



# District of Sault Ste. Marie

## Social Services Administration Board

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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FINANCE, PERSONNEL, GOVERNANCE)

MINUTES for Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Social Housing Boardroom, 464 Albert St. E. at 12:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** D. Edgar D. Amaroso  
B. Hayes P. Mick

**CITY STAFF:** K. Streich-Poser L. McCoy A. McRae  
J. Crawford R. Cobean

**DSSMSSAB STAFF:** A. Nanne

**REGRETS:** J. Curran

The meeting was called to order by Executive / Finance Committee Chair, D. Edgar at 12:05 p.m.

#### Review minutes from March 10, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting.

Kim noted that because of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) that no budget presentation was needed for City Council as mentioned in the minutes.

There were no questions or comments regarding the March 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. They will be brought forward at the next DSSMSSAB full Board meeting.

#### Accounts Payable:

##### DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable:

March 24, 2005 in the amount of \$742,548.19  
April 01, 2005 in the amount of \$631,359.71  
April 07, 2005 in the amount of \$375,391.52  
April 14, 2005 in the amount of \$5,363.16  
April 22, 2005 in the amount of \$14,958.91  
April 29, 2005 in the amount of \$750,906.34

##### SSMHC Accounts Payable:

March 2005 in the amount of \$433,859.97  
April 2005 in the amount of \$409,032.83

J. Crawford reviewed both the DSSMSSAB and SSMHC Accounts Payable in detail with the committee.

P. Mick noted that the financial reports are still addressed to D. Amaroso as Chair. K. Streich-Poser will mention this matter to the finance department and have it corrected.

The committee accepted the Accounts Payable and will recommend acceptance at the next Board meeting.

**Reports to Executive Committee:**

- Ontario Works – MCSS 2005 Budget Submission

K. Streich-Poser spoke to the Ontario Works Budget Submission. The budget includes conservative estimates regarding earnings increases for Ontario Works recipients. The Ministry is looking for the Ontario Works service providers to meet the earning targets outlined in this budget.

D. Amaroso inquired about the consequences if targets are not achieved. K. Streich-Poser responded that further investigation would be required to access the shortfall. The DSSMSSAB has budgeted a 1-2% increase in wages. A new funding model should be implemented for 2006 and reporting requirements will change.

B. Hayes asked how the budget changed from last year. K. Streich-Poser answered that as this is a transition year for funding and that the budget levels have remained pretty much the same. The funding levels are capped at this time. K. Streich-Poser added that our current administrative cost per case is \$857. The province would like it to be in the \$750 range. A report will be provided from the Ministry providing showing each provider and where they stack up in comparison to the rest of the province.

B. Hayes inquired about efficiencies and the Provincial government's possible reaction to service costs in relation to other areas. K. Streich-Poser noted that at this time there are no benchmarks or standards that the government adheres to. B. Hayes suggested the possibility of the DSSMSSAB setting our own standards or benchmarks. K. Streich-Poser commented that the numerous variances in service areas might make this a difficult task.

- Community Child Care – MCSS 2005 Budget Submission

J. Crawford informed the committee that the budget submission is generally an extension of last years budget. The Early Learning / Best Starts program initiative will take effect in the upcoming year. This budget does not include any Best Start funding as the no formal funding announcements have been made.

**Social Housing Benchmarking (Fax Poll)**

D. Edgar commented that the Social Housing Benchmark poll has not yet received enough votes. R. Cobean was available to address committee member's questions and concerns.

B. Hayes commented that the information provided in the fax poll was insufficient for decision-making and requested a more detailed explanation of the Benchmarking fax poll. R. Cobean discussed the Social Housing Benchmarks in detail and gave background for the process involved. Using the "white board", R. Cobean outlined the changes in calculations by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

D. Amaro commented that her concern is not with the process and calculations by the MMAH, but rather the lack of acceptance and confusion on the part of the Housing Providers. R. Cobean verified that the Housing Providers have been kept apprised by the MMAH and that they may have in fact received too much information. He also reminded committee members that the Housing Providers have the right to appeal the funding amounts after July 1, 2005.

B. Hayes asked how R. Cobean derived each Providers funding level? He responded that each provider underwent a funding calculation and then this amount was compared to current funding levels and benchmarking ranges.

D. Edgar asked what the number of providers was that have ever experienced a funding surplus and returned funds to the DSSMSAB. He was told that every single group has given a rebate to the DSSMSSAB.

R. Cobean and K. Streich-Poser both commented that this series of events has had an unfortunate effect on the relationships built between Housing Programs and the Housing Service Providers.

K. Streich-Poser asked R. Cobean whether or not all of the providers will receive an increase in funding. He responded that they would at the very least maintain their current funding levels.

Revenue generation may be a concern for housing providers. B. Hayes asked what is the reserve amount available to cover additional cost or lack of revenue encountered by housing providers. R. Cobean responded approximately one million dollars is on reserve at this time.

B. Hayes would like to see clear communication between the Housing Programs manager and the housing providers. He also stated that he does not see this matter as a DSSMSSAB problem and will support the initiative as long as this matter is flagged and regular updates are provided.

The additional funding is 100% municipal and must be taken into consideration. D. Edgar commented that there seem to be enough safety measures to ensure that the providers will survive and manage.

D. Amaro reiterated that the concerns brought forward from the Housing Providers were the lack of communication and involvement in the process. R. Cobean commented that the short time lines provided by MMAH made it difficult

in the last few weeks to meet with each provider individually and discuss changing benchmark figures.

B. Hayes agreed to support the Housing Program Manager's recommendation in the fax poll. D. Amaroso continues to stand opposed. B. Hayes' vote provides enough support for the benchmarking figures to be approved.

### **Report from Fire Chief to Mayor Roswell**

L. McCoy discussed the report provided to Mayor Roswell regarding the Land Ambulance Operating Costs. The Mayor requested the report and L. McCoy and A. McRae submitted the information. The report was more favorable than originally anticipated and is self-explanatory.

L. McCoy commented that A. McRae did not overestimate previous revenues by counting cross-border or First Nations billings, which gave a better outlook of the EMS finances. CRF was not included in this report either.

L. McCoy continues to be as financially diligent as possible and would like to see the DSSMSSAB lobby the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for 50/50 funding through NOSDA and AMO.

D. Edgar suggested that we start to look for a Minister or a representative from MOHLTC to be present at the annual NOSDA meeting in September. K. Streich-Poser noted that NOSDA has already invited representatives from all of the Ministries to make a presentation in September. She noted that the Land Ambulance funding issue is fairly high profile throughout the North. L. McCoy commented that inter-facility transfer is now a huge issue in Southern Ontario.

### **Other Business**

L. McCoy will be requesting permission to purchase new EMS equipment from the Board. He noted that he has been able to remain under-budget for the purchase of this equipment, but sees a need for the purchase of a new laptop computer. K. Streich-Poser commented that there is a \$10,000 limit to equipment purchase. L. McCoy would still like to seek Board or committee approval before the purchase. The executive committee approved the purchase.

D. Edgar informed committee members that the next DSSMSSAB board meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> in Sault North. He now has a conflict and would like to reschedule the meeting. K. Streich-Poser suggested Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, A. Nanne will contact Board members to reschedule the meeting.

**Next Meeting – Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 12:00 p.m.**

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 1:26 pm