



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

MINUTES Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Korah Boardroom, 3rd Level, Civic Centre at 11:30am

PRESENT: L. Madonna L. Turco V. Burns
CITY STAFF: J. Crawford A. McRae F. Lake
D. Overboe
DSSMSSAB STAFF: K. Streich-Poser A. Nanne (notes)

L. Turco called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. and welcomed L. Madonna and V. Burns to the Child Care Committee. Round-table introductions of committee members and staff were conducted.

The Child Care Committee unanimously agreed to have L. Turco carry on as Child Care Committee Chairperson.

Review of Minutes from the Wednesday, November 19, 2003 Community Child Care Committee Meeting.

The Child Care Committee meeting schedule was reviewed. The Committee meets four (4) times per year.

A number of items from the previous minutes will be discussed and clarified during the meeting. L. Madonna asked about the Health and Safety funds discussed in the minutes. F. Lake offered an explanation of the Health and Safety needs of the various Daycare Centres.

L. Madonna made the motion to accept November 19, 2003 Community Child Care Committee Meeting minutes.

Carried

Review Child Care Program

F. Lake provided Committee members with an information binder regarding the Child Care Program. She discussed the Program and reviewed the information provided.

Items discussed included:

- ◆ Terms of Reference
- ◆ Child Care Service contract agreement between the DSSMSSAB and MCSS and the expenditure reporting structure
- ◆ Child Care Service Plan
- ◆ Business Practice Guidelines

D. Overboe talked about the costs of the administration of programs. He noted that by eliminating jobs and the costs associated with those positions this would ultimately eliminate funding received from MCSS as well. This therefore would not have an affect on the City's budget at all. D. Overboe explained the way that the City delivers the services for the DSSMSSAB, Sault North and Prince Township as well as the fact that each may not have direct access to daycare centres but the service is still available for residents.

An article will be published in the Sault Star regarding a study conducted by the Algoma Health Unit. This piece will provide some insight into the profile of the children in our community currently using our daycare system. L. Turco inquired about the information in the report and was informed that this is a new survey.

V. Burns asked for clarification as to when the Algoma Health Unit story will be in the Sault Star. D. Overboe noted that there will a press conference on Friday therefore the story should be run on Saturday.

F. Lake provided a daycare directory for the committee members and she outlined the centres that do not receive funding from DSSMSSAB.

K. Streich-Poser and F. Lake suggested that the next Child Care Committee meeting be held at one of the day care centres.

Pay Equity - Update (proxy pay equity)

Pay Equity for workers in the day care centres has been an issue for quite some time now. F. Lake spoke to this issue and provided some background. The Liberal Governments has decided to honour the agreement of the previous government to provide retro pay to child care workers from 1998 to present. This pay is intended to be 100% funded by the Provincial Government and at no expense to DSSMSSAB. Beyond 2004 however, we are not sure if the cost will be shared 80/20, which could increase costs for the DSSMSSAB in the future.

Health & Safety - Update

- New Funding

F. Lake provided a hand out with information about the Health and Safety funding and included lists of providers and different funds allocated for Health and Safety. F. Lake has asked providers to come forward with "real needs" requests for funding in order to provide Health and Safety funding to each provided as needed.

An additional \$553,000 is now available in funding between Pay Equity and Health and Safety - mostly all at 100% provincial funding. A. McRae noted that we have not actually received the all of the funds and that most is still in transition.

Children's Rehabilitation Centre / Special Need Proposal - Update

F. Lake spoke to the matter and noted that in order to accept a special needs child daycare providers require additional staff. The community wants to "pool" staff into one facility for this purpose. This would create four (4) new full-time and .6 part-time positions. Extra funding that would be required for the entire process is \$267,790 with \$53,558 being the municipal portion. F. Lake would like to use National Benefit or Enhancement Fund to pay for this project rather than the DSSMSSAB.

D. Overboe mentioned that the downside is that DSSMSSAB will eventually have to provide their 20% of this project although this would not happen for a couple of years. He feels that the Provincial Government is committed to the project but wants everyone to be aware that 2 years or so down the road that changes could happen and wanted to issue a possible warning regarding the future and funding.

L. Turco noted the secondary benefit of job creation but is more concerned with the need for this program. F. Lake informed the Committee that she want to continue to keep the Committee and Board members informed and aware of these matters.

Other Business

K. Streich-Poser brought to the Committee's attention that at a recent phone conference comments were made by a MCSS manager that there will be more Child Care funding coming into the community in the future. She noted however, that any new funds that come provincially would require our 20% of the cost sharing.

Schedule Next Meeting – May 2004

The next Child Care Committee meeting will be held at the Dacey Road Daycare Centre on Monday May 3rd at Noon.

1. Adjournment

L. Turco adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.