



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

ONTARIO WORKS COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes for Thursday April 10, 2003

Plummer Boardroom, Civic Centre 5:00pm

Present: B. McHale, Chair N. DelBianco D. Jones
 D. Overboe C. Rosso K. Streich-Poser
 S. French (notes)

Regrets: D. Amaroso

The meeting called to order at 5:00pm.

1. Review of the Minutes from the January 9, 2003 Ontario Works Committee Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed and there were no errors, omissions or corrections recorded.

2. Reports from the Ontario Works Manager

A/ Ontario Works Operation

- 1) Additions Program – Carl Rosso gave an update. Approval has been received for \$150,000.00 in start-up funding. The Province covers start-up funds at 100%. David Overboe gave a description of how the program will function at Ontario Works. Special Services will be responsible for the delivery of the Addictions Program.
- 2) Literacy Program – If clients have less than grade 12 then it is mandatory for them to take the literacy test. Others can self identify and take the literacy test. After the test has been graded then the client enters the assessment phase. They will be enrolled in programs such as Program Read.
- 3) Advanced Case Worker Training – This is a pilot program where we have a trainer in-house. Training is ongoing and 15 staff haven been involved to date. This approach seems to be functioning well.
- 4) Men's shelter – offices are being set up at the previous Sacred Heart School Building. Offices should be set up by June; currently they are painting, making repairs and doing yard work.

- 5) Youth shelter – this program is a work in progress. John Howard Society will be the lead agency.
- 6) On March 18 there was an OW Program Managers meeting held. The group discussed similar concerns regarding staffing levels and operational procedures/issues. Many of these meetings are done through teleconference.
- 7) Currently working on the three year Ontario Works plan.

- B/ Consolidated Verification Process (CVP) – did not discuss.
- C/ Ontario Works Statistics – up about 40 cases. Kim circulated a statistics chart for 2001 and 2002 to the Committee.
- D/ SDMT Technology – there are on going concerns with the system. Staff must double check the information generated from the system as a result of discrepancies and incomplete data. The Province is aware of the issues and will be setting up meetings with the Providers.
- E/ Special Services – did not discuss.
- F/ Employment Services – did not discuss.

There was discussion regarding Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF). In 1997 prior to Ontario Works and DSSMSSAB welfare costs were approximately 4.2 million dollars for the delivery of the program. In 2001, after CRF is considered the cost for the delivery of programs is approximately 2 million dollars.

3. Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services – Ontario Works Annual Compliance Review 2001/02

David Overboe provided background on how MCFCS conducts the review. MCFCS looks at a sample of 40 cases. Concern was express that the sample size was too small and does not provide an accurate or fair representation. It has been communicated that the Ministry will be changing the format of the review so that it occurs every two years and includes a more comprehensive and in-depth study of the cases (ie. more than 40 cases for the sample size).

4. Ontario Works 2003 Service Plan
The draft will be completed by the end of April.
5. Other Business – none.
6. Next Meeting – August 12th, the meeting will be held at 4pm.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.