



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 May 25, 2006
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

Present: Pat Best, Fern Bidal, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every, Dean Wenborn

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
Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor

Press: Rosalind Raby; Michael Erskine

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA Resolution No. 06-40

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

The Chair introduced and welcomed new Board member, Dean Wenborn, who is replacing Collin Bourgeois as the sitting member from the Municipality of French River. Fern Bidal added that, as a member who is also from the Sudbury East region, he was particularly pleased to see Mr. Wenborn on the Board.

Mr. Wenborn thanked his colleagues for the warm welcome and indicated that he is looking forward to working with them.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 06-41 Moved by: Frank Gillis **Seconded by:** Pat Best
THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Finance, Human Resources and Property matters.

Carried

Resolution No. 06-42 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:35 a.m.

Carried

5.0 MINUTES

5.1 Adoption of Minutes of March 22, 2006

Resolution No. 06-43 Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
That the minutes of the April 27, 2006 Board meeting be approved.

Carried

6.0. BUSINESS ITEMS**6.1. Closed Session Report**

Items discussed during the Closed Session included

- Manitoulin Island DSSAB Property Rental
- Human Resources Committee Meeting Report
- Finance Committee Report

6.1.1. DSSAB Property Rental on Manitoulin Island

Resolution No. 06-44 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Bud Rohn

THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB rescind Resolution No. 06-32 found in the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 27, 2006.

Carried

6.1.2. Human Resources Committee Report

Resolution No. 06-45 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Bruce Killah

THAT the Board accept the in-camera Report of the Human Resources Committee.

Carried

6.1.3. Finance Committee Report

THAT the Board accept the in-camera Report of the Finance Committee.

Carried

6.2. Closed Session Meeting Procedures and Content

The Chair noted that a copy of the requested opinion from the DSSAB's Weaver-Simmons solicitors was provided to each Board member. The Chair asked that Board members read the document and come prepared to discuss any questions they may have re: same at the June Board meeting.

7.0. REPORTS**7.1. CAO REPORT****7.1.1. Operational Management Reports**

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Children's Services Report](#)
- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)
- [Emergency Medical Services Report](#)
- [First Quarter Finance Report](#)

Children's Services Report

Gary reported that the key item in the Children's Services Report is the Best Start Program update. He noted that in light of the new Federal government's decisions re: the Federal-Provincial Agreement entered into between the province and the prior Federal government, Ontario has in turn introduced some significant changes to its Best Start program initiative. These changes, when it comes to our DSSAB, have led Ontario to revise the Best Start funding allocated to us for new licensed child care spaces over the next four years. While the Report speaks in greater detail to the matter, Ontario has indicated the amount that it is prepared to flow to the DSSAB in each of the next four years provided such funding generates a minimum of 84 new licensed childcare spaces in our jurisdiction. The DSSAB, per the Ministry of Child & Youth Services (MCYS) directives has proceeded to amend its previously submitted Child Care Plan to reflect the province's changed allocation. The DSSAB has discussed its amended plans re: the introduction of these 84 new spaces with the affected school boards, all of whom reacted favourably to the amended Plan, notwithstanding the work that this required from each of them between now and the beginning of September.

Responding to the Chair's query re: the absence of any new spaces being targeted for either the Foleyet or Gogama School authorities, Gary responded that though they had not been "targeted" as part of the 84 identified for implementation by September, it was in fact the belief of the DSSAB's Administration that, barring any significant provincial changes to the rules governing the way our DSSAB presently funds child care operations in the District (i.e. – primarily by way of "fee subsidies" to eligible families) the belief is that our DSSAB could sustain the creation of as many as 170 new licensed spaces across the District within the operating allocation available to our DSSAB.

Gary cautioned members to keep in mind that the creation of licensed spaces in centre-based settings is a very challenging thing to realise in primarily rural regions such as ours where demographics and transportation greatly affect the sustained viability of smaller centres with less than ten enrolled children (and some argue twenty). Gary pointed out that he continues to advocate that the primary means of ensuring the viability of school based child care operations in communities such as ours is via a funding formula that is modeled on the funding formula that the province uses to fund its School Boards. That funding formula, as previously mentioned is known as the Rozanski funding formula. If it were not for the "provincial equity" provisions built into that formula there would likely be far fewer schools than there are in many of Northern Ontario's smaller more rural and remote communities where a simple "head count or cost per pupil" funding formula would mean the closure or non existence of many schools.

EMS Report

Gary reported that a key item being discussed throughout the province is the Employment Standards Act (ESA) requiring Meal Break regulations which are difficult to abide by where paramedics are concerned. This matter was the subject of a Board resolution to the province at the May 2005 DSSAB meeting.

The Board instructed Administration to forward a letter to the Ministers of Labour with copies to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and local MPPs repeating our call to have the ESA amended to include paramedics as one of the employee groupings exempt from having to meet the meal provisions of the ESA.

DSSAB Paramedic Employee Newsletter - Gary informed the Board that its paramedic employees have taken it upon themselves to regularly produce an employee newsletter. Its primary purpose is to enable Paramedics to communicate amongst themselves on patient care issues, training issues, and other general issues. They hope to see it come out on a monthly basis. This is a no cost to the DSSAB initiative that Administration supports wholeheartedly. It has been agreed that the Newsletter will stay away from union/management issues.

The Chair asked Administration to extend its congratulations to those paramedics who decided to take on this voluntary initiative, noting that it will surely help create some "fun bonds" amongst a workforce that is so broadly scattered across such a vast area.

Social Housing Report

Responding to Maureen Van Alstine's request for more information on the Massey Ambulance Station lease, Peter Bradley replied that the building in question has been in use by the EMS Department for several years and that what is being proposed is a more formal lease agreement than that which has thus far existed. Board members will have an opportunity to review the lease agreement before it is finalized.

Ontario Works

Mike Lehoux wished to bring to the attention of the OW Department that a presentation had been made to Espanola Council regarding potential job opportunities being created by a telemarketing firm that is looking to hire between 60 and 70 people in the area. An information session is planned for June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Espanola Regional Recreation Complex.

Dale Van Every asked for clarification on the new requirement for spouses of ODSP clients being required to attend Ontario Works employment sessions. Fern explained that it is a legislated requirement but that there are many ramifications for individual circumstances.

Finance and Administration—First Quarter Report

Gary pointed out that the main concern in the First Quarter Report is the ODSP over-expenditure. All indications are that this is a province-wide cost concern that to some measure explains the “employability expectations” that the province is now introducing when it comes to the spouses and adult dependents of ODSP clients who share a common household.

7.1.2. Strategic Issues Report**7.1.2.1. DSSAB Governance & Accountability Consultations**

Gary informed the Board that the province had recently decided to reconvene the Inter-Ministerial-DSSAB Working Group that it had established to:

- deal with DSSAB Central Administration funding concerns stemming from past government indications that it was looking at pursuing “Cost per Case” and “Cost per Call” program funding that would be most detrimental to DSSABs that serve sparsely populated yet vast, primarily rural and remote jurisdictions; and
- address the DSSAB Governance & Accountability issues that emanated with the changes to DSSABs that resulted from the changes made to the Municipal Act.

Gary reported that our lead Ministry - the Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS) - has indicated that:

- all DSSABs were consulted and the majority of the municipal members of the North's DSSABs indicated a preference to see the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) rather than MCSS as the "lead Ministry" when it comes to the DSSAB Act and DSSAB Act governance and administrative accountability matters.
- Before pursuing a change that could see the MMAH replace MCSS as the lead Ministry to DSSABs, it will begin by releasing what it calls its “Interim Guidelines” Report that primarily addresses the more kitchen type matters that it can by way of clarifications or Policy changes until the necessary DSSAB Act Regulation changes can be processed.
- An immediate Policy change that will be put in place is that which will see the term of office for TWOMO members changed from three year terms to four year terms. The change will be effective come the fall elections.

7.1.2.2. Emergency Planning and Preparedness

Gary informed members that there is a good deal of confusion as to the “mandated” roles and responsibilities of DSSABs when it comes to Emergency Planning and Preparedness as well as Pandemic Planning. i.e. -

- At the month of May’s Provincial-Municipal Social Services Consultation Group (P-MSSCG) meeting it was indicated that Ontario’s 37 CMSMs and 10 DSSABs have “mandated roles in emergency planning and preparedness”;
- The InterMinisterial DSSAB Working Group is seeking clarification on this subject and on the impact if any of the pending changes to the Emergency Management Act which sees DSSABs defined as municipalities for purposes of the Act.
- The role which DSSABs have to play in the Pandemic Planning coordination that is being spearheaded by Public Health Units.
- Apparent Emergency Measures Ontario (EMO) training sessions that are available to and funded for CMSM EMS Departments but not necessarily to DSSAB EMS Departments.
- The recognised Emergency Planning and Preparedness coordination role that the Timiskaming DSSAB has assumed on behalf of the majority of the member municipalities in that District.

Earle Freeborn suggested that the DSSAB make it a point of verifying if it has a copy on file of each of its member municipalities’ Emergency Management Plans.

Gary will keep Board members informed on this subject.

Resolution No. 06-46 Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
 THAT the CAO’s Operational and Strategic Issues Management Reports be accepted.

Carried

8.0. CORRESPONDENCE**8.1. Municipal Representation at the DSSAB Table**

Gary informed Board members that information was being gathered for a presentation to be made to NEMI Council, as requested in the correspondence discussed at the April Board Meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 06-47 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
 THAT we do now adjourn at 11:15 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 22, 2006 in the DSSAB’s Espanola Mead Blvd. Boardroom. **Carried**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
 (Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)