



# District of Sault Ste. Marie

## Social Services Administration Board

### **DRAFT MINUTES for the DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, May 13, 2004 - 5:20 PM  
Civic Centre, Council Chambers**

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|                             |                                     |                                  |   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>PRESENT:</b>             | D. Amaroso<br>P. Mick<br>L. Madonna | D. Edgar<br>B. Hayes             | V. Burns<br>S. Butland                        |
| <b>CITY STAFF:</b>          | D. Overboe<br>R. Cobean<br>L. McCoy | A. McRae<br>F. Lake<br>R. Ayotte | C. Rosso<br>J. Crawford<br>A. Grancic (audio) |
| <b>DSSMSSAB STAFF:</b>      | K. Streich-Poser                    | A. Nanne (notes)                 |   |
| <b>MCSS REPRESENTATIVE:</b> | R. MacKinnon                        |                                  |   |
| <b>REGRETS:</b>             | L. Turco                            | J. Curran                        |   |

The meeting was called to order by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board Chair, D. Amaroso at 5:16 p.m.

D. Amaroso greeted everyone in attendance and verified that all Board Members received the additional meeting material distributed prior to the meeting.

#### **PRESENTATION (15 Minutes) - Randy Ayotte, Ontario Works**

◆ Addictions Initiative Services Presentation

R. Ayotte provided a PowerPoint presentation and program overview of the newly implemented Addictions Initiative Services through Ontario Works. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

S. Butland inquired about gambling addictions and wondered why this was not included with the Addictions program. C. Rosso and R. Ayotte commented that funding was provided for drug and alcohol addictions only. D. Edgar and S. Butland both remarked that they would like to see gambling added to this initiative at some point.

#### **Resolution #04-061**

Moved By: P. Mick  
Seconded By: D. Edgar

"Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Addictions Services Initiative Proposal and Service Delivery Model as approved by the Ministry of Community and Social Services."

**CARRIED**

## **1. Minutes**

### **Resolution #04-049**

Moved By: D. Edgar  
Seconded By: P. Mick

- 1.1 "Be it resolved that the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board dated March 25, 2004 be adopted as recorded."

**CARRIED**

## **2. Accounts**

The Accounts were presented and discussed by the Social Services Financial Manager A. McRae. He reviewed the Accounts Payable not presented to the Executive Committee in detail.

B. Hayes raised the issue that the Accounts Payable have already been paid and as a result it may be unnecessary for the DSSMSSAB Board to review them. He informed the Board that he would like to examine this matter more fully.

Accounts previously reviewed by the Executive Committee

### **Resolution #04-050**

Moved By: S. Butland  
Seconded By: D. Edgar

- 2.1 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable dated
- March 18, 2004 in the amount of \$451,748.70
  - March 25, 2004 in the amount of \$97,671.65
  - April 1, 2004 in the amount of \$85,667.00
  - April 8, 2004 in the amount of \$2,676,072.65
- be passed for payment."

**CARRIED**

Accounts previously NOT reviewed by the Executive Committee

### **Resolution #04-051**

Moved By: D. Edgar  
Seconded By: V. Burns

- 2.2 "Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable dated

April 16, 2004 in the amount of \$20,000.00

April 22, 2004 in the amount of \$223,357.50

be passed for payment."

**CARRIED**

### **3. Executive/Finance**

A. McRae provided a verbal report to Board Member discussing the new programs that Ontario Works and Social Housing are currently preparing to launch. The Energy Assistance Fund, Rent Bank Program, and Addictions Services Initiative will create more reporting and require new financial controls for the Finance Department. He also noted the fact that the new Provincial Budget will be released next week and that any increase in ODSP or Ontario Works will increase DSSMSSAB expense levels. A. McRae informed the Board that he has been working with computer services and hopes to better automated cheque writing capabilities for Ontario Works.

D. Edgar asked if A. McRae felt that the Energy Assistance Fund is realistic or large enough to cover the need in the community? A. McRae responded that we will have to wait and see and but that the possibility exists that the need may be greater than the fund. The goal of the Energy Assistance Fund is for people to cover extraordinary costs associated with hydro, oil or gas and is to help ensure they can stay in their homes during the cold winter months.

P. Mick commented that the newspaper article released today (May 13th) regarding expected rate increases for Ontario Works and ODSP recipients might warrant a response or press release from the DSSMSSAB. D. Overboe prefers to see the positive side of things and would like to release the increase in funding as a good news article. K. Streich-Poser commented that the DSSMSSAB prefers to release information, after confirmation and details become available rather than prematurely.

#### **Resolution #04-052**

Moved By: S. Butland

Seconded By: V. Burns

3.1 "Be it resolved that the report prepared by the Social Services Financial Manager be accepted as information."

**CARRIED**

#### **Resolution #04-053**

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: P. Mick

3.2 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the March 17, 2004 Executive / Finance Committee be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

#### **Resolution #04-054**

Moved By: S. Butland

Seconded By: D. Edgar

3.3 "Be it resolved that the following MCSS Financial Reports and Budgets

- ◆ Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Fund - 2004 MCSS Budget
- ◆ Ontario Works - MCSS Final 2003 Report
- ◆ Ontario Works - 2003 Enhancement Fund Report
- ◆ TWOMO Election Expenditures - MCSS Final 2003 Report
- ◆ Community Childcare MCSS 2004 Budget Submission
- ◆ Ontario Works MCSS 2004 Budget Submission

previously reviewed by the Executive / Finance Committee be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

A. McRae commented on the reports provided and pointed out the fact that the MCSS turned down the DSSMSSAB request for additional funding requested for Community Childcare Health and Safety.

**Resolution #04-054A**

Moved By: V. Burns

Seconded By: L. Madonna

3.4 "Be it resolved that the National Child Benefit MCSS Final 2003 Report prepared by the Social Services Financial Manager be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

**4. Land Ambulance**

Fire Chief, L. McCoy spoke about the reports presented to the Board. He noted that the response times presented in the reports were a reflection of the call volume fluctuations. He informed the Board that calls to the out-lying areas tend to skew the response times.

**Resolution #04-055**

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: S. Butland

4.1 "Be it resolved that the March 2004 and April 2004 report from the Fire Chief for the Sault Ste. Marie Emergency Medical Services be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

B. Hayes asked about the EMS / Land Ambulance Budget in relation to the actual expenses paid to date. He noticed that the DSSMSSAB is behind on the budgeted totals and that we have only dispensed 1/3 of the expense allotted. L. McCoy confirmed that some of the large expenses, such as insurance, have not been paid yet

and that will bring the expenditures more inline with the budgeted amount once the bill has been paid.

B. Hayes would like to see a year-to-date and budget comparison for expenses. L. McCoy responded positively commenting that the DSSMSSAB Board never requested this information before and invited B. Hayes to visit the Fire Hall to review this information. They agreed to meet at a later date.

The Fire Chief discussed the expense requests to upgrade the tachographs and purchase a defibrillator. These expenses were previously approved through the 2004 budget but L. McCoy wants to have the Board's approval as well as provide them with proper notice.

**Resolution #04-056**

Moved By: P. Mick  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

4.2 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the following expenditures:

1. In amount of \$11,051.00 to upgrade the ambulance fleet to computerized tachographs from the preferred vendor, Tach West Instruments Ltd."
2. In the amount of \$14,100.00 to purchase one Zoll "M" series multi-port biphasic AED/Manual defibrillator

As requested by Lynn McCoy, Fire Chief."

**CARRIED**

K. Streich-Poser discussed the Land Ambulance Financial Assurance Statement 2002 Form B with Board Members. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is currently requesting additional information regarding Capital Reserves. Disclosing this information was a concern for EMS managers as they felt that it could lead to a reduction in funding. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care representatives reassured EMS managers that this information would not affect their funding. M. Wilcox, Senior Finance Manager from MOHLTC called K. Streich-Poser and instructed her to notify the Board that the report must be approved before DSSMSSAB can receive any additional funding for 2004.

A. McRae is comfortable with the submission of this report as the DSSMSSAB spent all of the funding allotted. He did note however, that the MOHLTC does keep changing the rules for reporting.

**Resolution #04-057**

Moved By: D. Edgar  
Seconded By: S. Butland

4.3 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration

Board approve the completion of the Land Ambulance Financial Assurance Statement 2002 Form B (Financial Information)."

**CARRIED**

A. McRae informed the DSSMSSAB Board that 2004 is the first year that Sault Ste. Marie has not been provided the 50/50 funding split from the Ministry of Health. He would like to have this matter brought to the attention of the MOHLTC. K. Streich-Poser commented that some Designated Delivery Agents are drifting more towards a 75/25 split and that we are doing well comparatively. Paramedic wages and salaries have been the most significant cost driver for this funding gap. K. Streich-Poser feels that we need to lobby the government now as opposed to later. D. Edgar agreed that we should start now before we start to drift further from the 50/50 funding. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care feels that the Community Reinvestment Fund is in place to buffer the drift in cost sharing but the DSSMSSAB's do not agree with this scenario.

D. Overboe feels that this is a good resolution for Emergency Medical Services but he would also like to see similar actions taken on behalf of other Social Service areas. L. McCoy wants this matter presented to our Provincial representatives, David Oraziotti and Mike Brown as well. L. McCoy advised the Board that he is in the process of setting up a meeting with the provincial MPPs to discuss EMS issues. K Streich-Poser will also participate in these discussions.

**Resolution #04-058**

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: V. Burns

4.4 "Whereas the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, in 2000 committed to 50/50 cost sharing for Land Ambulance Services with approved Municipal designated Delivery Agents and

Whereas the 2004 DSSMSSAB Emergency Medical Services budget results in 55/45 (Municipal 55 - Provincial 45) split

Be it resolved that the DSSMSSAB petition the MOHLTC to re-examine and adjust funding levels in order to return to actual 50/50 cost sharing."

**CARRIED**

K. Streich-Poser informed the DSSMSSAB Board that the Stair Chairs requested by the Accessibility Advisory Committee are owned by the DSSMSSAB and are currently considered surplus. This would be an appropriate community minded use for this equipment. D. Amaroso would also like to have Civic Centre security notified about the location of the Stair Chairs.

**Resolution #04-059**

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: S. Butland

4.5 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the placement of a Stair Chair on the Third Level of the Civic Centre and with the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services Emergency Response as requested by the Sault Ste. Marie Accessibility Advisory Committee to facilitate the evacuation of disabled persons from the Civic Centre and other multi-level buildings."

**CARRIED**

L. McCoy told the board about a newly instituted survey being conducted by SSMEMS. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the appropriateness of the use of an ambulance for an interfacility call..(looks at if it meets the criteria as set out by Ambulance Act). To date, out of two hundred (200) calls, sixty-five (65) calls were reported as met provincial guidelines for an ambulance, while the other one hundred and thirty-five (135) calls could have qualified for alternative sources of transport. L. McCoy stressed the fact that this is a serious matter, and that he would like to work with our partners to maximize our resource use and create awareness of alternative transfer options. NOTE: Booking ambulances for transfers is done by Central Ambulance Communication Centre.

An Inter-facility Transfer meeting was held last week and the Algoma DSSAB announced that they are going to change their Transfer Policy. . This change could cause people delivered from the Algoma area to the Sault Ste. Marie Hospital to be requiring transportation back to Algoma from SSM EMS. This change was put on hold until the end of June after a meeting with the David Orazietti and Mike Brown. L. McCoy would like a DSSMSSAB Board Member to attend this meeting with him. K. Streich-Poser or D. Edgar will attend along with L. McCoy.

**5. Ontario Works**

C. Rosso thanked the board for their support of the Addictions Services Initiative proposal. He discussed the newspaper article in today's paper regarding the Ontario Works rate increase. It is the first client increase since 1995 and C. Rosso is supportive of the need for the increase however it is minimal and will likely have minimal impact on clients.

C. Rosso reviewed his written report to the DSSMSSAB Board. Ontario Works continues to work with job fairs, Pauline's Place Youth Shelter and St. Vincent's Men's Shelter. He commented that many issues are coming to the forefront regarding the domestic violence and that this increasingly is becoming an issue to be dealt with by Ontario Works. Summer students have now begun working in the Ontario Works offices.

**Resolution #04-060**

Moved By: S. Butland  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

5.1 "Be it resolved that the report prepared by the Ontario Works Manager be

accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

## **6. Community Child Care**

F. Lake discussed her report provided for the DSSMSSAB Board. She informed the Board Members that additional funds would be transferred over to Children's Rehabilitation Center as a result of the resignation of a manager that will not be replaced.

There were no questions or comments regarding the Community Childcare Report.

### **Resolution #04-062**

Moved By: V. Burns  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

6.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Community Child Care Services Manager be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

### **Resolution #04-063**

Moved By: D. Edgar  
Seconded By: S. Butland

6.2 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the February 18, 2004 Community Child Care Committee meeting be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

K. Streich-Poser commented that Community Childcare Committee meeting was primarily an orientation session for new committee members.

## **7. Social Housing**

R. Cobean informed the Board that he received notification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Cara Community Business Case for additional funding to cover capital improvements. The Ministry informed R. Cobean that no decision has been made yet, although he remains hopeful in this situation.

Recently the Sault Ste. Marie Housing programs underwent a Provincial Audit on the subject of how Special Priority cases were processed. At the completion of the Audit, very positive verbal comments were made. R. Cobean is unsure as to when the written report will be prepared as he is still awaiting for a written report from the original audit over a year ago.



**Resolution #04-064**

Moved By: P. Mick  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

- 7.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Housing Programs Manager be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

The Strong Communities Supplement Program has been around since 1999 and currently funds thirty (30) rental supplement units. The province is changing the method in which they provide funding to Service Managers in this program.

Housing Managers in other locations have suggested that a 10% administrative fee be implemented as part of the costs however, R. Cobean would rather ensure that the funding is always available and that administration costs are not charged by the DSSMSSAB. He is currently examining a number of options for the best way to distribute the funds to tenants or landlords. R. Cobean consulted N. Kenny of the City of Sault Ste. Marie Legal Department and she has reviewed the Social Housing documents making comments regarding possible areas of concern.

There were no questions or comments from the DSSMSSAB Board Members.

**Resolution #04-065**

Moved By: S. Butland  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

- 7.2 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board sign off on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Strong Communities Supplement Program for which a Take-up Plan will be developed by the Social Housing Programs Manager."

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #04-064(A)**

Moved By: L. Madonna  
Seconded By: P. Mick

- 7.3 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board nominate David Edgar for a Board position with the Social Housing Services Corporation."

**CARRIED**

D. Edgar stated his interested in filling the position with the Social Housing Services Corporation due to of the lack of representation from this area. K. Streich-Poser also commented that D. Edgar's work experience would benefit the SHSC.

## **8. Social Housing Corporation**

G. Avery commented that the acceptance of the past minutes is merely a house keeping issue.

### **Resolution #04-066**

Moved By: S. Butland

Seconded By: V. Burns

- 8.1 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation for March 25, 2004 be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

### **Resolution #04-067**

Moved By: P. Mick

Seconded By: L. Madonna

- 8.2 "Be it resolved that the membership of the Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board appoint the DSSMSSAB's Chair or designate as the authorized representative with the proxy vote to represent the DSSMSSAB for the purposes of the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation's 2004 Annual Shareholder's Meeting."

**CARRIED**

## **9. Social Services**

D. Overboe reviewed his report to the DSSMSSAB Board. The Employment Placement Enhanced Funding projections for the next year were discussed. D. Overboe feels that this fund can be used to support many worthwhile projects.

### **Resolution #04-068**

Moved By: S. Butland

Seconded By: L. Madonna

- 9.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Commissioner of Social Services regarding the Ontario Works Community and Employment Placement Enhanced Funding be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

## **10. Director of Performance Standards**

K. Streich-Poser spoke to her report provided earlier to Board Members. She brought to the Board's attention the fact that the Public Education and Communication Committee felt it important that DSSMSSAB have a presence in the Sault North. As a result they would like to host the August Board Meeting at the Captain Tilley Recreational Centre in Goulais River. K. Streich-Poser polled the Board members to determine if there was enough interest in this suggestion. There were no objections to this idea.

The NOSDA Annual Meeting will once again take place in September 2004 on Manitoulin Island. The DSSMSSAB will need two (2) political representatives at these meeting on September 14, 15 & 16th. K. Streich-Poser asked for any resolutions that the DSSMSSAB would like to present at those meeting as they must be prepared 45 days prior. The Sault Ste. Marie delegates will be appointed at the August Board meeting.

D. Amaroso asked the board if they would like to bring a resolution forward to the NOSDA meetings regarding the 50/50 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funding. D. Overboe commented that he is unsure that this is the proper venue for that motion.

The Public Education and Communication Committee is working with a website designer to increase the DSSMSSAB online information for clients and end users. A summer student with experience with website design, has been hired through the Social Services Department and will begin working on this project on behalf of the DSSMSSAB.

**Resolution #04-069**

Moved By: P. Mick  
Seconded By: D. Edgar

10.1 "Be it resolved that the report from the Director of Performance Standards be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #04-070**

Moved By: B. Hayes  
Seconded By: S. Butland

10.2 "Be it resolved that the minutes from the Public Education and Communication Committee meeting for March 10, 2004 be accepted by the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board as information."

**CARRIED**

K. Streich-Poser commented that the March 10<sup>th</sup> Public Education and Communication Committee meeting was primarily an orientation session.

**Resolution #04-071**

Moved By: L. Madonna  
Seconded By: S. Butland

10.3 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve Kim Streich-Poser to travel to Toronto to attend a meeting with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding First Nations Billing on April 22, 2004"

**CARRIED**

K. Streich-Poser commented that the meeting with the Ministry of Health took place as a result of our Business Case submission and that the MOHLTC is looking at reformatting their funding as a result. L. McCoy met with J. Cruickshank and progress is being made regarding First Nations funding.

**Resolution #04-072**

Moved By: S. Butland  
Seconded By: L. Madonna

10.4 "Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve Kim Streich-Poser to travel to North Bay to attend the Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario (AMEMSO) Meeting scheduled on June 15 & 16, 2004."

**CARRIED**

**12. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**13. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**14. Correspondence/Information** - See listing of Correspondence provided with meeting material.

**15. Adjournment**

D. Amaroso thanked the City Managers and Staff for their efforts and new ideas. She also provided positive comments regarding the new binders used for the distribution of meeting material.

D. Overboe extended a welcome and thank-you to Ron MacKinnon from the Ministry of Community and Social Services for attending.

**Resolution #04-073**

Moved By: D. Edgar  
Seconded By: S. Butland

15.1 "Be it resolved that we do now adjourn."

**CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.