Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

AGENDA

DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Zoom Video Conference

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #21-027
Moved By: D. Edgar
Seconded By: M. Bruni

2.1 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Agenda for April 15, 2021** District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting be approved as presented."

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution #21-028
Moved By: J. Gawne
Seconded By: K. Lamming

4.1 "**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **March 18, 2021** be adopted as recorded."

5. PRESENTATION – Melissa Ceglie, Manager Community Services

Low Income Affordable Housing Initiative
London Street Project

6. MANAGERS REPORTS

CORPORATE SERVICES

Resolution #21-029
Moved By: C. Gardi
Seconded By: M. Bruni

6.1. **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Finance Committee report of the Director of Corporate Services;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB establish a Finance Committee as outlined in the report."

HOUSING

Resolution #21-030
Moved By: M. Bruni
Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

6.2 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Steelton Transitional Bed Funding Report of the Director of Housing Services;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB allocate Social Services Relief Fund 3 (SSRF3) administration funds in the amount of $41,956.62 and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) 2020/21 administration funds of $32,581, for a total of $74,537.62, to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) for use towards the construction of eight (8) transition beds within the former Steelton Centre."

Resolution #21-031
Moved By: J. Gawne
Seconded By: D. Edgar

6.3 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Additional Funding from Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund Report of the Director of Housing Services and transfer up to $110,000 from the Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) for the purposes of funding the balance of expenses required to complete the renovations to the former Steelton Centre."

Resolution #21-032
Moved By: M. Bruni
Seconded By: M. Scott

6.4 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement Report of the Director of Housing Services and enter into a Contribution Agreement (CA) with La Co-operative d'Habitation la Chaumiere Inc. in the amount of $111,108.90 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows."

Resolution #21-033
Moved By: C. Gardi
Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

6.5 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement report of the Director of Housing Services and enter into a Contribution Agreement (CA) with Vesta Co-operative Homes Inc. in the amount of $167,498.75 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows."

Resolution #21-034
Moved By: M. Scott
Seconded By: J. Gawne

6.6 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement report of the Director of Housing Services and enter into a Contribution Agreement (CA) with Orion Co-operative Housing Corp. in the amount of $147,343.40 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows."

ONTARIO WORKS

Resolution #21-035
Moved By: D. Edgar
Seconded By: C. Gardi

6.7 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 Housing Stability Bank report of the Director of Income and Employment Supports as information."

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Resolution #21-036
Moved By: M. Bruni
Seconded By: K. Lamming

6.8 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 PeerConnect App report of the Chief of Paramedic Services as information."

EARLY YEARS

Resolution #21-037
Moved By: M. Scott
Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

6.9 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 15, 2021 St. Paul Before and After School Program report of the Director of Early Years Services as information."

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Correspondence dated March 30, 2021 from Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, advising the DSSMSSAB of additional one time Covid funding for the Garden River EMS Base.

7.2 Correspondence dated March 30, 2021 from Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, advising the DSSMSSAB of additional one time Covid funding for Paramedic Services.

8. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #21-038
Moved By: M. Scott
Seconded By: C. Gardi

9.1 "**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we do now adjourn."

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:30 PM

Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

MINUTES

DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 4:30 PM
Zoom Video Conference

PRESENT:	L. Dufour	J. Gawne	K. Lamming
	D. Hilsinger	C. Gardi	M. Bruni
	D. Edgar	M. Scott	
STAFF:	M. Nadeau	D. Petersson	S. Ford
	J. Barban	R. Rushworth	A. Kohler

1. CALL TO ORDER at 4:34 PM by Luke Dufour, Board Chair

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #21-019
Moved By: J. Gawne
Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

2.1 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Agenda for March 18, 2021** District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting be approved as presented."
CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
NONE

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution #21-020
Moved By: D. Edgar
Seconded By: K. Lamming

4.1 "**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **February 18, 2021** be adopted as recorded."
CARRIED

5. MANAGER REPORTS

HOUSING

Resolution #21-021
Moved By: M. Bruni
Seconded By: C. Gardi

5.1 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the March 18, 2021 Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan report of the Director of Housing Services and approve the investment plan for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 as outlined in the report."
CARRIED

Resolution #21-022
Moved By: J. Gawne
Seconded By: D. Edgar

5.2 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the March 18, 2021 Additional Funding for Transition Beds at Steelton Centre Report of the Director of Housing Services and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB approve funds totaling $23,479 be allocated to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) for use towards the construction of the transition beds within the Steelton Centre."
CARRIED

ONTARIO WORKS

Resolution #21-023
Moved By: D. Hilsinger
Seconded By: M. Scott

5.3 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the March 18, 2021 Ontario Works program transformational changes report of the Director of Income and Employment Supports as information."
CARRIED

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Resolution #21-024
Moved By: M. Bruni
Seconded By: K. Lamming

5.4 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the Additional Ambulance Deployment Resources Report of the Chief of Paramedic Services as information."
CARRIED

Resolution #21-025
Moved By: M. Scott
Seconded By: D. Edgar

5.5 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the March 18, 2021 Paramedics and Community Vaccinations update report of the Chief of Paramedic Services as information."
CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Correspondence received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, dated March 10, 2021 outlining Phase 3 of the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF)

7. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #21-026
Moved By: D. Edgar
Seconded By: K. Lamming

8.1 "**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we do now adjourn."
CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:30 PM

Social Services Affordable Home Ownership Program

Supported by Building Maintenance & Construction Program

Here to help.

House Renovation Complete

The Affordable Home Ownership Program has reached a milestone!

At the beginning of April 2021, Ontario Works participants in the Building Maintenance & Construction (BMC) training program along with Social Services support staff, completed the first house for this innovative initiative.

This success is truly the result of a collaborative team approach!

48 London Street

BEFORE

- Original program start date was March 2020
- Due to COVID-19, actual start date was July 6 2020

48 London Street

AFTER

- First home renovation completed April 2021
- Team has now started renovations at 222 Brown Street

Before and After

Exterior

New Kitchen

Main Level

A Collaborative Team Approach

Staff and Partner Roles and Responsibilities

Department or Organization	Main Role
Housing Services	Purchase of homes, Project coordination and maintenance
Ontario Works	BMC training program oversight, participant recruitment and support
Early Years	Connect program participants to child care support and programs
Sault College	Delivery of BMC training program

Here to help.

Questions?

Home Renovation Questions: Denis Rooney, Infrastructure & Asset Manager – Housing Services

Building Maintenance and Construction Program Questions: Melissa Ceglie, Innovation Services Manager – Community Services

Here to help.

Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: David Petersson

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Establishment of DSSMSSAB Finance Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) approve the establishment of a Finance Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The role of a Finance Committee is primarily to provide enhanced financial oversight for the organization. This includes typical tasks such as budgeting, financial reporting, review of annual audit and other financial related items as determined.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The Finance Committee would meet on a quarterly basis (or as required) and consist of up to four Board Members, CEO, Director of Corporate Services as well as other DSSMSSAB staff as required. While not an exhaustive list, areas to be included in these meetings would be:

- Recommend the presentation of the draft annual operating budget to the board of directors
- Monitor adherence to the budget and monitor asset portfolio performance
- Set long-range financial goals along with funding strategies to achieve them
- Present and monitor all financial goals and proposals to the board of directors for approval

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Establishment of a Finance Committee would add an additional layer of oversight and ensures alignment with the three pillars of the Strategic Plan, that being Organizational Excellence, Service Delivery, and Community Partnerships.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no financial implications for the DSSMSSAB.

CONCLUSION
The presence of a fully engaged Finance Committee is a strong indication that an organization is committed to good stewardship and is actively building and preserving the financial resources necessary to support the accomplishment of its mission, both for the short and the long term.

Respectfully submitted,

David Petersson
Director of Corporate Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Additional Funding for Transition Beds for Steelton Centre

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the DSSMSSAB provide the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) with $41,956.62 from Social Services Relief Fund 3 (SSRF3) administration funds and $32,581 from Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) 2020/21 administration funds to be used in the construction of eight (8) transition beds within the former Steelton Centre. The combined total of these administration funds is $74,537.62.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The administrative funds will be bundled with the additional Government of Canada funding provided through the Reaching Home program to increase the supply of transitional beds locally and better support individuals experiencing homelessness awaiting for permanent housing; of which $ 169,328.52 the board has allocated towards the construction of transitional housing.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

Sault Ste. Marie has experienced the loss of several rooming houses creating a shortage of inexpensive housing for many low-income individuals within the community. These housing losses are a result of fire, and/or closure (Studio 10 and Rednecks Saloon).

Housing and homelessness systems rely on short-term transitional housing for individuals waiting for permanent homes. Allocating this funding will assist in covering increased construction costs of the eight (8) transitional units in the Steelton Centre due to fire separation requirements within the building code for this type of unit.

Discussions with the contractor who submitted the lowest bid resulted in a total cost estimate of the work being $459,133.00, which includes a contingency amount of $21,676.68 controlled by the SSMHC if any unforeseen costs arise (tender plus contingency).

The following funds have been secured by the SSMHC to date:

Source	Contribution
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Admin) 2021-2022	*$ 31,962.92 *
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Admin) 2020-2021	$ 32,581.00
Reaching Home	$ 169,328.52
Social Services Relief Fund (II) (Admin)	$ 10,308.00
Mental Health & Addictions Funding (Admin)	$ 13,171.00
Social Services Relief Fund (III)	$ 49,999.00
Social Services Relief Fund (Admin)	*$ 41,956.62 *
Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund	$110,000.00 **
Total	**$459,307.06**

** Recommended in this report*
*** Recommended by Management in Other Report*

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT
The additional funds will align with the pillar of Service Delivery. The funds will be used by the SSMHC to offset local COVID-19 related expenses and allow Social Services and its community partners to provide service excellence and continue community awareness.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There will be no increase to the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) levy as all funds requested are a re-allocation of administration dollars received from provincial funding.

CONCLUSION

The construction of safe affordable transition beds are vital to the housing and homelessness plan for the DSSMSSAB to provide the necessary short term housing required for women who are homelessness awaiting a permanent home.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barban
Director Housing Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

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Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Additional Funding from Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund for Transition Beds for Steelton Centre

RECOMMENDATION

Housing Services recommends the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) transfer up to $110,000.00 from the Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) for the purposes of funding the balance of expenses required to complete the renovations to the Steelton Centre.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sault Ste. Marie has experienced a shortage of rooming houses, which has resulted in a shortage of inexpensive housing options for many low-income individuals. The shortage is a direct result of recent fire, closure, etc. Model housing and homelessness systems rely on the supply of short-term transitional housing options for individuals while they await a permanent housing solution.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

SSMHC has worked with a design team to meet all standard requirements with a goal to achieve the best possible price to complete the work. Discussions with the contractor who submitted the lowest bid resulted in a total cost estimate of the work being $459,133.00, which includes a contingency amount of $21,676.68 controlled by the SSMHC if any unforeseen costs arise (tender plus contingency).

The following funds have been secured by the SSMHC to date:

Source	Contribution
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Admin) 2021-2022	$ 31,962.92 **
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Admin) 2020-2021	$ 32,581.00
Reaching Home	$ 169,328.52
Social Services Relief Fund (II) (Admin)	$ 10,308.00
Mental Health & Addictions Funding (Admin)	$ 13,171.00
Social Services Relief Fund (III)	$ 49,999.00
Social Services Relief Fund (Admin)	$ 41,956.62 **
Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund	*$110,000 **
Total	**$459,307.06**

** Recommended in this report*
*** Recommended by Management in Other Report*

The Ontario Renovates Revolving Fund (ORRF) consists of funds that are received by the DSSMSSAB when past program participants sell their home or no longer meet eligibility requirements of the program prior to their forgivable loan period being fully expensed.

The remaining balance owed is repaid to the DSSMSSAB. The revolving fund is currently utilized for homeowner emergency repairs and/or social housing providers who require funding for repairs and/or development of affordable housing.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT
The transfer of the Ontario Renovates Revolving funds to SSMHC will align with the pillar of Service Delivery. Funds will be used by the SSMHC to offset local COVID-19 related expenses and allow Social Services and its community partners to provide service excellence and continue community awareness.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There will be no increase to the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) levy as all funds requested are funds already received from the Province of Ontario. The ORRF currently totals $483,428, which will leave $373,428 in that fund.

CONCLUSION

The transfer of funds will allow for construction of safe, affordable transition beds. This facility is vital to support the DSSMSSAB's housing and homelessness plan by being able to provide the necessary short term housing required for women who are homelessness awaiting a permanent home.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barban
Director Housing Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Administrative Officer

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Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) enter into a Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Contribution Agreement (CA) with La Co-operative d'Habitation la Chaumiere Inc. in the amount of $111,108.90 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Funding through COCHI represents a re-investment of Federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. These funds provide an opportunity for Service Managers and Community Housing Providers to address the challenges associated with the housing projects reaching the end of operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

In early 2021, Housing Services issued a group window tender for local housing providers in order to achieve the best possible price. La Co-operative d'Habitation la Chaumiere Inc. would like to proceed with this project. Housing Services will provide inspection and contract management services to La Co-operative d'Habitation la Chaumiere Inc. to help reduce the housing provider's costs. All 25 townhouses operated by La Co-operative d'Habitation la Chaumiere Inc. will have their windows upgraded. The CA will provide a loan to the Housing Provider stipulating a requirement to retain affordable units over the next 20 years. This will also assist with reducing energy consumption, and ultimately costs, for tenants and the CO-OP.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The tendering and project management of the installation of new windows for the Housing Provider aligns with the strategy of Innovation. COCHI funding will ensure community-housing remains sustainable within the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no net financial implications to the DSSMSSAB as COCHI is fully funded by the Province of Ontario.

CONCLUSION

COCHI funding provides an opportunity to support Community Housing providers whose original program arrangements approaching end of term. Funding disbursed will assist Housing Providers to work towards becoming a sustainable operation in order to protect affordability support for tenants.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barban
Director Housing Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

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Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) enter into a Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Contribution Agreement (CA) with Vesta Co-operative Homes Inc. in the amount of $167,498.75 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Funding through COCHI represents a re-investment of Federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. These funds provide an opportunity for Service Managers and Community Housing Providers to address the challenges associated with the housing projects reaching the end of operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

In early 2021, Housing Services issued a group window tender for local housing providers in order to achieve the best possible price. Vesta Co-Operative Homes Inc. would like to proceed with this project. Housing Services will provide inspection and contract management services to Vesta Co-Operative Homes Inc. to help reduce the housing provider's costs. All 40 townhouses operated by Vesta Co-Operative Homes will have their windows upgraded. The CA will provide a loan to the Housing Provider stipulating a requirement to retain affordable units over the next 20 years. This will also assist with reducing energy consumption, and ultimately costs, for tenants and the CO-OP.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The tendering and project management of the installation of new windows for the Housing Provider aligns with the strategy of **Innovation**. Housing Services resources and COCHI funding will ensure community-housing remains sustainable within the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no net financial implications to the DSSMSSAB as COCHI is fully funded by the Province of Ontario.

CONCLUSION

COCHI funding provides an opportunity to support Community Housing providers whose original program arrangements approaching end of term. Funding disbursed will assist Housing Providers to work towards becoming a sustainable operation in order to protect affordability support for tenants.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barban
Director Housing Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

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Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Transfer Payment Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) enter into a Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Contribution Agreement (CA) with Orion Co-operative Housing Corp. in the amount of $147,343.40 for the sole purpose of purchase and installation of replacement windows.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Funding through COCHI represents a re-investment of Federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. These funds provide an opportunity for Service Managers and Community Housing Providers to address the challenges associated with the housing projects reaching the end of operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

In early 2021, Housing Services issued a group window tender for local housing providers in order to achieve the best possible price. Orion Co-operative Housing Corp. would like to proceed with this project. Housing Services will provide inspection and contract management services to Orion Co-operative Housing Corp. to help reduce the housing provider's costs. All 40 townhouses operated by Orion Co-Operative Homes Corp. will have their windows upgraded. The CA will provide a loan to the Housing Provider stipulating a requirement to retain affordable units over the next 20 years.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The tendering and project management of the installation of new windows for the Housing Provider aligns with the strategy of Innovation. Housing Services resources and COCHI funding will ensure community-housing remains sustainable within the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no net financial implications to the DSSMSSAB as COCHI is fully funded by the Province of Ontario.

CONCLUSION

COCHI funding provides an opportunity to support Community Housing providers whose original program arrangements approaching end of term. Funding disbursed will assist Housing Providers to work towards becoming a sustainable operation in order to protect affordability support for tenants.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barban
Director Housing Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Administrative Officer

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Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Alison Kohler

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Repositioning of the Housing Stability Bank (HSB)

RECOMMENDATION

To provide a report for informational purposes on the repositioning of the Housing Stability Benefit (HSB), as well as provide information on the Emergency Assistance Benefit of Ontario Works.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Housing Stability Benefit (HSB) is funded by the DSSMSSAB through provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding. As of April 1, Ontario Works has assumed direct responsibility for the intake and administrative aspects of all aspects of the Housing Stability Benefit (HSB). Prior to this, Ontario Works was responsible for issuing HSB for Ontario Works recipients and the Community Assistance Trust program (CAT) executed these duties for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and for the general public. The restructuring is intended to enhance the client centred approach in addition to improving operational efficiency by creating one portal for all persons needing emergency housing supports and other financial assistance. It also amalgamates funding and allows the DSSMSSAB to redirect CHPI funding to the shelter system.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The objective of this repositioning is to improve service to the community through simplification. Individuals in need of assistance to maintain their housing may request assistance through the HSB for rental arrears, utility arrears, or to help to secure housing via first and/or last month rent. This program is means tested and this assistance is offered to be utilized once in a 24-month period unless exceptional circumstances arise.

Income eligibility limits are provided below:

# People in Household	Level
1	$33,000
2	$39,500
3	$43,500
4+	$59,500

Ontario Works continues to provide an Emergency Assistance Benefit for those individuals who are not in receipt of Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program. This short-term financial benefit assists with crisis or emergency situations.

The repositioning of the HSB is to assist in the progression of life stabilization efforts as outlined and envisioned by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). In taking responsibility for the program, it will provide an increased linkage with the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to enhance their efforts in this objective as well. The overall goal of this repositioning is to provide financial assistance in addition to intensive case management activities to help stabilize housing and the individuals or family's finances.

The pandemic has fundamentally altered the environment for this particular program in that in the last year there was a special provision that precluded people from being evicted and or disconnected from utilities. These provisions will come to an end and it is expected that it will create an unprecedented demand for this program. Previous years budgetary allocations and statistics will not reflect this new concern and therefore the program/process will remain fluid.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT
This reposition enhances the person-centred approach by decreasing administrative steps for the community to access. One portal of assistance streamlines the process and enhances service delivery.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There is no net municipal financial impacts. The provincial government, under the CHPI, provides funding for this program.

CONCLUSION

Integrating the HSB with Ontario Works offers a simplified and holistic approach to emergency housing supports. The pandemic has created unprecedented pressures with the cost of living through the downturn of the local economy and through provincial safety shutdowns. Through collaborative efforts with the Homeless Prevention program, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program and other federal and provincial programs, it is expected that these efforts will keep the most vulnerable housed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Kohler
Director Income and Employment Supports

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Robert Rushworth

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Trial of PeerConnect App

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept this report outlining the one year free trial of the PeerConnect app for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division as information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EMS currently has a PEER Support program that involves first responders trained in the delivery of mental health intervention, who provide support to their peers towards the promotion of mental health, resiliency and post-traumatic growth. An alternate web based reporting platform that was initially introduced to the PEER Support team in the past was not user friendly and was therefore not utilized consistently and properly.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The PeerConnect app offers many benefits including 24/7 coverage, peer support and wellness resources in your pocket and the ability to generate usage reports. The host site operates on a security level approved by both the Ministry of Health and the Solicitor General. The app can schedule proactive connections with every medic in the organization for structured mental health and wellness conversations. These proactive conversations capture those who do not actively seek out support, and normalizes mental health conversations, leading to reduced stigma.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Having a user friendly app that connects the PEER Support team with the paramedics will only serve to strengthen the existing program. Resources are primarily focused on employees (paramedics) but the program also provides supports or services available to family members. If the innovative app performs as designed, and is used by the team, it will provide respectful, compassionate guidance supporting their co-workers and peers.

As this is a one year trial, if the product does not meet the needs of the service there is no commitment to enter into an agreement to continue.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no cost to this one year trial of the PeerConnect app. This trial has been funded by the Emergency Health Program Management and Delivery Branch of the Ministry of Health. If the decision is made to continue using this app after the trial, the approximate cost would be $4,000 per year, based on previous discussions with the company.

CONCLUSION

The participation in this one year trial will provide us an opportunity to field test the app to see if it will be of benefit to the paramedics, at no cost to the service.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Rushworth
Chief Paramedic Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board
Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Carla Fairbrother

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: St. Paul Before and After School Program Update

RECOMMENDATION

That the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept this report of the Director of Early Years as information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Late last fall, the Board approved the Early Years Division's proposal to explore directly delivering early years services, especially in light of the closure of Sault College Child Care and the immediate need to take advantage of new and potential opportunities to expand the system and improve quality. The closure of the college program and the loss of over 70 regular and 50 school age spaces has had a significant impact on our system. Although Covid-19 has caused reductions in current demand for service across the service area, economic recovery will necessitate the ability to ramp up licensed spaces quickly and support families who are returning to the workforce. The local Child Care wait list remains at over 1,400 children.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The program at St. Paul school began operating on February 22, 2021, and is directly delivered by Social Services. Enrollment has been slowly increasing and we now meet the sector average of 60% occupancy. As discussed in previous reports, Covid-19 has limited the number of families willing to enroll during such uncertain times. Many families who are working from home, are also continuing to care for their children, especially during before and after school hours.

We have a complement of three new hires (1 FT and 2 PT), two of whom have many years of experience and are Registered Early Childhood Educators. The third staff is a

soon to be graduating student from the local Early Childhood Education program. The St. Paul program falls under the responsibility of the Early Years Manager, who has been approved as the Supervisor of the program, with assistance from the Quality Assurance Coordinator.

The program has been very well received by parents, children and school staff alike. We have already collected testimonials (see below) that are glowing and very inspiring to the staff who are all excellent educators.

Testimonials from caregivers:

Mother of child with unique needs:
"I have to share a story with you. Alex has NEVER played with another child…actually interacting and enjoying it and this weekend he played with my nephew! And I have seen such a huge difference in him since starting the program with you guys! It's been amazing! I can't thank you enough!

Grandfather
"Thanks again for all the pictures. Much appreciated. You guys are great! He always talks about how much fun he has."

Mom
"She tells me she LOVES it there"

Testimonials from the children:

"Lots of things to do here, lots of friends to play with and lots of fun crafts we can make."

"I really like the Hamsters and having lots of art crafts to do."

"This was my best day ever"

Plans are also underway for a full day program for spring break, provided there are no Covid related impacts that might preclude this.

Early Years Division has also worked with Corporate Services to ensure that administrative requirements, such as invoicing of parents and fee collection, are in place and meet the demands of the program.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT
Two main areas of strategic focus are impacted by the delivery of this program. It enables us to demonstrate leadership and excellence and have an impact on the current community shortage of licensed programs and spaces. It also enhances our ability to

have a positive impact on children and families in the community by offering accessible and high quality services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial costs are being monitored carefully in order to ensure sustainability. Currently funding to address Covid related costs is available and can be used to offset costs related to reduced enrollment.

CONCLUSION

Although the program has operated for a short time, many positive comments and impacts have been noted. A waitlist already generated for the fall means the program will be need to be expanded to accommodate the demand. Our goal is to rebuild the capacity to meet the approved license for this location and offer the 56 spaces originally lost.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Fairbrother
Director Early Years Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer

Ministry of Health

Office of the Deputy Premier
and Minister of Health

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Telephone: 416-327-4300
www.ontario.ca/health

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du vice-premier ministre
et ministre de la Santé

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Ontario

March 30, 2021

eApprove-182-2021-154

Mr. Luke Dufour
Chair
The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board
Garden River First Nation Ambulance Service
180 Brock Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 3B7

Dear Mr. Dufour:

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Health will provide The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board for Garden River First Nation Ambulance Service up to $19,859 in additional one-time funding for the 2020-2021 funding year to support paramedic services and dispatch centres as part of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) response in the emergency health services sector.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of Emergency Health Services will write to The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board for Garden River First Nation Ambulance Service shortly concerning the terms and conditions governing the funding.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Christine Elliott

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Mr. Mike Nadeau, Chief Administrative Officer, The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board

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eApprove-182-2021-154

March 30, 2021

Mr. Luke Dufour
Chair
The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board
180 Brock Street
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 3B7

Dear Mr. Dufour:

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Health will provide The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board up to $12,177 in additional one-time funding for the 2020 calendar year and up to $88,719 in one-time funding for the 2021 calendar year to support paramedic services and dispatch centres as part of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) response in the emergency health services sector.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of Emergency Health Services will write to The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board shortly concerning the terms and conditions governing the funding.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and commitment to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Christine Elliott

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Mr. Mike Nadeau, Chief Administrative Officer, The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board