



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, May 12, 2022 at 4:30 PM

99 Foster Drive

Russ Ramsey Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #22-038

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

- 2.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Agenda for May 12, 2022** 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 #22-039

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 4.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Minutes** from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **April 21, 2022** be adopted as recorded.”

5. **Presentation – Ian DeJong – OrgCode**

6. **MANAGERS REPORTS**

CORPORATE SERVICES

Resolution #22-040

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: K. Lamming

- 6.1 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the May 12, 2022 2021 Operating Surplus report of the Director of Corporate Services and allocate the final 2021 Operating Surplus in the amount of \$1,638,566 to DSSMSSAB Reserves for use as determined by the Board;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Surplus derived from the Childcare Direct Delivery operations of \$30,712 be directed to the Direct Delivery Operational Reserve Fund for future use as established by the Board at the February 17, 2022 DSSAB Board Meeting. (Resolution #22-012).”

EARLY YEARS SERVICES

Resolution #22-041

Moved By: C. Gardi

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 6.2 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the May 12, 2022 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement report of the Director of Early Years Services as information.”

HOUSING SERVICES

Resolution #22-042

Moved By: D. Hilsinger

Seconded By: D. Edgar

- 6.3 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the May 12, 2022 Wind Down of SSRF Report of the Director of Community Housing and Development as information.”

Resolution #22-043

Moved By: C. Gardi

Seconded By: L. Vezeau-Allen

- 6.4 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now enter into closed session for educational purposes and advice that is subject to solicitor client privilege.”

Resolution #22-044

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: M. Bruni

- 6.5 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now returns to open session.”

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #22-045

Moved By: K. Lamming

Seconded By: C. Gardi

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

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2022 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, April 21, 2022 at 4:30 PM

90 Chapple Avenue

PRESENT: L. Dufour J. Gawne M. Bruni
K. Lamming D. Edgar L. Vezeau-Allen
D. Hilsinger

STAFF: M. Nadeau S. Ford A. Kohler
D. Petersson D. Langevin J. Barban

GUEST: S. Zuppa, SSMIC

ABSENT: C. Gardi

1. CALL TO ORDER by L. Dufour, Board Chair at 4:33 PM
Lisa Vezeau-Allen was welcomed to the DSSMSSAB

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #22-026

Moved By: K. Lamming

Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

2.1 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for April 21, 2022 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 #22-027

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 4.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **March 17, 2022** be adopted as recorded.”

CARRIED

5. MANAGERS REPORTS

EARLY YEARS

Resolution #22-028

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: L. Vezeau-Allen

- 5.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21 2022, Community Report 2022 – Volume 4, of the Director of Early Years Services as information.”

CARRIED

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Resolution #22-029

Moved By: D. Hilsinger

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 5.2 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21, 2022 Fit-2-Sit Program report of the Chief of Paramedic Services as information.”

CARRIED

Resolution #22-030

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: K. Lamming

- 5.3 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21, 2022, 72 Tancred Street Temporary Lease Agreement and 65 Old Garden River Road Lease Renewal Report of the Chief of Paramedic Services;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB enter into a temporary lease agreement with the City of Sault Ste. Marie for space at 72 Tancred Street as detailed in the report and renew the lease agreement at 65 Old Garden River Road (OGRR), with the City of Sault Ste. Marie.”

CARRIED

HOUSING SERVICES

Resolution #22-031

Moved By: D. Hilsinger

Seconded By: D. Edgar

- 5.4 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21, 2022 Safe Voluntary Isolation Site Program (SVISP) 2022 – 23 Extension report of the Director of Community Housing and Development as information.”

CARRIED

Resolution #22-032

Moved By: K. Lamming

Seconded By: J.Gawne

- 5.5 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21, 2022 Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy Incremental funding 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Investment Plan report of the Director of Community Housing and Development and award the 2022-23 Incremental funding of \$388,089.80, and administration funds of \$30,388.20, to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) for the renovation to the former Sacred Heart building located at 721 Wellington St. E, for a total investment of \$418,478.”

CARRIED

Resolution #22-033

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 5.6 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the April 21, 2022 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Investment Plan Report of the Director of Community Housing and Development;

AND FURTHER THAT the DSSMSSAB award the entire 2022-23 OPHI planned fiscal year allocation of \$431,300 and additional administration funds of \$22,700, to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC) by means of an executed Contribution Agreement for the renovation of the former Sacred Heart School located at 721 Wellington St. E.;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB award the planned COCHI 2022-23 fiscal year allocation of \$1,024,843, and additional administration funds of \$53,939, to the SSMHC by the means of an executed Contribution Agreement for various energy retrofits as detailed in the report.”

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION

Resolution #22-034

Moved By: K. Lamming

Seconded By: J. Gawne

- 5.7 **“WHEREAS** Algoma Public Health has advised that the mental health and addictions rates within the region exceed provincial averages;

AND WHEREAS Opioid-Related deaths and hospital usage exceed provincial averages;

AND WHEREAS addictions and substance use has been reported as the single biggest reason for people becoming and/or remaining chronically homeless within the community;

AND WHEREAS, the local chronic homeless population has increased exponentially since the onset of the pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the public has no local treatment options or services available to community members requiring such services and supports;

AND WHEREAS provincial addiction treatment services and supports that exist outside the community have wait times for service;

AND WHEREAS, the provincial government and Sault Area Hospital (SAH) has previously announced plans to renovate and open a new detox and addiction's service facility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board request the provincial government to expedite the plans and required funding to open a local addictions treatment centre to assist community members struggling with addiction.”

CARRIED

Resolution #22-035

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: L. Vezeau-Allen

- 5.8 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now enter into closed session for educational purposes relating to confidential provincial information and advice that is subject to solicitor client privilege.”

CARRIED

Entered into closed session at 5:33 PM

Resolution #22-036

Moved By: D. Edgar

Seconded By: M. Bruni

- 5.9 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now returns to open session.”

CARRIED

Returned to open session at 5:52 PM

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 City of Sault Ste. Marie Resolution 7.8.2 dated March 21, 2022 appointing Lisa Vezeau-Allen to the DSSMSSAB Board

7. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #22-037

Moved By: K. Lamming

Seconded By: D. Hilsinger

8.1 "BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn."

CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 5:53 PM

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022 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



BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: David Petersson

DATE: May 12, 2022

RE: DSSMSSAB 2021 Operating Surplus

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board allocate the final 2021 Operating Surplus in the amount of \$1,638,566 to DSSAB Reserves for use as determined by the Board.

It is further recommended to approve the Surplus derived from the Childcare Direct Delivery operations of \$30,712 to the Direct Delivery Operational Reserve Fund for future use as established by the Board at the February 17, 2022 DSSAB Board Meeting. (Resolution #22-012)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Annually each year at the conclusion of the Audit, Corporate Services presents the final year-end surplus for that year. This is presented to the Board for direction on the use of that amount. This report compares the Year-to-Date Net Revenues and Expenditures in comparison to the Approved Budget for that year.

Additionally, there are variances between the Financial Statement Surplus and the Operating Budget Surplus and include items such as:

1. Accruals for potential future employee entitlements are not considered as they are considered only when paid which does not impact the current year's operations.
2. Purchases of capital assets are reported as expenditures in the year purchased for budget surplus. Depreciation of those assets are reflected on the financials.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

Overall, the DSSMSSAB operations by divisional delivery area resulted in an overall municipal surplus of \$1,638,566. The breakdown, by division, is presented below:

DSSMSSAB			
Surplus Reconciliation			
		Surplus (Deficit)	Surplus (Deficit)
<i>Division</i>		31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20
ONTARIO WORKS		342,832.00	603,764.00
COMMUNITY HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT		301,877.00	449,823.00
EARLY YEARS SERVICES		862,127.00	471,381.00
PARAMEDIC SERVICES - LAND		(193,150.00)	86,081.00
PARAMEDIC SERVICES - GRFN		(60,713.00)	205,635.00
INTEREST INCOME		33,193.00	(101,274.00)
		1,286,166.00	1,715,410.00
Restricted Funds (GRFN)		159,250.00	(159,250.00)
P.S. Land - 24 Hour Truck		193,150.00	
		1,638,566.00	1,556,160.00
Final Board Approved Levy		70,400,129.00	69,616,742.00
Percentage of Overall Levy		2.33%	2.24%

Corporate Services

Costs associated with Corporate Services are include three areas: Office of the CEO, Finance, and Human Resources. Overall, Corporate Services ran a surplus of \$113,526 and all costs are allocated among the divisions based on a weighted average of FTE complement and divisional budget allocation.

The surplus that was generated resulted in a combination of many line items. The largest of which included:

- Salaries and Benefits - short term vacancies while recruitment was being done
- Travel - due to COVID - not travel took place in 2021.

Ontario Works

Surplus generated primarily from underspending in the program administration and employment related lines. For program administration, the underspending was mostly in salaries and benefits due to some vacancies as well as underspending in office expenses as most staff worked from home for nine months of the year. The underspending in employment related was due to the difficulty of getting employment programs up and running during COVID restrictions.

Community Housing & Development

Surplus generated from underspend in a combination of budget lines. Program administration in the amount of \$49K with the majority of it relates to travel and training due to COVID. Rent Supplement/Strong Communities amounted to approximately \$88K. Subsidies to Housing Providers constituted \$165K.

Early Years Services

Core Operations - surplus due to COVID (closure periods of January 4th to 8th and April 19th to June 29th). The Ministry did not adjust our allocation in-year as they did in 2020, so this is why the surplus is larger than 2020. This resulted in significant administrative spend savings of \$317K and Core Programming (GOG and Fee Subsidy) of \$340K.

Expansion Planning - savings from non-utilization of Municipal Share of \$205K.

Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance)

The Board approved (Sept 2021) to utilize projected 2021 surplus to operate the 24 Hour Truck Operations commencing October 2021. The cost projection at that time was \$339,525 (3/12ths of the full year operations of \$1,285,100). Actual surplus required at year end amounted to \$193,150 which allowed Division to breakeven for the year.

Paramedic Services (Garden River)

Surplus reporting on in 2020 in the amount of \$205,635. The majority of that related to Ambulance Funding of \$159K that was purchased on 2021 and therefore held in Reserves until purchase made in early 2021. The deficit in 2021 is offset by that prior year funding which has now been utilized. True end of year surplus is \$132,437 which is the net of the 2 amounts.

Childcare Direct Delivery

<u>Location</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
Prince Charles	177,751	177,751	-
St Paul	237,569	206,857	30,712
			30,712

Resolution #22-012 approving the transfer of any year end surplus derived from the Direct Delivery Operations to an Operational Reserve for future use.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The proposed use of the final 2021 surplus is directly connected to the strategic plan and supports both the “Organizational Excellence” and “Service Delivery” pillars of focus. Continued focus on increasing service excellence while building infrastructure to streamline service delivery.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

After reconciling the final 2021 financial results, management is recommending transferring the 2021 surplus to DSSAB Reserves for future use as determined by the Board.

RE: DSSMSSAB 2021 Operating Surplus

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DATE: May 12, 2022

CONCLUSION

Final results for 2021 reflected a surplus of \$1,638,566 for DSSAB operations, and \$30,712 for Direct Delivery operations.

Respectfully submitted,



David Petersson
Director of Corporate Services

Approved by:

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer



Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services

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Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie

Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin



BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Carla Fairbrother

DATE: May 12, 2022

RE: Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On March 28, 2022, a historic \$13.2 billion agreement was reached between the Federal and Provincial governments for a national child care program to support families in Ontario.

By September 2025, Ontario will have average licensed child care fees of \$10/day for existing programs for children 0-5 years of age and families will have access to high quality, and inclusive licensed child care.

The plan contains 5 pillars: Improving affordability, enhancing quality via a strong, qualified workforce, increasing access through the creation of new spaces, supporting inclusion, and responsive data and reporting.

CMSM's/DSSSAB's are key partners in the implementation of this new plan for Child Care.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

There is no doubt that this agreement is welcome news to the Early Years sector. It has long been understood that high quality child care provides a strong foundation for early childhood well-being and development.

Service System Managers will work with the Ministry of Education to enroll existing licensed child care operators in the new program effective April 1, 2022. All programs/providers will have the option to opt out of the new funding and continue to

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receive their regular allocations through existing Service Agreements. Those wishing to opt in must enroll by September 1, 2022 and once approved through Early Years Division must enter into a new agreement with the DSSMSSAB for purposes of this funding. Another window to opt-in will be made available sometime in 2023.

There has also been a clear expectation and regulation change indicating that CMSM/DSSAB's must enter into agreements with existing for-profit operators should they be interested and meet the criteria in place related to finances.

Fee Freeze

Effective March 27, 2022, all licensees/operators were directed by the Province to freeze child care fees in programs providing services to children 5 and under or for children who turn 6 before June (eligible until June 30), unless parents had been previously notified of a pending increase. Those who choose to opt out of the CWELCC will be released from the restriction once confirmation, via a completed opt-out template, is received by the service system manager.

Affordability

Initial rebates to parents, retroactive to April 1, 2022, will start with a 25% reduction (capped at a \$12.00 per day minimum). This will occur following the enrolment of licensed child care/home child care centres into the new program, and through the negotiation of new contracts or addendums to existing service agreements. Parents can expect a second reduction of 25% by the end of December, 2022. Later reductions will occur in September 2024 and September 2025. For some, even the reduced fees will be unaffordable and as a result the Fee Subsidy system will continue.

Increased Access

A second key piece of the plan is related to new child care spaces for children 0-5 by the end of 2026. With 2019 as the base year (since that time 15,000 spaces have been developed) there will be 71,000 additional new spaces provincially, totaling 86,000 added to the system in response to anticipated demand. The Board is aware that we currently have a local waitlist of over 1400 children and are hopeful there will be some opportunity in our community for additional expansion. Early Years Division will be submitting reports to the Province related to expansion opportunities as they are requested.

Quality

In keeping with previous reports, the Board is also aware of the severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators in the community and across the province, which will impact ability for expansion. The third pillar, related to ensuring quality programs through a strong qualified workforce, is addressed through an immediate minimum base wage of \$18.00 for Registered Early Childhood Educators and \$20.00 an hour for Supervisors (after Wage Enhancement calculations). Beginning in January of 2023 and ending in January 2026 a \$1.00 an hour per year increase is available to programs that opt-in. However a \$25.00 per hour wage cap is specified. Only those who are Registered Early Childhood Educators are eligible for the wage floor increases.

In addition, for those Operators who require it, there is an allocation to assist in meeting the new minimum wage requirements of \$15.00 per hour. Non-RECE program staff are eligible for this minimum wage offset.

Throughout the summer the Province plans to consult with the sector to determine further support and development of the workforce. There is concern across the sector that this wage floor will not be enough to mitigate the workforce challenges being experienced in the existing child care system.

Inclusion

The plan is intended to reduce barriers to service and further support the licensed child care needs of low income, Francophone, Indigenous and racialized families and organizations as well as to assist families of children with special needs. Child care inclusion policies and Special Needs Resourcing policies will be reviewed by the province.

Data and Reporting

The Province has committed to enhancing their ability to monitor and evaluate this new implementation and provide more information and transparency with respect to how the licensed child care system is responding to the needs of families in Ontario. They will use data and reporting to ensure accountability to parents, families and the federal government and make improvements to the system to better support children and families.

Currently Early Years Division is working on the development of processes for Operators who wish to opt-in or opt-out of the program as well as accompanying guidelines. Review of applications will be conducted as quickly as possible to facilitate the rebate timeline for parents.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Early Years Division will actively partner with the Ministry of Education and local Service Providers to implement the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan in a way that supports the five pillars as well as promotes quality and excellence in the sector.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At this time there are no municipal cost-shared expectations with this new program. In addition, previous administrative reductions have been restored in light of the scope of this new responsibility.

We have recently received the 2022 CWELCC allocation for our service area and it is as follows:

Fee Reduction:	\$2,575,839.00
Workforce Compensation:	\$147,215.00
Administration:	\$125,632.00

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Please note that at this point in time, costing for the delivery of the service has not been conducted internally. With the release of the accompanying guidelines this is currently under review and questions have been submitted to the Ministry for clarification.

The Ministry has also committed to further discussions with Service System Managers on the development of a revised funding formula for 2023. These are expected in the coming months.

CONCLUSION

The Ministry is planning a phased approach to the implementation of the CWELCC program and plans to work closely with service system managers, child care operators and partners as they move forward. As mentioned, consultations are planned for the coming months. Due to the significant workload and reporting demand related associated with the CWELCC we will need to hire an additional team member implement this initiative.

The CWELCC program has the ability to finally ensure licensed child care is truly affordable, accessible, inclusive and high quality for all children and families, as well as to address the serious workforce issues that are necessary for this to happen.

It is a very exciting time to be part of this evolving system.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:



Carla Fairbrother
Director Early Years Services

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer



Social Services

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services

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Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie

Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin



BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Jeff Barban

DATE: May 12, 2022

RE: Wind Down of SSRF and the Effect on the Homelessness System

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) accept the following report as information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The DSSMSSAB's 10 year Housing and Homelessness plan developed in 2015 and the subsequent five (5) year update in 2019 has served as the guiding document for the Housing and Homelessness system in Sault Ste. Marie.

Funding from the Province's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Canada's Reaching Home have been the core source of funding the DSSMSSAB has utilized to support the plan and focus on key strategic areas.

With the onset of COVID-19 in March of 2020, the entire housing and homelessness system was affected and the ability to continue to adhere to the plan and focus areas experienced hindrances.

The DSSMSSAB was fortunate to be allocated special funds under the COVID-19 Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) and Reaching Home (Additional) provided by both levels of government. These funds have been dedicated primarily to the renovations/construction of a new home for Pauline's Place, the temporary home for the Low Barrier Shelter situated at the Verdi Hall (replacing shelter services offered by Vincent Place), and the renovations/construction currently underway for the new men's shelter and transition units situated at the former Sacred Heart school.

The funds also allowed the DSSMSSAB to increase supports to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The chart outlines the supportive housing positions that have been funded as a result of the allocated funding:

Supportive Housing Position(s)	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Mental Health Housing Outreach Workers	3 CHPI	4 SSRF 3 CHPI	3 HPP
Indigenous Mental Health Housing Outreach Workers	0	1 SSRF 1 RHI	0
Intensive Housing Based Case Managers	2 CHPI	1 SSRF 2 CHPI	0
UW Harvest Algoma Chef/Food	0	1 SSRF	1 HPP
Indigenous Intensive Housing Based Case Manager	1 RH	1RH	1 RH
Shelter Diversion Workers	1 CHPI	1 SSRF 1 CHPI	0
TOTAL	7	16	5

CHPI = Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (Ontario) (Program transitioned to HPP in 2022/2023)

SSRF = Social Services Relief Funding (Ontario) (Program Ended 2022/2023)

HPP = Homelessness Prevention Program (Ontario)

RH = Reaching Home (Canada)

RHI = Reaching Home Incremental (Canada)

The additional funding received in fiscal 2021/2022 served to provide critical supports in the local housing and homelessness system, which came at a time when our community experienced an increase in the homelessness population as demonstrated by the most recent Point-in-Time (PiT) Count.

The recent PiT count took place in October 2021 and resulted in a sharp increase in the identified homelessness population versus the previous count 2018. For example, the number of individuals who were experiencing homelessness in 2021 was **244**. In 2018, this number was reported at **102**, an increase of **142** individuals. It should also be noted the PiT count in 2021 also counted the hidden homelessness population (ie. couch surfing), which was not included in previous counts.

As of April 1, 2022 the Housing and Homelessness system will return to support levels consistent with levels prior to those seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a reduction of eleven (11) full time positions supporting the system, including two Indigenous mental health workers will no longer be in place. While all of these losses will greatly affect the ability serve our local homelessness populations, the reduction of the Indigenous mental health positions is extremely concerning given the results of the recent PiT Count revealing that **65%** of the local homelessness population identify as Indigenous.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The HPP aligns with the strategic plan pillar of Service Delivery. New HPP funds will be utilized much the same as CHPI to address the local homelessness prevention system and allow for our organization in addition to community partners to provide service excellence and continue community awareness.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no net financial implications to the DSSMSSAB as the aforementioned programs are 100% funded by Ontario.

CONCLUSION

While an increase in funding allocated in HPP over the former CHPI program is much needed, that the ability of the DSSMSSAB to adequately support the homeless population will still see challenges with the wind down of COVID related funds from Ontario and Canada.

In order to serve the high needs of the homelessness population in the community, an effective Low Barrier Shelter (LBS) system with experienced staff is a first step towards ending chronic homelessness.

As the Community Housing and Development team works towards reaching this goal, fewer funds are available for community support positions due to many funding contracts coming to a close in 2022. These funds were vital in helping individuals experiencing homelessness to find and retain housing.

Therefore, in order for the DSSMSSAB to make strides in ending chronic homelessness in Sault Ste. Marie, the DSSMSSAB must investigate all methods available to secure additional funds to ensure the proper community supports are in place to support the goals set out in the 10 Year housing and Homelessness plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:



Jeff Barban
Director of Community Housing & Development

Mike Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer