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

Members absent: R. Deutschmann, B. Halloran and C. Millar

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

DELEGATIONS

a) Shannon Freeman appeared before the Committee on the issue of staff report SS-11-004, Child Care Fee Subsidy Wait List Management Process. She stated that she supports the recommendation of Option C and thanked the Region for developing a fair and equitable system.

REPORTS – Social Services

d) SS-11-004, Child Care Fee Subsidy Wait List Management Process

The Committee commended staff for recommending an income-tested option that is fair and transparent.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by J. Brewer

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a change to the child care fee subsidy waiting list management strategy effective February 1, 2011 as outlined in Option C in report SS-11-004, dated January 11, 2011.

CARRIED

b) Mary Ann Wasilka appeared before the Committee on the matter of a living wage. She expressed her belief that the Region should pay all staff a living wage and she requested that staff respond to her request for information about the salaries paid to Regional staff, specifically those working in the Employment & Income Support division.

Chair Strickland advised that the data Ms. Wasilka is seeking was included in a previously prepared staff report.

Michael Schuster, Commissioner, Social Services, stated that Regional Council previously approved a motion to take no action on the matter.
Since the issue of a living wage has been previously discussed by Regional Council, the Committee agreed that staff should re-distribute the staff report to Councillors and to Ms. Wasilka.

**PRESENTATIONS**

a) Public Health – Overview of Major Issues and Priorities

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, provided a presentation to the Committee; a copy is appended to the original minutes. She highlighted the major issues and priorities, which included dental program expansions; sexual health and youth engagement; the provincial early learning initiative; Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response time targets; EMS offload delay; healthy communities partnerships; the integrated drug strategy; the Ontario Public Health Standards; accountability requirements; and, addressing growth and demographic changes in the Region.

**REPORTS – Public Health**

a) PH-11-001, Board of Health Orientation

Dr. Nolan provided an overview of the role of Regional Councillors as members of the Region’s Board of Health and advised that the 2010 Orientation Manual, a comprehensive resource, is available in the Councillors’ library for review.

She responded to Committee questions regarding Public Health’s role in cancer screening and the production and distribution of publications. The Region of Waterloo partners with Grand River Hospital and has a role in cancer screening. Public Health staff also work in collaboration with community health partners to reduce duplication of publications.

* R. Kelterborn left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

In response to a Committee inquiry about provincial review of municipal Boards of Health, Dr. Nolan advised that up until this time there have been no formal expectations outlined by the province but this may change based on the relatively new provincial organizational standards. She stated that the required performance agreement will likely have to be signed by the Regional Chair and that the agreement may evolve over time.

Received for information.

b) PH-11-002, Highlights from the Ontario Burden of Infectious Disease Study

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Associate Medical Officer of Health gave an overview of the comprehensive study and the impact on the Region’s priority setting, planning and decision-making processes. She advised that effective interventions already exist locally but that the public aren’t consistently taking advantage of the offered immunizations programs.

In response to a Committee inquiry about the correlation locally, Dr. Wang stated that local data isn’t available but the study is relevant to local Public Health planning.

Received for information.

* R. Kelterborn returned to the meeting at 1:38 p.m.
c) PH-11-003, EMS Certification Review Results

John Prno, Director, Emergency Medical Services, announced that certification has been approved for the Region’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He provided a summary of the review process.

In response to a Committee inquiry about response times, J. Prno advised that the Region can now determine its own response times, based on the provincial standards. The Region has two years to set these response times, at which time a report will come back to Committee and the response times will be incorporated into the EMS Master Plan.

* D. Craig left the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

J. Prno responded to Committee questions about the review recommendations related to patient care, confidential staff files and staff immunization and he stated that staff continuously work on improving their processes.

Received for information.

d) PH-11-004, Quarterly Charged/Closed Food Premises Report

Dr. Nolan advised that the website continues to receive increased public viewing. In response to a Committee question about the number of inspections conducted during the past quarter, she advised that an enforcement report will be prepared for the Committee in spring 2011 and will contain this data.

Received for information.

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

f) Memo: Influenza Activity in Waterloo Region

Received for information.

REPORTS – Social Services

a) SS-11-001, Waterloo Region Energy Assistance Program Update

M. Schuster introduced the report and stated that new funding will be available for the program although the amounts are not yet confirmed.

Received for information.

b) SS-11-002, Social Assistance Review and Changes to the Special Diet Allowance

M. Schuster stated that revisions have been made to the Special Diet Allowance to prevent potential abuse and to better serve those in need, effective April 1, 2011. In addition, he highlighted the social assistance review that is currently being conducted by the province and will most likely have a significant impact on municipal functions.

David Dirks, Director, Employment and Income Support, responded to a Committee question about special diet needs and advised that the diet schedule is being developed.
In response to a Committee question about provincial cost-sharing for the programs, M. Schuster stated that the province has already uploaded funding for the Ontario Disability Support Program and plans to upload funds for the benefits portion of the Ontario Works program by 2018. Details regarding the funding upload of the administration costs associated with the Ontario Works program are not currently available.

Regional Chair K. Seiling commented that the premise of the negotiated upload of funds was to address the shared concerns about funding income redistribution programs through property taxes and was intended to allow municipalities to fund other municipal functions rather than re-applying it to income redistribution programs.

Received for information.

c) SS-11-003, Distribution of Child Care Stabilization Minor Capital Funding for 2010/11

M. Schuster stated that the Region received $35,000 in one-time funding to address the impact of phase one of the Early Learning Full Day Kindergarten Program.

Received for information.

Item 5d) was reviewed after Delegations to the Committee.

e) SS-11-005, Child Care Fee Subsidy Caseload Profile

In response to a Committee question about the current subsidy wait list, Nancy Dickieson, Director, Children’s Services, advised that there are currently 62 children on the wait list. Once the new system of subsidy eligibility is in place on February 1, 2011, all applications will be reviewed based on the new income-tested criteria.

Received for information.

INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

a) Memo: Ontario Works Caseload Report December 2010

The staff memo was distributed to the Committee during the meeting; a copy is appended to the original minutes.

In response to a Committee question about the caseload being 36% higher than at the outset of the recession, D. Dirks advised that a number of factors affect the caseload including education and training levels of individuals and the exhaustion of Employment Insurance benefits. He stated that the forecasted caseload for 2011 will be considered during the preparation of the 2011 budget. The Committee expressed its concerns for re-positioning individuals who require training programs for the jobs available locally.

Received for information.

b) Memo: Provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS)

Received for information.
c) Memo: Update on On-Line Application for Social Assistance

M. Schuster stated that a number of municipalities have been offering on-line services since January 1, 2011. The Region is developing a Site Readiness Plan for submission to the province for future on-line service locally. Updates on local on-line services will be provided to the Committee as they become available.

Received for information.

d) Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS) Position Paper Re: Municipal Delivery of Long Term Care Services

Received for information.

e) Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS) e-Bulletin Re: Long Term Care Home Act (LTCHA) Implementation of New Resources and Webinars

M. Schuster encouraged Committee members to consider registration for the webinars to enhance their understanding of their role related to Sunnyside Home. He stated that the implementation of the Act will have a significant impact on the Region and that a staff report will come back to Committee with updates about the changes.

Received for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List

Received for information.

NEXT MEETING – January 25, 2011

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:13 p.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, S. Strickland

COMMITTEE CLERK, S. Natolochny
Overview of Major Issues and Priorities

Public Health Department
Staff Presentation
Community Services Committee
January 11, 2011
Dental Program Expansions

- New funding for CINOT (14-17 year olds) and Healthy Smiles
- Part of province's poverty reduction strategy
- Increased emphasis on basic care and prevention in priority populations
- Strengthening community partnerships and delivering service in multi-use community sites
Sexual Health; Youth Engagement

- Long term strategy for reaching out to youth
- Review and renew partnerships with schools
- Explore how to better reach out to youth inside and outside of school setting regarding sexual health
Provincial Early Learning Initiative

- Social Services is lead locally
- Evolving program
- How can Public Health further integrate its programs
- Support collaborative community planning to better serve parents and young families, e.g., positive parenting
EMS Response Time Targets

- Work to continue to reduce response times to meet current target
- Establish new response time targets based on acuity levels
- Offset demands related to growth, aging of population, complexity of calls
- Includes traffic signal pre-emption implementation
EMS Offload Delay

- System issue related to lack of hospital and emergency room capacity impacting on paramedic ability to discharge patients to Emergency Department
- Work with hospital and CCAC partners to look for system solutions
Healthy Communities Partnership

- New funding from Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport for grants and community planning
- Public Health leads community planning
- Address areas of healthy eating, physical activity, injury prevention, tobacco use/exposure, substance and alcohol misuse and mental health through policy
Integrated Drug Strategy

- Crime Prevention Council is lead
- Particular mandate in Prevention and Harm Reduction
- Community collaborative effort
- Build on findings of Baseline Users Study
Ontario Public Health Standards

- Address development areas, e.g., surveillance, health hazard prevention, emergency preparedness
Accountability Requirements, Quality Initiatives and Human Resources Planning

- Organizational Standards pending
- Performance/Accountability agreement pending
- Measuring outcomes for program Standards
- Culture of Excellence - Quality Initiatives, business process re-engineering following restructuring, improving access to services, new policies and protocols
- Staff development to build surge capacity, leadership development
- Enhance health and safety
Address Growth and Demographic Change

- Driver for all programs
- Growing and changing community
- EMS Master Plan implementation
- Develop specific programming to address priority populations, outreach, community partnerships
MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Sean Strickland and Members of Community Services Committee
From: David Dirks, Director, Employment and Income Support
Copies: Michael Schuster, Commissioner, Social Services
File No.: S09-80
Subject: ONTARIO WORKS CASELOAD: DECEMBER 2010

This memorandum is provided as information for members of Council. Employment & Income Support, Social Services with Finance monitors the Ontario Works (OW) caseload and expenditures on a monthly basis. Below is a chart summarizing the caseload at the end of December 2010 with comparisons to the months of October 2010 (period of last Information Memo) and December 2009 as well as September 2008.

Very briefly,
- The OW caseload at December 2010 was: 8,528
- The increase from October 2010 was: 143 (1.7%)
- The increase from December 2009 was: 242 (2.9%)
- The increase from September 2008 was: 2,236 (36%)
- Waterloo Region unemployment rate for December 2010 was: 7.4
- Waterloo Region unemployment rate for December 2009 was: 9.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ontario Works Caseload and Unemployment Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 2010 Ontario Works Caseload</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2010</th>
<th>October 2010</th>
<th>December 2009</th>
<th>% Change October to December</th>
<th>% Change Year to Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,528</td>
<td>8,385</td>
<td>8,286</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
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</table>
Unemployment Rates – Seasonally Adjusted

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<th></th>
<th>December 2010</th>
<th>October 2010</th>
<th>December 2009</th>
<th>% Change October to December</th>
<th>% Change Year to Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>(5.8%)</td>
<td>(13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo Region</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>(1.3%)</td>
<td>(22%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ontario Disability Support Program caseload increased by 126 cases from October 2010 to a December caseload of 9,038. As costs for the Ontario Disability Support Program have been uploaded effective January 1, 2011, this will be the last report on the caseload.

This year has seen the OW caseload fluctuate between a low of 8,385 (October) and a high of 8,720 (March) with an average of 8,550. At the end of December 2010 the caseload was 36% higher than at the outset of the recession. A review of the caseload with potential scenarios for 2011 will be provided as part of the 2011 Budget process.

The provision of social assistance supports Focus Area Three of the Corporate Strategic Plan, Healthy and Safe Communities; Strategic Objective One: (to) improve health by reducing or preventing the environmental and social conditions that lead to poor health and/or poverty.

If you have any questions or comments or for further information, please contact David Dirks at Phone: 519-883-2179 or dirksdav@region.waterloo.on.ca