

KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee
held on Thursday February 28, 2008
at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden
Commencing at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Joyce Timpson - Acting Chairperson
Ray Leray
Sten Lif, CAO
Dianne Apland, OW/CC Director

ABSENT: Kim Thain - Chair
Toni Thurbide, Director of Finance

GUESTS: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the OW/CC Committee was called to order by the Chair at 9:15 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-03

Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee approves the agenda for a meeting of the Committee to be held Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the Kenora District Services Board Administration office in Dryden commencing at 9:15 a.m.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: None

3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None Declared

4. **DELEGATIONS / DEPUTATIONS**

None at this time

5. **MINUTES OF OW/CC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JANUARY 21, 2008**

MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-04

Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the OW/CC Committee approves the minutes of January 21, 2008 committee meeting as presented.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare Campaign "It's Time for Public Child Care" correspondence was discussed at length. Of particular interest to the Committee members was the legal opinion received by the Coalition in regards to the Province's ability to establish a moratorium to prevent the acquisition and consolidation of a large number of licensed child care centres by private investors. Child Care Centres across the province have recently received letters expressing interest in buying their child care businesses. Plans to consolidate ownership of existing child care centres raise concerns about the compatibility of such a commercial scheme with the requirements of the Day Nursery Act. Under the Day Nursery Act, the province has authority to restrict such acquisition and consolidation, thereby retaining control over future policy direction. If the government fails to restrict foreign investment in the child care sector, the door is open to the application of trade rules that limit the government's future policy and program options. Of particular concern is the NAFTA agreement which accords foreign investors damages where governments impinge on their investment. The government's plan to create full day junior and senior kindergarten could be jeopardized by such a right to litigation.

7. OW/CC PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 7.1 The Committee received a copy of the letter sent to the KDSB dated December 2007, announcing the provincially funded, non-taxable Ontario Child Benefit (OCB). Municipalities are not required to cost share this benefit. As a result of social assistance restructuring there are savings for the municipalities estimated in a further correspondence from the provincial government.
- 7.2 The National Child Benefit Subsidy claw back ends in July 2008. The NCBS savings for the first six months of 2008 were input into the KDSB 2008 budget at \$60,000. The Committee received the provincial government's estimate of 2008-09 Savings from Social Assistance Rate Restructuring as a result of the Ontario Child Benefit (\$40,000 for the Kenora District for the period July 2008 to March 2009). Aware that the NCBS claw back was ending and municipalities were expecting to reap the savings, staff did not include the restructuring savings in the NCBS 2008 budget.

It now appears that the provincial government expected the DSSABs to continue to fund the community initiatives formerly funded by the NCBS savings, from savings accrued through the provincial upload of some of the costs for the Ontario Works program. In essence, the Province expected the KDSB to fund local NCBS initiatives approximately \$120,000 in 2008. The KDSB passed the 2008 budget in November 2007, before the correspondence was received from the Ministry. The KDSB is the only DSSAB/CMSM that staff are aware of to reduce the NCBS allocation for 2008 in this manner. The Ministry has applied pressure through the regional office, expecting KDSB to maintain the former level of funding at 100% municipal dollars. Although it is the Provincial government's desire and expectation that DSSABs/CMSMs continue to fund community initiatives, there is no mechanism in place at this time to force DSSABs/CMSMs to do so. The Committee received the information and will wait for further correspondence from the Province.

- 7.3 The final Consolidated Verification Process report for 2007 was presented.
- 7.4 The Ministry of Community and Social Services letter advising delivery agents that due to the introduction of the OCB, and the goal of the front line offices in prioritizing cases potentially eligible for OCB; the Ministry will not recover any CVP incentive funding if delivery agents do not achieve their 2008 targets so long as their baseline numbers are met.

7.5 The Committee received information that the Red Lake Child Care and Resource Centre project plan to move into Red Lake Madsen School has been cancelled due to a doubling of the projected construction costs.

7.6 A draft of the Purchase of Service Agreement Policy was provided to the Committee.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 The Ontario Works Service Delivery Model Review Implementation Plan was presented to the Committee for discussion. The Human Resources piece was identified as the most significant part of the plan. The Committee agreed that time should be spent ensuring that HR considerations be fully and satisfactorily resolved before a final implementation date can be set. The tentative date for presenting the Implementation Plan to the Board of Directors is the May 8 board meeting.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Resolution to recommend approval of Purchase of Service Policy - **Tabled**

9.2 Resolution to recommend approval of OW Service Delivery Model Implementation Plan - **Tabled**

10. NEXT MEETING - APRIL 24, 2008

11. **Adjournment - 10:55 a.m.**

Approved by Resolution No. OWCC 2008-08

This 24th day of April A.D. 2008

Kim Thain, Chair