provided to Social Assistance recipients; and

FURTHER that the new program created for lower income Ontarians include Basic Dental Care benefits not only for children but for adults as well; and

FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Children's Services; The Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); the Northern Ontario Services Delivers Association (NOSDA); Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA); Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all DSSABs/CMSMs in Ontario.

Carried

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

The Chair, Frank Gillis, noted that the DSSAB's November 27th Board meeting will be the last meeting of the current standing Board. Mr. Gillis expressed his thanks to all Board members, and indicated that he thought that the Board had worked well together over the past three years. He took the opportunity to wish good luck to those Board members who are seeking municipal re-election on November 10th.

Mr. Freeborn, in turn, offered good luck to Mr. Gillis in his bid for municipal re-election.

10.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

10.1. ONPHA Annual Conference—November 14-16, 2003, Toronto

Vince Lacroix will be attending along with Peter Bradley and the CAO. Any other Board member interested in attending should contact the CAO.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 03-118 Moved by: Ken Ferguson **Seconded by:** Jack Barr
THAT we do now adjourn at 11:20 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on November 27, 2003 in the Espanola DSSAB Office Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)