



Minutes
of the June 23, 2016
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING
held in Espanola's 210 Mead Blvd. DSB Boardroom

Present: Les Gamble, David Leonard, Al MacNevin, Ron Piche, Ned Whynott, Jim Rook, Eric Russell, Ted Lovelace, Bill Baker, Laurier Falldien, Stewart Meikleham, Paul Schoppmann

Regrets : Michael Levesque, Bruce Killah

Staff : Fern Dominelli, Donna Stewart, Connie Morphet, Mike MacIsaac, Melody Ouellette

Media: Alicia McCulloch

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Les Gamble, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 16-48

Moved by: Bill Baker

Seconded by: Jim Rook

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 Closed Session

Resolution 16-49

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Laurier Falldien

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board move into closed session at 10:00 a.m.

Carried

Resolution 16-50

Moved by: Stewart Meikleham

Seconded by: Ted Lovelace

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:10 a.m.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from Closed Session

During its Closed Session, the Board discussed Property and Human Resources Issues.

6.0 Minutes

6.1 Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 16-51

Moved by: Eric Russell

Seconded by: Ron Piche

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the [May 26, 2016](#) Board meeting be approved.

Carried

6.2 Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

7.0 Committee Reports

Program Planning Committee

David Leonard, Chair of the Program Planning Committee, gave the Board a brief update on the items discussed at the Committee Meeting.

7.1 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2-Year Progress Report](#).

The Year Two report includes a review of the priorities that were the result of the accumulation of data and research pertaining to housing, income, and homelessness from within the DSB at the time the plan was developed.

The priorities complement one another, as they reflect a whole community focus on addressing housing and homelessness in the ten-year period. There are 14 priorities included in the plan and the report to the Ministry of Housing outlines the actions taken to implement each priority. Priorities include, emphasis on seniors, overlooked populations, gaps in service that contribute to imminent risk of

homelessness, employment and training opportunities, energy efficiency, sustainable housing and affordable housing.

The DSB will continue to work towards addressing each recommendation and continuing with the ongoing progress ensuring our communities benefit from our commitment.

Resolution No. 16-52

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Jim Rook

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2016 Progress Report and recommends approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2016 Progress Report](#) and authorizes staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

7.2 Social Housing Program

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Policy Updates – Issue Report](#).

Due to recent amendments to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy regulations, revisions to Social Housing and Ontario Works policies were required. In addition to revisions, 3 policies have been revoked as they are now covered within the revised policies. All revised policies will be effective July 1, 2016.

As of July 1, 2016, the requirement for public housing projects to have as many Rent Geared to Income (RGI) units as possible will be removed. Service Managers will still be required to meet service level standards for RGI assistance but can so through rent supplements programs such as the DSB's Direct Shelter Subsidy Program.

The ability to provide our municipalities with the means to support seniors, individuals and families in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing in their communities is very important.

Many of the current policies were specific to the Regulations in place for a housing system that is transforming. In light of a more people-centered approach and innovative alternatives to standard vision, changes to policies were required to better suit the need and support the transformation of the housing system.

The objectives of these policy changes will breathe new strategies to our organization to better meet the needs of our communities. These policy changes

will help residents who struggle with affordability in their housing to remain in place, in their neighborhoods, schools and close to supports and family.

The following changes are being proposed for Centralized Waiting List and Tenant Selection, Eligibility Rules and Direct Shelter Subsidy policies:

1. Reevaluate waiting list priorities. Top priority will still be given to Victims of Family Violence, next priority homelessness and then seniors. There will be a move away from a chronological-based housing waiting list system to a waiting list that ranks applicants based on need. All current applicants will be re-ranked using the new system effective July 1, 2016.
2. The DSB will expand the Direct Shelter Subsidy (DSS) to other groups in need including ODSP recipients and low income households.
3. The DSB will allow a mix of RGI, affordable and market rent tenants in each building to ensure financial viability and supporting community needs.
4. Applicants on the waiting list will be re-rank when they refuse an offer, this will eliminate multiple consecutive offers to the same applicant.
5. Provide the non-profit housing providers with the next RGI applicant on the waiting list rather than the full list and allow applicants to apply for non-profit housing only. Non-Profits will continue to manage their own market rent waiting list.

The following policies are being revoked as they are no longer required or have been included in the revisions to the above policies; Applicant Processing & Tenant Selection, Affordable Housing and Special Priority.

Resolution 16-53

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Ron Piche

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Policy Updates - Issue Report and the individual policy changes to the Social Housing Policy Manual and the Ontario Works Policy Manual is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [Policy Updates - Issue Report](#) and revisions to policy [2.3 Centralized Waiting List and Tenant Selection](#), [2.4 Eligibility Rules](#) and [10.3 Direct Shelter Subsidy](#) contained within the Social Housing and Ontario Works Policy Manuals effective July 1, 2016 and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB revokes the following policy [2.2 Applicant Processing & Tenant Selection](#), [2.6 Affordable Housing Policy](#) and [3.2 Special Priority Policy](#) contained within the Social Housing Policy Manual effective July 1, 2016.

Carried

7.3 Ontario Works Service Plan

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through the [Addendum to the 2015-16 Ontario Works Service Plan](#).

On May 20, 2016, the DSB received a [memo](#) from the Ministry of Community Social Services advising that an Addendum is required to the 2016-17 Ontario Works Service Plan which was approved in June 2015.

As part of the addendum, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is required to describe the specific activities we will undertake to address three of the Ministry's key priorities.

1. Improved service coordination and communication between Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program offices regarding the transfers between programs, business protocols, shared case management, and expanded and strengthened access to employment services for ODSP clients and people with disabilities within our communities.
2. Stronger collaboration with local economic development organizations to identify, expand and leverage provincial investments in infrastructure and resource development to provide opportunities for Ontario Works clients and disadvantaged populations to access skills training, work experience, and new jobs.
3. Establish local partnerships with community organizations to develop protocols to support Ontario Works client's, marginalized or disadvantaged groups across service sectors including: health, developmental services, housing, education, training or violence against women prevention.

Resolution 16-54

Moved by: David Leonard

Seconded by: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Ontario Works 2015-16 Service Plan Amendment and recommends approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [Addendum to the 2015-16 Ontario Works Service Plan](#) and authorizes staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

Carried

7.4 Our Kids Count Policy

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through a revision to the Our Kids Count Policy.

The policy clarifies that recipients of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program automatically qualify under the assumption that they have other income. Should the household have other income, then the Low Income Cut-Off chart contained within the policy will be used to determine eligibility.

Resolution 16-55**Moved by:** David Leonard**Seconded by:** Ron Piche

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the Revised Our Kids Count Policy and recommends approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the Revised [10.2 Our Kids Count Policy](#) contained within the Ontario Works Policy Manual effective July 1, 2016.

Carried**8.0 New Business****8.1 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care**

Mike Maclsaac, Chief of Paramedic Services, walked the Board through a [letter](#) received on May 30, 2016 from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding Community Paramedicine funding.

The joint program received an additional \$88,400, \$22,500 for Laurentian University/Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research Institute and \$65,900 for coordination of the program (1/3 for each partner).

There will be no further funding so it is important that the funds are used to assist in changing the culture of Paramedic Services to be more proactive. With this goal in mind, the DSB will therefore use our portion of the funding to:

- Support coordination of Telehomecare (remote monitoring) referrals and provide direct oversight of paramedics on all Telehomecare installations ensuring buy-in and ability to make appointments.
- Introducing Community Paramedicine at all social housing properties owned by the DSB.
- Provide Wellness Clinics in communities. Collaborate with community partners to ensure they are not interrupted by emergency.

8.2 Northern Policy Institute

Fern Dominelli, CAO, shared the Northern Policy Institutes report, written by James Cuddy the in house Economist, "[Getting the Small Things Right: How data suppression and provincial reporting distort Northern realities](#)".

The report outlines the faulty census system of data collection and how it affects Northern Ontario communities.

It's been over five years since Statistics Canada replaced the mandatory long-form census with the voluntary National Household Survey (NHS).

The report assesses how the 2011 National Household Survey created a gap in data availability in Northern Ontario and why bringing back the mandatory long-form census is so important.

This briefing note identifies another equally important data gap, a set of regional economic accounts for Northern Ontario, but there is still much to be done to make this a reality.

There are 145 suppressed and 84 partly suppressed Census Subdivisions (CSDs) out of a total of 574 in Ontario (CBC News, 2016). These Census Subdivisions cover the land mass of Ontario and are defined as a municipality or a municipal equivalent (i.e., Aboriginal Reserve / Settlement or Unincorporated Area); or in other words, 'communities.'

In the case of Northern Ontario, there are 278 Census Subdivisions, of which 144 are 'Incorporated Municipalities,' 118 are 'Aboriginal Reserves/Settlements' and 16 are defined as 'Unorganized Areas.'

Of the 278 Census Subdivisions in Northern Ontario, 107 of them were suppressed in the 2011 NHS. In other words, 38 percent of communities in Northern Ontario do not have any NHS data. By comparison, this is only true for 13 percent of the communities in Southern Ontario.

Another way to look at it: of the 145 suppressed Census Subdivisions in Ontario, 74 percent of them are in Northern Ontario, with the remaining 26 percent in the south.

The National Household Survey has done a disservice to everyone, but Northern Ontario was disproportionately exposed to the adverse effects when compared with the rest of the province.

In Northern Ontario, 63 percent of Unorganized Areas are suppressed (10 CSDs), 40 percent of Aboriginal Reserves/Settlements (47 CSDs), and 35 percent of Incorporated Municipalities (50 CSDs).

In addition, municipalities located in Northern Ontario were almost twice as likely to be suppressed as municipalities in Southern Ontario, while Aboriginal communities in the North were over five times as likely to be suppressed as their counterparts to the south.

Drilling down even further, the majority of suppressed communities are Aboriginal Reserves/Settlements in the Kenora district, as well as many Incorporated Municipalities in the Timiskaming, Parry Sound and Algoma districts.

While data suppression in the province was more likely to occur in Northern Ontario, it was also prevalent across nearly all districts and all types of communities in the North. Municipalities with thousands of people, such as Perry and Seguin in Parry Sound district; Marathon and Manitouwadge in the Thunder Bay district; and Sables-Spanish Rivers and French River in the Sudbury district had even been suppressed.

These six communities alone make up over 17,000 people in Northern Ontario, not to mention the other 101 communities in the region that are also suppressed.

Bringing back the mandatory long-form census is a win for the North, as it will significantly enhance the availability of community-level data. However, there still remains another data gap in Northern Ontario that goes beyond the National Household Survey. Creating a set of regional economic accounts is equally as important for understanding economic growth, particularly since Northern Ontario is fundamentally different from the rest of the province in a myriad of ways.

8.3 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services, walked the Board through a [letter](#) from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) President Gary McNamara to the Hon. Ted McMeekin, in regards to concern with the proposal to prescribe in regulation certain Service Manager decisions for review as requested by housing providers. As stated strongly in AMO's submission, AMO does not support further regulation in this area as it is not appropriate or necessary. In fact, they believe that Section 157 should be revoked from the Act.

It is not appropriate as municipal Service System Managers need the ability to manage their housing portfolios in a fiscally responsible manner to be accountable to municipal councils and District Social Service Administration Boards, and to safeguard the existing housing units available in the system. Most importantly, as a matter of principle, it will serve to undermine the authority of municipal Councils and DSSAB Boards to make decisions, usurping their authority under the Municipal Act and the District Social Services Administration Boards Act.

It is not necessary as the Act already contains safeguards for housing providers with recourse to the courts, and with the Ontario Ombudsman. It could potentially involve a fiscal impact to municipal governments in cases where appeals are successful as Service System Managers hold the contingent liability with respect to the housing provider's obligations. An outside body should not determine that a Service Manager must consent to actions that might place it at risk.

Further, deliberation of this change at this point in time is premature. If not willing to revoke the section from the Act, the Ministry should at least defer a decision on further regulation as it is pre-empting its own legislatively mandated review of enforcement provisions (sections 82-99) under Section 100 of the Act scheduled for January 1, 2017.

Such a review should consider how successfully the enforcement provisions in the Act balance the powers of the Service System Manager to effectively administer the housing programs in its service areas, with the authority of the housing provider to manage its properties and, whether additional review provisions are warranted.

On June 9, 2016 Mr. McNamara received a [response](#) to his letter. It stated that the government recognizes that Service Managers need to manage housing portfolios in a fiscally responsible manner and share his belief that regulatory changes should not determine the authority of municipal councils and DSSAB's.

He further states that it is the Ministry's belief that these amendments will provide a process that enhances the existing safeguards and enables housing sector partners to make decisions that best serve their local communities.

He assures Mr. McNamara in his letter that the government will examine the impact of the amendments on all stakeholders as part of the mandated review of Service Manager enforcement provisions in 2017.

8.4 Paramedic Service Review

Mike Maclsaac, Chief of Paramedic Services, gave the Board an update on the recent Paramedic Service Review.

The service review took place Tuesday June 14 and Wednesday June 15. The review looks at all components of the operations of an Ambulance Service.

The exit meeting was held on Wednesday June 15 and the initial results are quite promising. Some comments from the review committee:

- 100% of every ACR audited requiring an incident report had one, normally the average for a service is 40%-60% missing – our results are unheard of!
- 100% of qualifications audited are current and valid. Extremely rare.
- A reviewer commented that they had a difficult time trying to find opportunities for improvement.

A Service Review report is expected within 60 to 90 days and will be shared with the Board once received.

8.5 Provincial Cabinet Changes

Fern Dominelli, CAO, discussed the [Provincial Cabinet Changes](#) As they pertain to the Ministries the DSB is funded by.

8.6 NOSDA AGM

Fern Dominelli, CAO, gave the Board an update on the NOSDA AGM. The AGM was a great success with over 120 participants. All three levels of government were represented at the NOSDA AGM, specifically:

- Marc Serre, MP, Nickel Belt and Chair, Northern Ontario Liberal Caucus
- Chris Ballard, MPP, Newmarket-Aurora, the new Minister of Housing
- Alan Spacek, President, FONOM
- David Canfield, President, NOMA
- Iain Angus, NOSDA Chair

Resolution 16-56

Moved by: Laurier Falldien

Seconded by: Paul Schoppmann

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board has reviewed the 2016 Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) resolutions as approved at the Annual General Meeting held in Sudbury June 8-10, 2016; and

WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Board supports the 2016 NOSDA resolutions in relation to:

- Full Day Kindergarten Transition and Transformational Funding
- Integration and Transformation of Child and Family Programs and the Responsibility for Location Management of the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCS)
- Changes to the \$20,000 Adjusted Income Benchmark for Qualification of Fee Subsidy
- Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and Program Funding Allocation – Northern Cost Factor
- Quantifying Homelessness
- Housing Program Funding Flexibility
- Service System Management and Employment Services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approves the [2016 NOSDA Resolutions](#) and requests the Province of Ontario to action the recommendations contained within the resolutions; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and the NOSDA Resolutions be shared with the Premier Kathleen Wynne, AMO, OMSSA, FONOM, NOMA and member municipalities.

Carried

9.0 Other Business

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and the LaCloche Best Start Hub hosted its fifth annual Family Container Gardening Event on Saturday June 4 at the Red McCarthy Ball Fields Pavilion. This Community Event was open to families with children to learn basic container gardening and food safety skills. There were 106 adults and 106 children, a total of 216. Comparing to last year's numbers of 195, this year's turnout was the best one we have had yet.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board and the Sudbury North Best Start Hub hosted our fourth annual Family Container Gardening Event on June 16 at the DSB Social Housing property. This Community Event was also open to families with children to learn basic container gardening skills. There were had 52 adults and 42 children, a total of 94 participants at the event. This marks the highest attendance at this event thus far.

10.0 Next Meeting – September 22, 2016

11.0 Adjournment

Resolution 16-57

Moved by: Al MacNevin

Seconded by: Stewart Meikleham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 11:40 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held, in the DSB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room on September 22, 2016.

Carried

Chair

CAO (Secretary-Treasurer
of the Corporation)