Regional Municipality Of Waterloo
Community Services Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
9:05 a.m.
Regional Council Chamber
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Present were: Chair S. Strickland, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan*, R. Deutschmann, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran*, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, J. Wideman* and C. Zehr

Members absent: D. Craig and C. Millar

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act
None declared.

Delegations

a) Memo: Harm Reduction Questions and Answers (Q&A) Document
   i. Lorraine Grenier
   Lorraine Grenier appeared before the Committee to provide a presentation expressing her concerns regarding needle syringe programs. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. She explained that she is very concerned with the availability of needles and has seen numerous needles discarded in various areas throughout the Region. She recommended that the program be changed to require an equal number of needles to be exchanged prior to receiving clean ones, requiring rehabilitation programs to be offered prior to the dispensing of drug use supplies, dispensing retractable syringes, and tracking the number of needles and other drug paraphernalia that are distributed.

*T. Cowan and B. Halloran entered the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

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*J. Wideman entered the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Chair S. Strickland asked L. Grenier if she was aware that the Region is mandated to provide harm reduction services. L. Grenier stated that she is aware of this and that there are no safe injections sites in the Region. However, she noted that individuals are using the washrooms at the various sites as places to use drugs. She also explained that all of the pictures included in her presentation were taken in the Region.

In response to a question from the Committee, L. Grenier noted that she is not opposed to harm reduction programs but believes that there is a need for people to be accountable for the needles that are provided and for consistent services at the various sites. She informed the Committee that she had visited the St. John’s Soup Kitchen and was provided with twenty needles, numerous crack pipes, and other drug paraphernalia by a summer student and was not provided with any offer of counseling or other services.

ii. Gwyneth Mitchell

The correspondence from Gwyneth Mitchell was received for information.

Karen Quigley-Hobbs, Director Infectious Disease, Dental and Sexual Health, reminded the Committee that the Region is mandated to ensure access to various harm reduction programs including needle syringe programs. She explained that substantial research indicates that needle syringe programs help prevent the spread of blood born illnesses and do not increase drug use or negatively affect drug treatment programs. She noted that while some users do not dispose of needles in a proper manner there is no indication from the community partners that this has increased. K. Quigley-Hobbs informed the Committee that the focus of harm reduction is to reduce that spread of diseases rather than end drug use. However, public health nurses will often build a rapport with individuals and then provide treatment information or referral.

In response to a question from the Committee, K. Quigley-Hobbs stated that the Region has purchase of service agreements with the various sites and through those agreements provides training to the staff at the sites. She explained that research indicates that requiring needles to be exchanged results in more needle sharing and that the use of retractable needles can be complicated and may cause damage to the user’s vein.

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, informed the Committee that the Harm Reduction Coordinating Committee (HRCC) is looking at these issues and serves as a forum for sharing information among the community partners. She stated
that staff will meet with the HRCC and will bring a report back to the Committee on this issue.

Received for information.

b) Dr. Leia Minaker re: PH-14-034/P-14-086, NEWPATH Research Project – Diet and Food Environment Findings

Dr. Leia Minaker provided a presentation on the diet and food environment findings of the NEWPATH Research Project. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. She explained that the goal of the project was to examine the availability and affordability of healthy and unhealthy foods in the Region. She stated that the project found that only 0.3 percent of residents have a diet that is consistent with Canada’s Food Guide. The project also found that while there are high quality fruits and vegetables available, there is an overabundance of unhealthy food options, and that when items are similarly priced people are more likely to choose a healthy option. The next steps include working with the area municipalities; and exploring strategies to reduce exposure to unhealthy food and influence pricing structures.

The Committee thanked Dr. Minaker for the presentation and requested that staff prepare a report outlining possible options for influencing the availability of unhealthy food and what other municipalities are doing in relation to this issue.

Received for information.

Consent Agenda Items

Request to Remove Items From Consent Agenda

There were no requests to remove items from the consent agenda.

Motion to Approve Items or Receive for Information

Moved by J. Wideman

Seconded by T. Cowan

That the following item be approved:

a) That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the Region of Waterloo Seniors’ Strategy detailed in Appendix A;

And that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the use of the Region of Waterloo Age Friendly Lens, detailed in Appendix A across the corporation as outlined in report SS-14-034, dated August 12, 2014.

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b) That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Service Contract effective September 1, 2014 with Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) Maple Grove Preschool and Childcare Centre, located at 160 Courtland Ave. East, Kitchener Ontario N2G 3M6

And further that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Service Contract with Tiny Hoppers Corp., located at 1-445 Thompson Dr., Cambridge Ontario N1T 2K7, as outlined in report SS-14-035, dated August 12, 2014.

c) That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve entering into an agreement with the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce under the Immigration Partnership in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner of Social Services and the Regional Solicitor;

And that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo increase the 2014 Operating Budget for Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration by $34,444 and $0 net regional levy;

And further that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo maintain the staffing complement within the Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration Division of .9 FTE (shared across three positions) for the period August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2017, subject to the receipt of funding as outlined in Report SS-14-039, dated August 12, 2014.

And that the following items be received for information:

- PH-14-018, Safe Water Program Update
- PH-14-035, Quarterly Charged/Closed Food Premises Report
- CPC-14-001, Position on Prostitution Law Reform, Bill C-36
- Memo: Correspondence from Centre for Community Based Research
- Memo: Stirling Nursing Homes Limited

Carried

J. Haalboom thanked the staff and the volunteers that served on the Seniors’ Advisory Committee for all of their work on developing the Seniors’ Strategy and noted that she believes that this strategy should be a priority for the next Council.

Regular Agenda Resumes

Reports – Public Health

a) PH-14-033, 2015 Response Times Performance Plan
Stephen Van Valkenburg, Director/Chief Emergency Medical Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2015 Response Times Performance Plan that has been recommended by the Response Time Working Group. He noted that the existing targets were based on the old Response Time Standard and were somewhat arbitrary. The new targets are based on the experience of the last two years and set faster times for more urgent calls and slower times for less urgent ones.

T. Galloway reminded the Committee that a central dispatch would improve all response times with very little cost.

The Committee thanked staff and the members of the Response Time Working Group for their work and the presentation of information in an more accessible manner.

Moved by R. Deutschmann
Seconded by T. Galloway


Carried

Reports – Social Services

b) SS-14-036, K-W Out of the Cold Update

Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner, Social Services, reminded the Committee that this issue arose due to the closure of the Tuesday night Out of the Cold site. A number of meetings have been held with Out of the Cold volunteers and City of Kitchener staff. Kitchener staff are working with Out of the Cold volunteers to find new site. Social Services staff and Regional police will be providing training to the volunteers on working with higher needs guests. D. Bartholomew-Saunders also noted that the Thursday night Out of the Cold site will be closing due to a number of concerns including safety of staff and guests, the resignation of the coordinator, and that the Out of the Cold mandate is fundamentally different from the Region’s Housing First approach.

J. Mitchell requested an update on what more can be done to help people with higher needs obtain housing and what these individuals will do if there are no Out of the Cold sites. Lynn Randall, Director, Social Planning, Policy and Program Administration explained that the Out of the Cold program was developed when there were very few supports for homeless individuals. There are now six emergency shelters and the STEP 1685250
home program that has shown significant success. Staff would recommend focusing on expanding those programs rather than supporting temporary stop gap programs.

Chair S. Strickland requested that staff provide an update to the Committee after the meeting with Out of the Cold on September 27, 2014 to share the outcome of that meeting.

Received for information.

**Reports – Interdepartmental**

c) P-14-084/SS-14-038, Region of Waterloo’s 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Update

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by J. Wideman

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo’s 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (H&H Plan), which incorporates Waterloo Region’s Housing Action Plan for Households with Low to Moderate Incomes (Housing Action Plan) and All Roads Lead to Home: the Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region (Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy), be approved as previously reported to Community Services Committee on April 1, 2014 (Report P-14-042/SS-14-011).

And that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing acknowledging their review of the H&H Plan and subsequent comments received on June 12, 2014, and informing them that no changes are being made to the H&H Plan for the reasons as outlined in report SS-14-084/SS-14-038, dated August 12, 2014.

Carried

d) CR-RS-14-066/P-14-085/F-14-093, Proposed Transfer of Community Housing Properties to Region of Waterloo

Moved by K. Seiling

Seconded by T. Galloway

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, in its capacity as both Service Manager in accordance with the Housing Services Act and sole shareholder of Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc., take the following action on La Capanna Homes and La Capanna II Homes:

a) endorse a form of restructuring of La Capanna Homes (Non-Profit) Inc. and La Capanna II Homes (Non-Profit) Inc. and Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc., a Region owned corporation, as outlined in Report CR-RS-14-066/P-14-085/F-14-093 for the purpose of transferring the community housing properties owned by these non-profit corporations for their continued use as

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community housing;

b) authorize the Region's Commissioner of Planning, Housing and Community Services and Chief Financial Officer, both in their capacity as employees of the Region of Waterloo and directors of Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc. to sign such agreements, consents, resolutions, plans, articles or other such documents and to request such approvals from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Province of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as may be required to give effect to the restructuring of La Capanna Homes (Non-Profit) Inc., La Capanna II (Non Profit) Inc. and Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc. as described in Report CR-RS-14-066/P-14-085/F-14-093 with the form and content of such documentation to be in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;

c) authorize the Commissioner of Planning, Housing and Community Services and the Region's Chief Financial Officer, both in their capacity as employees of the Region of Waterloo and directors of Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc. to initiate an application in the Superior Court of Justice seeking an order approving restructuring arrangements as may be required in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Business Corporations Act and any other applicable statutory requirements.

Carried

Information/Correspondence

a) Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List

Received for information.

Next Meeting – September 9, 2014

Adjourn

Moved by B. Halloran

Seconded by T. Cowan

That the meeting adjourn at 10:36 a.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, S. Strickland

Committee Clerk, T. Brubacher

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A CASE OF HARM REDUCTION

by Lorraine Grenier
WHY ARE WE TOLERATING THIS?
NEEDLES IN THE SAND AT THE BEACH
SYRINGE THAT WAS THROWN AT ME JUNE 2014 DAVID STREET
Number of Babies Born Addicted to Opiates Has Tripled
A baby’s life shouldn’t begin with detox
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDOUS WASTE
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
DICARDED NEEDLES
WE MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING
PUBLIC WASHROOM IN T.O. NEAR "THE WORKS!" NEP...
OPERATION DEAD YOUTH
DOG DIES OF AN UNDETECTED NEEDLE PUNCTURE
GAZEBO  VICTORIA PARK
JULY 2014
PREGNANT FEMALE LEAVING THE FREE NEEDLE SITE
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
Number of Babies Born Addicted to Opiates Has Tripled
CONDOMS AND OTHER FUN GIFTS AT THE FREE NEEDLE SITE
THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN
AND THEIR CHILDREN
IS AT RISK!
A NEEDLE WAS FOUND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SLIDE
No Baby Should Be Born Addicted To Drugs!
FREE NEEDLES FOR OUR YOUTH
SWIMMING WITH THE NEEDLES!
HEROS
NEEDLE HUNTERS IN OTTAWA!
KIDS FIND A SYRINGE IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
WE MUST STOP
PRETENDING THIS
DOES NOT EXIST!
CHILD POKED BY A SYRINGE IN THE PLAYGROUND
USED CONDOM ON THE FRONT LAWN OF MY HOME
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
DOG SUFFERING FROM A NEEDLE STICK INJURY
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
WHO'S CHILD IS THIS ??
WHY ARE WE TOLERATING THIS?
Accidental Needle Stick!

SOLMED Recommends

Your solution

SOL-CARE™
RETRACTABLE SAFETY SYRINGE
Be a voice, not an echo.
APPRECIATION DAY FOR FREE NEEDLES
VANISHING POINT

SELF RETRACTING
VANCOUVER CRIME AROUND THE CORNER OF THE WORKS NEP 2013
JUST SAY NO!
VICTORIA PARK
EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK
Accidental Needle Stick!

SOLMED Recommends

Your solution

SOL-CARE™ RETRACTABLE SAFETY SYRINGE
STROLLING ON THE BEACH!
WE ALL
HAVE A CHOICE
July 9, 2014  ON THE FLOOR IN VICTORIA PARK WASHROOM
ANYTHING GIVEN
FREE CAN BE
COSTLY!!
TREATMENT FOR A NEEDLE STICK INJURY

3 month cycle of treatments
"which have symptoms close in similarity to chemotherapy"
HOW CAN THIS HELP OUR YOUTH BUILD BETTER LIVES?
WE CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE TOGETHER
NEWPARTH: FOOD ENVIRONMENTS

Neighbourhood Environment in Waterloo Region, Physical Activity, Transportation & Health
Methodology

- 1334 retail food establishments were assessed

- 1170 individuals in 690 households provided:
  - Diet records
  - Self-reported height
  - Self-reported weight
  - Self-reported waist circumference
NEWPATH Community Food Assessment

1. Proximity of retail food outlets in relation to participant's homes
2. The quality of vegetables and fruit for sale
3. The relative availability of healthy versus unhealthy food and beverages
4. The relative affordability of healthy versus unhealthy food and beverages
Key Findings

1. The vast majority of people in Waterloo Region do not eat a diet that is consistent with current nutrition recommendations.
Key Findings

2. We have reasonable quality of vegetables and fruit in our food establishments
3. Poorer diet quality and health outcomes are associated with an overabundance of unhealthy food, rather than being solely due to gaps in healthy food access.

Within 1000 meters of participant’s homes:

There are 5.6 times as many fast food outlets and convenience stores as grocery stores and specialty stores.

There is over three times as much shelf space devoted to junk food compared to vegetables and fruit.
Key Findings

4. The relative affordability of healthy versus unhealthy food affects food choices.

When healthier choices are priced the same or less than unhealthy options, healthier choices are more likely to be purchased.
Conclusions

• Exposure to unhealthy food has a negative effect on diet quality and health outcomes

• The current food environment in Waterloo Region is a "food swamp", with an overabundance of unhealthy food

• Pricing structure can influence people to make healthier choices i.e., ensuring that healthy choices priced the same or less than other choices
Proposed Next Steps

1. Public Health will explore strategies to reduce exposure to unhealthy food and influence pricing structure

2. Public Health will share findings with area Municipalities

3. Planning, Housing and Community Services will explore strategies with area Municipalities relative to the development of the ION corridor