



# District of Sault Ste. Marie

## Social Services Administration Board

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

### COMMUNITY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes Thursday May 15, 2003

Plummer Boardroom, First Level Civic Centre at 3:30pm

Present: L. Turco, Chair                      D. Amaroso                      P. Mick  
            W. Pickard                              F. Lake                              A. McRae  
            J. Crawford                              K. Streich-Poser              S. French (notes)

Regrets: David Overboe

Lou Turco called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

#### 1. Review of Minutes from the Thursday February 20, 2003 Community Child Care Committee Meeting.

One change made under agenda item 3. The applicants are just looking for subsidy.

#### 2. Early Learning Resources Program Proposal - Children's Rehabilitation Centre, Algoma

Florence led the Committee through the proposal. Currently there are only 35 spaces for children with special needs available.

NCBS dollars have been used since 2000 to fund the Special Needs program. If the current proposal were accepted then the program would no longer be funded under NCBS. These NCBS funds could be used to fund other areas.

If the proposal is approved and funded, staff of the Children's Rehabilitation Centre would have to be laid off and re-hired. Children under the program would enroll for their special needs.

About 6-8 weeks ago Florence attended a meeting with Ron MacKinnon, MCFCS regarding child care surpluses. MCFCS's Northern regional office is inviting us to submit proposals to access surplus funds.

The Committee discussed the different day care fees that are being charged by various providers, fees range from \$2.90 to \$7.00/day. In the 2001 Child Care plan one of the objectives identified was to have the same fee apply at all the Child Care services. To date discussions have been held with the Child Care Providers communicating the direction to have one standard fee. The result of those discussions is that there needs to be an increase in the allocation to the service providers in order for them to be able to adjust the fee.

Florence provided a summary of funding breakdown in the proposal. The cost share identified is contingent upon getting 80% funding from MCFCS. The DSSMSSAB cost would be \$29,000. It was indicated to Florence by the Ministry that the dollars will be annualized and not a one shot deal.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the impact of such a request when the City already asked all groups to identify a 2.5 to 5% reduction. It was suggested that a Staff Committee be formalized to clean up the proposal and make it presentable. We need to be able to justify such a request.

Florence is looking for approval in principal to pursue MCFCS for a commitment for the 80% funding.

Last year the Child Care surplus for DSSMSSAB was \$45,000 and in the past higher than that. In the past those surplus funds have been used to cover Health and Safety costs of various groups but the funds could help cover the \$29,000.

The Committee gave Florence the go ahead to pursue the funding from MCFCS and other local funding partners i.e. school boards.

### **3. New Federal Child Care Funding - Update**

As directed at the last meeting, a letter has been sent to the Minister's office and copied to all political offices in the jurisdiction. We have received letters of support from Tony Martin's office.

### **4. Child Care Service Plan, Service Priorities - Update**

When the plan was prepared in 2001 it was indicated by the Ministry that the plan was to be updated on an annual basis. To date the Ministry has not come back and asked for an update.

### **5. Other Business – None.**

### **6. Schedule Next Meeting - August 21, 2003 at 3:30pm.**

### **7. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.**