



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
Telephone: (705) 862-7850
Facsimile: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsab.net>

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola ON P5E 1R9
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsab.net>

MINUTES
of the
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at the Espanola DSSAB Mead Street Board Room
May 26, 2005

Present: Pat Best, Collin Bourgeois, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn,
Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux,
Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services
Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor
Darryl Culley, Acting Director of EMS
Aurel Malo, HR Services

Regrets: Fern Bidal
Laurier Low

Media: Lindsay Kelly, Manitoulin Expositor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Ray Chénier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Speaking on his own behalf and that of fellow Board members, Ray expressed his condolences to Dale Van Every for the loss of his brother.
He also asked Mike Lehoux to pass on the Board's best wishes to his son who has returned to Canada from Afghanistan as a result of a serious leg injury while on duty there with our Armed Forces.
He also asked to have the minutes note the Board's expressed condolences to Board member Laurier Low who was absent to attend the funeral of his son-in-law who died in an industrial accident in a Thunder Bay pulp and paper mill.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 05-58 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Collin Bourgeois
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 05-59 Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss Human Resources and Property matters. **Carried**

Resolution No. 05-60 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:25 a.m. and report. **Carried**

5.0 MINUTES

5.1. Adoption of Minutes of April 28, 2005

Resolution No. 05-61 Moved by: Collin Bourgeois **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah
THAT the minutes of the April 28, 2005 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

6.0. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1. Business Arising from Closed Session

6.1.1. Chapleau Ambulance Station

Resolution No. 05-62 Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
THAT the Board accept its Property Committee recommendation to proceed with the purchase of the land and the building of a new 2400 sq. ft. land ambulance station in Chapleau at the location and cost identified during the Board's In Camera session.

Carried

Recorded Vote:

NAYS: Pat Best, Les Gamble and Bud Rohn.

YEAS: Collin Bourgeois, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every

6.1.2. Acting EMS Director

Resolution No. 05-63 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn
THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board's Administration be authorized to extend the contractual services of Mr. Darryl Culley up to the end of June, 2005, on an as-needed basis. **Carried**

6.2. NOSDA AGM and Resolutions

The Chair informed the Board that the NOSDA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 14 – 16, 2005 in Timmins. He noted that each DSSAB has two voting delegates and that our DSSAB's past practice has usually been to send the Chair and Vice Chair, though we did have three members in attendance at last year's Gore Bay AGM that was hosted by our DSSAB. Ray asked that anyone interested in attending the Timmins AGM with him make their wishes known at the next Board meeting.

Gary added that NOSDA is asking for member DSSABs to provide them with any Resolutions they would like to see addressed at the AGM in September so that they can be circulated well in advance of the meeting. Items to consider include: resolutions re: Inter-Ministerial DSSAB Working Group questions such as DSSAB Cost of Administration funding formula, and the results of the government's DSSAB Governance & Accountability review consultations.

6.3. Investment Policy

The DSSAB's Administration spoke to the circulated draft Investment Policy that it prepared for the Board's consideration re: the management of its reserved funds.

Resolution No. 05-64 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
THAT the Draft Investment Policy be referred to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation to the Board. **Carried**

7.0. REPORTS

7.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

7.1.1. Property Committee

Mike Lehoux, Chairman of the Property Committee, reported that the first meeting of the Committee was held last night and items discussed included: Chapleau ambulance building (see Resolution No. 05-62); decision to defer recommendation to Board re: Espanola ambulance building until next month; update re: status of outstanding Gogama ambulance building renovations.

7.1.2. EMS Planning Committee

Les Gamble, Chairman of the EMS Planning Committee, reported that the first meeting of the Committee was also held yesterday and that the items discussed included: a review of the Terms of Reference pertinent to the community consultation process that the DSSAB will undertake in its efforts to plan to have the “right” ambulance services in place in each of the DSSAB’s four service regions in both the short and longer terms. Les reported that Darryl Culley had prepared and spoken to a sample package of very informative statistical data and graphs that would be of tremendous help in doing the work that lies ahead.

Les indicated the Committee’s belief that its membership should include a Sudbury-East member. Collin Bourgeois offered to become a member. The Board Chair noted the Board’s agreement to see Mr. Bourgeois included as a Committee member.

Les added that, at the end of the day, the purpose of the Committee is to make the system work better in each of the catchment area’s four regions and to see each region have the right services they need in place.

7.2. CAO REPORT

7.2.1 Operational Management Reports

7.2.1.1 Children’s Services Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Children’s Services Report. Gary reported that the province had increased the financial assistance payable (from \$390/month to \$600/month) for the approved “informal” childcare needs of Ontario Works clients who are either working or in a registered educational program.

7.2.1.2 EMS Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Report.

EMS Meal Breaks Resolution – Gary introduced the matter by noting that the Resolution before the Board was being tabled at the request of AMEMSO that is seeking to have all of Ontario’s Designated (Land Ambulance) Delivery Agents pass and submit to Ontario.

Speaking to the background of the tabled Resolution re EMS Meal Breaks, Darryl Culley noted that some CMSMs have approached the MOHLTC to have paramedics excluded from the Employment Standards Act requirement that employees be given a meal break after five hours of work. Darryl gave some examples of other employee groups that are now excluded under the ESA - information technology specialists, engineers, accountants, mushroom farmers and people who raise animals for fur. He also cited some of the difficulties experienced in certain parts of the province by some of our peers, as a result of the way the legislation now reads.

Resolution No. 05-65 Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Pat Best

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) is the Municipal Service Manager identified by the Province as the Designated Delivery Agent accountable for the direct delivery of the Land Ambulance Services provided across the Manitoulin & Sudbury Districts (excluding the City of Greater Sudbury);

AND WHEREAS the DSSAB is also the Land Ambulance Services Provider in the Manitoulin-Sudbury jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the DSSAB, as Service Provider is also the Employer of the paramedics who provide the land ambulance services in our service jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the DSSAB as an Employer in the province of Ontario must comply with the Employment Standards Act 2000, as amended (ESA);

AND WHEREAS Section 20 of the ESA requires all Employers to provide their employees with “an eating period of at least 30 minutes at intervals that will result in the employee working no more than five consecutive hours without an eating period” (eating period requirement);

AND WHEREAS all Land Ambulance Services across the Province of Ontario are emergency services whose employees respond to emergencies as directed by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s Central Ambulance Communications Centres;

AND WHEREAS there are times during the shifts of the employees of a Land Ambulance Service Provider when taking a break may place patients at mortal risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board petition the Province of Ontario, through the Minister of Labour, to amend Ontario Regulation 285/01 to include an exemption for paramedics in the employ of the Province’s DDA’s (Upper Tier Municipalities and District Social Services Administration Boards) and/or their contracted Service Providers across the Province of Ontario.

Carried

7.2.1.3 Social Housing Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Social Housing Report.

Mr. Chénier chose to highlight the fact that during the month of March the Housing Department recorded a nil balance on the monthly rental arrears report.

He emphasized that this was a milestone and a significant change from the days when arrears of rent were reported in the thousands of dollars. He stressed his understanding that “a nil balance” is difficult and not often achieved. He chose to publicly commend Peter Bradley on this accomplishment and asked him to pass on the Board’s congratulations to all Social Housing Department personnel on the role they played in reducing and maintaining our low monthly rental arrears accomplishments.

7.2.1.4 Ontario Works Report

There were no questions regarding the circulated Ontario Works Report.

Gary asked Fern Dominelli to expand on the Report’s identified provincial government changes to the “Employment earnings” formula that will be introduced effective August 1st. Fern explained that the change will affect all OW recipients who now earn money in addition to their OW allocation. Fern explained that the calculation formula change will be easier to understand than the present formula. That said, the changes, as well intentioned as they are, will locally mean that as many as 75% of the 20% of our DSSAB’s OW caseload who now have employment earnings above their OW cheque will see a substantial decrease in the O.W. assistance they receive. While time will tell if

the changes are positive or not in their intended results, Fern did note that the financial impact on the DSSAB's OW bottom line should prove to be a modestly positive one.

Client information sessions re: the changes are planned for Little Current, Espanola, Chapleau, Markstay and Alban offices.

7.2.1.5 Finance & Administration Report

Gary pointed out to the Board that the Quarterly Statement to March 31, 2005 is showing a likely year end deficit. This is due to the previously spoken to but not yet confirmed possibility of receiving a TWOMO allocation that is less than we believe we are entitled to per the Ambulance Act's TWOMO funding calculation formula as well as the usual non-receipt of the Cross-Border Billing charges payable to us per the same legislation. We should be hearing from the MOHLTC some time in June relative to the acceptance of the EMS budget we have submitted.

7.2.2 Strategic Issues Report

7.2.2.1 P-MSSCG Update

(Note - Gary is one of the two Northern CMSMs/DSSABs representatives who sit as members of the Provincial-Municipal Social Services Consulting Group (P-MSSCG) co-chaired by Deputy Minister Kevin Costante and Niagara Region CAO, Mike Trojan.) Gary reported on the following two addressed items that he believed would be of interest to the Board: (i) an Analysis of the OW Cost of Administration between 2001 and 2004; and (ii) an update on the status of the province's MCSS led DSSAB Governance and Accountability Consultation.

On the matter of its **Analysis of the OW Cost of Administration (COA) between 2001 and 2004**; the province indicated that whereas the province subsidized 47.7% of what it reports as the average OW COA per case in 2001; in 2004 the province's subsidy of the OW COA per case had dropped to 41.2%. When one factors in the increase in the Cost of Administration that has occurred over the four years in question, and considers that there has been no increase in its subsidy, the province, per its figures, has effectively reduced the average rate of its subsidy from a provincial subsidy of 47.7% to a provincial subsidy of 39.9% of the overall OW Cost of Administration.

Since OW Cost of Administration is supposedly 50-50 cost shared, the question was asked when the 50-50 balance would be attained to only be informed that it **may never get to 50-50**. Deputy Costante went on to indicate that the province's financial situation required it to begin to explore other financial cost-sharing formulas. Noting that our DSSAB had proposed, via NOSDA, that the province explore the feasibility of introducing a DSSAB Cost of Administration formula that emulated the Rozanski formula applied to the Education sector (x-ref: [February 2003 CAO Report on Cost of Administration](#)), and further noting that he had recently learned that this formula was also being promoted by larger CMSMs (i.e. York Region) and that it had run both Conservative and Liberal government gauntlets, Gary advanced that it be seriously considered as a formula that is apparently able to address the needs of both bigger and smaller players alike in a much more rational and equitable manner than does the present array of funding approaches that are all too often based on a particular jurisdiction's political clout or lobby. (Gary reminded the Board that the Inter-Ministerial-DSSAB Working Group, though it has never received serious provincial attention, was initially struck to address the Cost of Administration issue albeit only as it pertained to Northern Ontario's DSSABs.)

As pertains the report on **status of the province's MCSS led DSSAB Governance and Accountability Consultation**, Gary shared that MCSS indicates to have completed its study, understood that most DSSABs would like to see the MMAH replace MCSS as

their lead Ministry (thus aligning them with the same lead Ministry as their 37 CMSM peers). MCSS also indicated that they would be forwarding the results of their findings to MNM for their consideration and review. It was also indicated that DSSABs should hear something on the Report within the next two months.

Resolution No. 05-66

Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens

THAT the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Reports be accepted.

Carried

8.0. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. Information Requests

Homelessness Funding - Frank Gillis asked that Administration provide the Board with information on the amount of its Homelessness funding and distribution;
Espanola Ambulance station rental costs- Frank Gillis asked Administration to provide the Board information re: the cost of housing the ambulance station at the Espanola General Hospital. Mr. Lehoux noted that the information had been provided to the Property Committee the previous night.

8.2 Ambulance Surcharge Fees - Bud Rohn asked that the Board consider a resolution asking that the fee charged to the recipient of ambulance services be paid to the DSSAB as opposed to the hospitals. Gary suggested that the resolution might be addressed to the Ministry, and that it suggest to other CMSMs that they consider a similar resolution. He added that this might be a resolution to take to NOSDA.

8.3 FONOM Land Ambulance Services Resolution - Richard Stephens informed the Board that FONOM had passed a resolution requesting of the province that it upload responsibility for the downloaded land ambulance services. R. Chénier pointed out that the same resolution had been passed at last year's FONOM meeting in Mindemoya.

8.4 MMA Resolution re: DSSAB Table Membership

Richard Stephens informed DSSAB members that the DSSAB would be shortly receiving the copy of an MMA resolution re: the above matter.

8.5 Summer Board Meetings

Board members agreed with the recommendation that if there is to be a summer meeting of the Board, it be at the call of the Chair and tentatively scheduled towards the end of August. Collin Bourgeois offered to host said meeting in the Sudbury East Region.

9.0. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 05-67 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn

THAT we do now adjourn at 11:30 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 23, 2005 in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room.

Carried

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)