



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

- Ontario Works
- Child Care
- Social Housing
- Land Ambulance

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

MINUTES for Monday, May 3rd, 2004

Dacey Road Daycare Centre at 12:00 pm

PRESENT:	V. Burns	L. Turco	
CITY STAFF:	D. Overboe	F. Lake	J. Crawford
DSSMSSAB STAFF:	K. Streich-Poser	A. Nanne (notes)	
GUEST:	D. Edgar		
REGRETS:	L. Madonna		

L. Turco called the Childcare Committee meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. The Manager of Community Childcare Services, F. Lake, and Claire LaFrenier, CAO of Child Care Algoma led the committee on a 20-minute tour of the Dacey Road Daycare facility.

Upon the completion of the tour, L. Turco thanked F. Lake and C. Lafrenier for the informative visit.

1. Review of Minutes from the Wednesday, February 18, 2004 Community Child Care Committee Meeting.

The Childcare Committee reviewed the previous minutes. The minutes were accepted and will be brought forward as information to the next DSSMSSAB Board meeting.

2. Other Business

▪ Federal and Provincial Funding (Update)

F. Lake discussed the proposed increases to Childcare funding anticipated from the province. She hopes that the additional funding could be used for such purposes as:

- Additional spaces
- Renovation / Construction

- Increased subsidy
- Improving use of existing subsidy
- Eliminate minimum user fee
- Establish equity in wage subsidy
- Assist Early Learning Centres

F. Lake expects Childcare funding to grow over the next 3 years.

K. Streich-Poser asked if this additional funding would also increase our 20% cost share. F. Lake responded that it is still uncertain if the funding will be 100% Provincial or 80 / 20% cost shared. L. Turco then inquired whether or not the DSSMSSAB can be forced to accept additional 80 / 20 cost-shared funding. He was informed that the DSSMSSAB couldn't be forced to accept the money but that some 100% funding may be made available as well. F. Lake commented that the funding decisions might be best made once the preferred uses are determined.

- **Other Municipal Issues**

An article from the April 28th issue of the Sault Star was distributed to committee members. Other municipalities have begun passing their budgets and 6 city-operated daycare centres are being closed in other locations. Although 6 daycare centres were named in the article there are really only 4 municipal managers affected. The recent increases in funding may help to address or alleviate this problem.

- **Conference "Life With Children"**

A conference was held in Sault Ste. Marie March 31 & April 1, 2004. K. Streich-Poser, F. Lake, P. Mick, D. Edgar and staff attended the event featuring guest speaker Adele Faber. An identical conference was held in Sudbury with 500 participants. Sault Ste. Marie boasted 800 attendants. All sectors dealing with Children from City were represented at the conference.

- **Waterfront Child Development Centre**

The Waterfront Child Development Centre was build as part of the Northern Ontario Relocation Program (NORP) when the provincial government was relocating jobs to Sault Ste. Marie in the early 1990s. It was part of the agreement that the availability and provision of childcare be mandatory. As such, Waterfront Daycare, located in a provincial government building has not had to pay any rent. The Ministry of Government Services that handled 100% of the building funding as well as the maintenance is no longer in existence and the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) now wants to charge rent for the use of this facility.

F. Lake has contacted other communities faced with this dilemma and was notified that they have all received the same notification. Rent payments could be scheduled to begin September 1st and could amount to \$50,009 or \$8.10 per square foot. If rental fees are charged the extra expense will need to be added to the Waterfront Day Care Budget and the Childcare budget. This increase in expenses could result in an additional \$8.00 per day per child fee if it were to be passed on to users. This option is not feasible.

This increase could cause closure of the facility, which would result in the loss of 15 - 18 jobs. L. Turco asked if the daycare could be transferred to another site and F. Lake responded that that this solution would still be quite costly. D. Overboe commented that the rental rate for other locations is as much as \$14 per square foot. ORC intends the fees charged for the daycare space to cover utilities and taxes.

At this time, F. Lake is not requesting any action from the committee. Her intent is to keep the Childcare Committee and the DSSMSSAB Board apprised of the situation at this time. Waterfront Daycare has decided not to sign the ORC lease presented to them or react to this issue at this time. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is currently lobbying inter-governmentally to have the ORC may change their mind on this issue.

- **Children With Special Needs**

This program is currently setting the stage for future strategies. Employees are training and learning how to set up a Special Needs environment. The Service Provider is also exploring the possibility of purchasing support as necessary.

- **OMSSA Policy Papers**

F. Lake distributed handouts regarding Special Needs Research and Effective Service System Management from OMSSA. She would like to review the information provided at the next committee meeting, once everyone has had an opportunity to review the material.

3. Schedule Next Meeting

Committee members enjoyed the "off-site" meeting and agreed to that it may be nice to host a meeting at the Waterfront Daycare in August.

The next Childcare Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2004. L. Turco was concerned about a conflict with the AMO conference also scheduled in August.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

