



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (FINANCE, PERSONNEL, GOVERNANCE)

MINUTES for Wednesday, February 15th, 2006

Social Housing Boardroom at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

PRESENT:	D. Edgar	P. Mick	D. Amaroso
CITY / DSSAB STAFF:	K. Streich-Poser F. Lake A. Nanne	A. McRae J. Crawford	L. McCoy R. MacLennon
REGRETS:	J. Curran	B. Hayes	
GUEST:	G. Stefanizzi (BDO Dunwoody)		

Call to order by D. Edgar at 12:07 p.m.

DSSMSSAB and SSMHC Audit Planning Letter – Gabe Stefanizzi

G. Stefanizzi from BDO Dunwoody reviewed the SSMHC and DSSMSSAB Audit Planning letters with committee members. The SSMHC Audit plan was discussed first followed by the DSSMSSAB plan.

K. Streich-Poser requested that a management letter be included with the audit package for the various Provincial Ministries and other stakeholders. G. Stefanizzi agreed to provide this documentation.

There were no further questions or comments.

Review of minutes from February 2, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting.

The minutes were reviewed and accepted. There were no questions or comments.

Reports to Executive Committee:

- Ontario Works Addiction Services Initiatives – Early Sites 2005 4th Quarter Report
- Ontario Works – MCSS 2005 4th Quarter Report

- Ontario Works Administration – LSS Staffing and Equipment
MCSS Q4 2005

A. McRae reviewed the reports with committee members. He commented that next year's Ontario Works reports would look distinctly different as a result of the changes to the Ontario Works funding model. A discussion ensued about the upcoming changes to Ontario Works.

Accounts Payable:

DSSMSSAB Accounts Payable:

January 06, 2006 in the amount of \$1,181,653.74
 January 13, 2006 in the amount of \$29,636.84
 January 19, 2006 in the amount of \$22,270.12
 January 26, 2006 in the amount of \$60,162.91
 February 02, 2006 in the amount of \$1,868,211.18

A. McRae provided a summary of Accounts Payable for the committee members to review. Committee members thought that this format simplified and clarified the Accounts for review. It was agreed that in the future the breakdown would be provided for meetings rather than the full cheque register.

SSMHC Accounts Payable:

December 2005 in the amount of \$904,853.01
 January 2006 in the amount of \$284,444.90

J. Crawford reviewed the payables with the committee. D. Edgar noted a spike in the repair costs. He was informed that this was due to the work completed at the end of the year. There were no further questions or comments.

Best Start Phase One Integrated Implementation Plan

Child Care Coordinator F. Lake and Best Start Coordinator R. MacLennan presented the Best Start Implementation Plan to the committee. F. Lake discussed the report and the hub center format proposed. Since this is a 10-year plan it is hoped that more school space will become available for hubs during this time.

The Aboriginal group does not currently support the implementation plan. The committee reviewed a letter sent by this group to the MCYS. The ministry has suggested that we take some time to respond to this negative correspondence. The aboriginal group will be encouraged to remain a part of this process and move forward. At this point the group feels that aboriginal groups should provide aboriginal services and they are not convinced that the implementation plan will carry through with it's promises to provide these services.

K. Streich-Poser noted that it is disconcerting that we are receiving this feedback so late in the process. F. Lake feels that the plan is a valid document and that we need to move forward with it.

With the change in government there is uncertainty regarding the future of the Best Start Program. Beyond March 2007, funding levels are unclear as this program may be scaled down or cancelled completely. We need to determine what projects we want to proceed with as a result of these changes. The Premiers plan to continue to lobby the federal government for support of this program.

D. Edgar suggested that a media and lobby campaign might support this initiative. K. Streich-Poser noted that she and F. Lake have discussed the possibility of creating resolutions for presentation to the DSSMSSAB board to begin the lobby process. They want to ensure that Best Start does not trickle down to a municipally supported program.

Committee members asked what would happen to the capital investments used to create Best Start hubs if federal funding is discontinued in 2007. F. Lake suggested that even if the dollars no longer flowed the spaces (hubs) created in the schools, they could still be used for daycare services. This will still be viewed as an opportunity to improve childcare in our community. D. Amaroso commented that this issue needs to stay in the spotlight to get the attention it deserves.

F. Lake asked if fax poll endorsement or March Board consent would be the best method to get the necessary plan approval. K. Streich-Poser noted that the school board has not yet given their approval and that it would be best to bring this matter forward at the March board meeting.

F. Lake is looking for some guidance from the committee and DSSMSSAB board regarding the continuation of the Best Start planning. All agreed that the Best Start Program should proceed.

UPDATE - Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Statement of Claim

L. McCoy provided an update for committee members. Temiskaming has decided not to join the group defense and intends to issue invoices for their cross border expenses similar to Manitoulin-Sudbury.

Other Business

K. Streich-Poser has received a request from the City Treasurer for a breakdown of the DSSMSSAB budget. This information has now been provided to Mr. Freiburger. A. McRae added that he disclosed his displeasure at the inflation of his DSSMSSAB budget numbers for presentation to City Council.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 16th, 2006
Executive Budget Review

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.