



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE COMMITTEE
Minutes Wednesday, November 19, 2003
Thompson Boardroom, 3rd Level, Civic Centre at 10:30am

PRESENT:	P. Mick	W. Pickard	
CITY STAFF:	F. Lake	A. McRae	
DSSMSSAB Staff:	K. Streich-Poser	A. Nanne (notes)	
REGRETS:	L. Turco	D. Amaroso	D. Overboe

- **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Pat Mick at 10:35 p.m.

- **Review of Minutes:**

The minutes from the Thursday, August 21, 2003 Community Child Care Committee Meeting were reviewed. Wayne Pickard moved to accept the minutes and the committee agreed.

- **Pay Equity:**

Florence Lake provided the committee with a written report.

She currently has no new information on what the Ministry intends to do regarding payment for Pay Equity. The Provincial Government has until March 31st 2004 before a decision must be made. The financial impact for DSSMSSAB is approximately \$100,000. It is anticipated that the province will cost share 80/20, with \$20,000 (or 20%) downloaded to DSSMSSAB. Florence does not anticipate that the cost sharing percentage will change.

Pat Mick asked if we should make a plea to the Liberal government on this issue to insure that cost sharing at 80/20 does not change. Florence does not think that the Liberal Government will backtrack on the Progressive Conservative Pay Equity commitment.

Andy commented that if Government does not change our "pay envelope" the retro payment would affect current and future funds. It was suggested that it

might be best for us to wait and see what the government proposal is before taking any action.

Reorganization of the Government Ministries may also affect the transition of these events. The Ministry of Children and Families has already been changed. It is now the Ministry of Community and Social Services. A new Children's Service Ministry has been established. Child Care will likely fall under that new Ministry.

- **Health & Safety – Update:**

Health and Safety requests from the Service Providers was approximately \$123,000. It was also noted that most health and safety expenses are the result of licensing reviews and recommendations to providers for safety issues. These requests exceeded the amount that will be available from the child care surplus.

Florence would like to ask the Board for approval of \$59,270 in additional health and safety funds. The Ministry requires approval of the Board in order to process these funds. The next Board meeting on December 19th 2003. Given that these funds need to be spent by December 31, 2003, a fax phone poll was recommended. Andy McRae mentioned that next year will be a tough year for the city budget and it may be best to acquire the additional funds now for additional health and safety funding. The fax poll will be carried out with the results forwarded to Ron MacKinnon.

- **Children's Rehabilitation Centre / Special Need Proposal**

Florence advised the committee that she has discussed the Children's Rehabilitation Centre and Special Needs Proposal with Ron MacKinnon. She told him that she would like to see funding available from Community Child Care as opposed to the NCBS funding stream. Ron suggested that he might consider using the Ontario Works Child Care surplus funds for this purpose. Florence doesn't see the short-term release of any new Government funds right now. Kim indicated that if they do provide new funds we would need to be aware of the fact that it would result in the DSSMSSAB having to increase it's Child Care Budget to contribute an additional 20% of any new funding.

- **Full Day Kindergarten**

When the committee met in August it was unclear what effects ADSB Full Day Kindergarten would have on the Child Care providers. It now appears that only Rainbow Place Preschool suffered a negative effect from this change. Many programs re-licensed to accept more younger children. There seems to be an increased need for before and after school programs and the providers are trying to adjust to this need.

Pat asked about the development of capacity for daycare for shift workers. Florence agreed that this is a great idea but commented that it is currently difficult to be aggressive with new initiatives and programs when there is no new funding and current funding is being utilized to it's full extent.

- **Rainbow Place - Closure Strategy**

The Rainbow Place Preschool closed on October 31, 2003. Florence has never had to deal with the closure of a service provider before and it has been a learning experience.

Rainbow Place needs to dispose of all assets in a way that meets Community Child Care approval. Many of the assets have been transferred to other programs. Prince Township claimed the large climber and some of the other larger assets such as the fridge, toys and chain link fence have been removed and stored for future use. Funds generated from the sale of assets will be used to cover closure expenses such as severance pay.

Child Care Algoma assisted with cleaning up of Rainbow Place and it's closure. Whatever funds they don't use for November and December will be reimbursed to local Child Care. Florence expects that this amount could be as much as \$10,000.

The \$63,197 annual amount allotted for Rainbow Place will now be available for other uses next year. Florence said that these funds will be put to good use. If put into use for new child care spaces at other centres, it may re-generate the lost jobs from Rainbow Place. Kim mentioned that it could be used to develop capacity to address the need for child care for shift-workers.

- **Other Business**

There was no other business discussed at this meeting.

- **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at Noon.

- **Adjournment**

Pat Mick adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.