



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: March 22, 2023
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Regrets: Councillor Henderson - Chair

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Alex Burgess - Manager of Ontario Works, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Shannon Archer - Business and Integration Manager, Tatiana Dafoe - Clerk

Also present: Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the March 22, 2023, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Business and Integration Manager

4.1 2023-24 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs (SOC23-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "2023-24 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs" (SOC23-010), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Business and Integration Manager provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- the receipt of planning funding allocations for 2023-2024 for the following programs:
 - Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI);
 - Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI);
 - Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB); and
 - Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).
- the total allocation being \$4,134,400, approximately \$14,400 more than 2022 funding; and
- Social Services Relief Fund funding of \$547,000, being a COVID-relief response to assist with homelessness initiatives, not having been received in 2023.

A question and answer period between the Business and Integration Manager and Sub-committee took place:

- with respect to COHB funding, applications are received and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance.

Councillor Wordofa now present at the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

- that program providing subsidies in place to those in the rental market;
- the Ministry not indicating why that funding decreased; and

- in past, additional allocations for the COHB program being received near the end of the year if there was funding available.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "2023-24 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs" (SOC23-010), be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works

5.1 Family Services Perth Huron Agreement (SOC23-011)

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron to deliver the counselling and support services program as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron on behalf of the municipal Corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Family Services Perth-Huron until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- this being a request for renewal as this agreement expired December 31, 2022;
- this agreement being in existence for 15 years;
- the program offering direct referral services for Social Services staff to Family Services for counselling, group therapy, psychotherapy and other services;
- group services being a new addition that staff have been working on with Family Services over the past few years;

- the enhanced services being a reason for the change in funding;
- more appointments being prioritized for Social Services clients;
- there being 96 participants last year, with 796 hours of service provided;
- staff targeting 100 participants this year at 800 hours of service but expecting to exceed that number significantly;
- that number representing 15% of the caseload accessing services; and
- this being a heavily utilized and important program for Social Services staff and clients.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron to deliver the counselling and support services program as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron on behalf of the municipal Corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Family Services Perth-Huron until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Carried

5.2 Service System Manager Bi-Monthly Update to Council (SOC23-012)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "February 2023 Service System Manager Bi-Monthly Update to Council" (SOC23-012), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services stated that staff are committed to bring forward bi-monthly Service System Manager updates as there is a lot going on in the Ontario Works division.

The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the bi-monthly update. Highlights of the overview included:

- the Transition Phase Outcome Report being completed, and performance based funding being received for the successful completion of that stage of work;
- a thorough performance assessment of service providers being completed;
- 7 of 8 service providers having signed back on;
- the provider that did not sign back on is not located in Perth County and will not directly impact services being offered; and
- a Request for Proposal being released to bring on new service providers in the area, with a specific focus on Indigenous persons, Francophone individuals and other priority populations.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "February 2023 Service System Manager Bi-Monthly Update to Council" (SOC23-012), be received for information.

Carried

6. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is April 12, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

7. Adjournment

A request was made by a member of the public to address Sub-committee on a matter that was not listed on the agenda. The City Clerk, referring to the City's Procedural By-law, provided advice on the options available to hear a presentation that is not listed on the agenda or not relating to a matter of business on the agenda. The City Clerk noted that a delegation request had been received from the member of the public and that a meeting had been scheduled to review the request.

The Chair advised the member of the public that as there was no background to the request for the delegation and as a meeting had been scheduled to review the request, that the decision was to wait for the request to come forward on a future Sub-committee agenda.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:41 P.M.