



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday January 24, 2022
9:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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13. Next Meeting – February 28th, 2022

Contact Information

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

9:30 a.m.

Monday, November 22, 2021

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Councillor Tony Dalimonte (Chair) Councillor Bernie Corbett, Councillor Ryan Taylor, Councillor Stewart Patterson, Councillor Chris Van Paassen, Councillor Kim Huffman,

Also Present: Heidi Van Dyk-Ellis, Lori Friesen, Stephanie Rice, Stephanie Pongracz, Dr. Matt Strauss, Christina Lounsbury (Recorder)

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

2. Additions to Agenda

None

3. Presentations/Deputations

None

4. Adoption/Correction of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

A. Health and Social Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 25, 2021.

The minutes of the Health and Social Services Advisory Committee meeting dated October 25, 2021, having been distributed to all Committee Members and there being no errors reported, they were there upon declared adopted and signed by Chair Dalimonte.

Mover: Councillor Corbett
Secunder: Councillor Van Paassen

Carried.

5. Update on Reports

A. From the October 25, 2021 Meeting

Heidy VanDyk-Ellis, Acting General Manager, advised that all reports from the October 25, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting were approved at council as presented.

6. Consent Items

7. Staff Reports / Discussion Items

7.1 General Manager

7.2 Public Health

A. Acting Medical Officer of Health –Verbal Update

7.3 Social Services and Housing

B. Staff Report HSS 21-23

Re: Update 10 Year Housing Plan 2020-2030:
Addendum Report Financial Aspects and Impacts of Actions

Mover: Councillor Van Paassen

Seconder: Councillor Huffman

Carried.

C. Staff Report HSS 21-24

Re: 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan
Year 6 report 2020

Mover: Councillor Taylor

Seconder: Councillor Corbett

Carried.

D. Staff Report HSS 21-25

Re: Community Safety and Well Being Plan

Mover: Councillor Corbett

Seconder: Councillor Taylor

Carried.

E. Staff Report HSS 21-26

Re: Alternate Average Market Rents – AAMR

Carried.

Mover: Councillor Corbett

Seconder: Councillor Van Paassen

7.4 Quality, Planning, Accountability and Performance

8. Sub-Committee Reports

9. Communications

10. Other Business

11. Closed Session

- F. Staff Report HSS 21-22
Re: Provincial Child Care & Early Years

Mover: Councillor Taylor
Seconder: Councillor Huffman

Carried.

12. Adjournment

- 13. **Next Meeting** – December 27, 2021 cancelled
Next meeting to resume on January 24, 2022 @ 9:30am

Chair

Secretariat

Advisory Committee Meeting – January 24, 2022

Council-In-Committee – February 15, 2022

Subject: Service Agreement - Home Comforts Childcare
Report Number: HSS 22-01
Division: Health and Social Services
Department: Haldimand Norfolk Social Services and Housing
Purpose: For Decision

Executive Summary:

Home Comforts Childcare is a non-profit child care centre that has been operational in Waterford since February 2021. The centre is licensed for 15 spaces and offers care to infant, toddler and preschool age children. This child care operator does not currently have a service agreement with Norfolk County and, as such, is not able to offer child care fee subsidy to families/caregivers. This precludes some families from accessing licensed child care at Home Comforts due to prohibitive costs. The purpose of this report is to request that Council enter into a service agreement with Home Comforts Childcare.

Discussion:

As the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM), Norfolk County Children's Services team is responsible for the delivery of the Child Care Fee Subsidy program which provides financial assistance with the cost of licensed child care to eligible parents/caregivers who reside within the Counties of Haldimand and Norfolk. The Children's Services team is responsible for, among other things: assessing families for child care fee subsidy and managing service agreements with child care service providers.

A service agreement with Home Comforts Childcare will provide increased choice for parents/caregivers requiring care in Norfolk County. There is a great need for additional child care spaces in Waterford as the only existing child care centre currently has a wait list and does not offer service to infants. The agreement will also support the continued viability of Home Comforts Childcare with the increased access to families that fee subsidy will provide. General operating grant funds to support program costs would be available to the operator, budget permitting.

Having access to affordable child care allows parents/caregivers to work or continue their education. The additional spaces in Waterford will support local families in the pursuit of these goals. Providing fee subsidy to eligible parents within this community will further support lower income families with their goals in the area of education and employment.

Funding is available to support a service agreement with this operator within the existing budget. The funding that will be provided to the licensed child care operators comes from the Ministry of Education and is 100% provincial funding.

Financial Services Comments:

Norfolk

The Approved 2022 Levy Supported Operating Budget includes sufficient financial resources to support the additional provision of Fee Subsidy for Home Comforts Childcare. The fee subsidy program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Education. Should staff become aware of a potential levy requirement within the Child Care Fee Subsidy or General Operating programs, a report will be presented for Council's consideration.

Haldimand

Haldimand Finance staff have reviewed this report and agree with the information provided by Norfolk Financial Services. Future costs over and above the 100% funding envelope would be cost shared based on the applicable cost sharing agreement, and should be ranked and evaluated during the appropriate budget process.

Interdepartmental Implications:

Norfolk

Haldimand

As the CMSM, it is expected that staff will monitor the executed agreement for compliance prior to funding allocations being provided; and that as noted in Norfolk's Finance comments, this program is 100% provincial funding.

Consultation(s):

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Choose an item. "Foster Vibrant, Creative Communities".

Explanation:

The provision of accessible, affordable and high quality child care allows families with children to connect with and fully participate in the community. A service agreement with

Home Comforts Childcare will provide access to licensed child care for families to whom otherwise care would be unaffordable.

Conclusion:

Having agreements in place with licensed child care providers gives parents a choice when they are approved for subsidy. There is currently a great need for additional child care spaces in Norfolk County. The additional 15 spaces that will be offered by this program will assist in meeting the child care needs of parents/caregivers in the Waterford area. Once Council approval is given, Children's Services Team staff will proceed to execute the funding agreement with Home Comforts Childcare.

Recommendation(s) of Health and Social Services Advisory Committee:

Recommendation(s):

THAT Report HSS 22-01, Service Agreement-Home Comforts Childcare be received as information;

AND THAT Council authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to enter into a service agreement with Home Comforts Childcare located at 3 Alice Street, Waterford, for the provision of subsidized licensed child care at the daily rate of \$55 per day per child care space;

AND FURTHER THAT approval is conditional upon submission by Home Comforts Childcare to Norfolk County of verification of adequate liability insurance.

Attachment(s):

Submitted By:
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