



Kenora District Services Board

Ontario Works / Child Care Committee Minutes of the 25.04.2007 Meeting

Attendance: Kim Thain – Chair
Ray Leray, Joyce Timpson, Dianne Aplan, Toni Thurbide, Sten Lif

1. Call to Order: 4:30

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the February 26, 2007 meeting
Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Ray Leray CARRIED

Minutes for the March 23 meeting
Motion to approve the minutes – Joyce Timpson
Seconded – Ray Leray CARRIED

3. Business Arising From Minutes

3.1 Ontario Works Service Delivery Model Review

The most recent proposals submitted by all municipalities and by the KDSB administration regarding the service delivery model currently being used for Ontario Works were distributed to all committee members prior to this meeting. This information was to provide background history for the committee.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services have provided confirmation that they will provide a funding allocation of up to \$50,000 in 2007 for the service delivery model review of Ontario Works. It was made very clear by the Regional Supervisor that should the KDSB not utilize this funding in the current year, the same funding would not be available next year.

The Committee Members strongly believe that the KDSB must move forward and initiate the process for the review. A strong recommendation from the Committee would serve notice that decisions were based on the desire for answers to the questions surrounding the service delivery model. These questions have been in the political arena for over five years, but have not been resolved. While funding is still available, it is imperative that decisions regarding the advertising and releasing of the RFP be made, recommendations made by the committee and those recommendations followed through by the Board of Directors.

The Ontario Works Committee recommends that the KDSB administration be instructed to contact, through various means (advertising, direct contact), consulting agencies, District Social Services Boards, and other entities deemed qualified, to respond to the Request for Proposal.



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4. Employment Plan Implementation

The Director gave an update on the implementation of the Ontario works employment plan. The Employment Trainer/Life Skills Trainer will be on contract with the KDSB as will the Employment Coordinator. The Ontario Works Administrator from Ignace has accepted the position of Employment Coordinator and will begin her new duties on May 15. The City of Kenora is currently posting the employment caseworker position.

5. Correspondence and Overpayments

The Director outlined the Overpayment Initiative recently put forward by the province and its subsequent reversal. The KDSB has been provided \$20,000.00 to implement an overpayments collection process.

The member from Sioux Lookout inquired why the letter from the Mayor of Sioux Lookout to the KDSB and the response was not included in the meeting package. The Director advised it was an oversight and advised she would email the documents to all committee members. A discussion regarding the rent for the Sioux Lookout Ontario works office ensued.

The Director briefly outlined the ongoing training initiatives, the training of back up staff in Red Lake and the impact of certain items in the provincial budget affecting the delivery of Ontario Works.

6. Child Care and Best Start

The Minister of Children and Youth recently announced new funding of \$466,000.00+ for the KDSB.

The Red Lake Child Care Centre is investigating the option of moving into the Red Lake Madsen School.

We are planning a media blitz regarding income testing and child care in June of this year.

Best Start is moving forward with phase two and the integration of services delivered from Hubs.

The Quality Assurance program is on schedule with a great deal of input from the child care centres.

7. Next meeting dates confirmed June 12, 9:00 a.m., July 31 12:30 p.m., September 18 12:30 p.m. and November 6 12:30 p.m.

8. Meeting adjourned 6:12

Minutes approved by Committee on *June 12, 2007*

Moved by: *Joyce Timpson* Seconded by: *Kim Thain*