

KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Ontario Works/Child Care
Committee held on Monday April 20, 2009
at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden
Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Joyce Timpson- Chair
Kim Thain
Ray LeRay
Dianne Apland, OW/CC Director
Sten Lif, Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Toni Thurbide, Director of Finance

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the OW/CC Committee was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-11

Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Ray LeRay

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee approve the agenda *as amended* for a meeting of the Committee to be held on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the Kenora District Services Board Administration office in Dryden commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Delete: Item 8.3 Board Report BR2009-26
Add: Item 8.5 Homelessness

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

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 March 6, 2009**

MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-12

Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Ray LeRay

RESOLVED THAT the OW/CC Committee approve the minutes of the March 6, 2009 Committee meeting as presented.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Letter from Peter Hume, President of Association of Municipalities (AMO)

A copy of a letter was received from Peter Hume, (AMO) to Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), reiterating the municipalities' vested interest in labour force development as a key economic strategy. The letter urges a more consistent and collaborative dialogue across the province with municipal service managers and MTCU during the policy and program development stages of the integrated employment programs.

6.2 Letter from Manitoulin DSSAB re Letter from Peter Hume AMO

A copy of a letter was received from the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board to Honourable John Milloy, supporting AMO President Hume's indication that Ontario's 47 Municipal Service Managers are key stakeholders in local labour force development through their divested responsibility for the delivery and shared funding of Ontario Works Employment Assistance activities and that they should be systemically involved partners at the MTCU's local employment service redesign. The letter was received with a resolution requesting that MTCU partner with Municipalities, CMSM's and Northern Ontario's DSSABs in the Ministry's local employment service redesign efforts.

6.3 Letter from Erin Hannah, Director of Ontario Works, Province of Ontario re ODSP

A letter was received advising that the Ministry's Disability Adjudication Unit (DAU) will start notifying Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients and spouses about medical reviews. The memo advises that those ODSP clients who no longer qualify as a person with a disability under ODSP may apply for Ontario Works if they are in financial need. The Committee discussed the implications of this plan of action in relation to the OW budget in 2009. Given the timelines there may or may not be added pressure on the 2009 budget.

6.4 Response from Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

Premier McGuinty replied regarding the Best Start funding.

7. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dianne provided information to the Committee regarding recent changes in the rules of eligibility for Ontario Works benefits. Discussion ensued regarding whether these and others would affect the OW budget for 2009. The OW caseload is increasing every month due to the economic downturn.

On April 27, the Ontario Works staff will begin working under their new job descriptions and the new model will be fully in place.

There has been no announcement regarding Best Start funding, whether it will be available after March 2010.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 The Committee was provided with an updated Implementation Schedule for the Restructuring of Ontario Works. The renovation of the Kenora OW office is still on hold pending the finalization of a new lease.
- 8.2 Board Report BR2009-25 Best Start Funding is available on the shared drive.
- 8.3 Board Report BR2009-26 Cost of Administration - Ontario Works was deleted from the Agenda.
- 8.4 Proposals for NCB Reinvestment Funding - The Committee reviewed all the proposals submitted. The goal was to try and distribute the funding as equally and fairly as possible between all municipalities who submitted proposals.

The Ontario Works department submitted a proposal to provide back packs, school supplies, new running shoes and a back to school benefit for each child between 4 and 18 whose family was receiving Ontario Works benefits. The proposal was for \$53,000. The Committee approved this proposal and divided the remainder of the funds between the various municipalities who submitted proposals. A schedule of recommended proposals is attached.

- 8.5 The issue of Homelessness was added to the agenda by the Chair. The Chair wished to discuss Homelessness as the Homeless Committee is comprised of the same members as the OW/CC Committee. It was suggested that the Chair of the KDSB, Rory McMillan be invited to the next OW/CC Committee Meeting so that this topic could be discussed further.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-13 Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Kim Thain

Resolved that the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommends that the Board of Directors draft a letter to the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, requesting consideration of representation from the Kenora District Services Board on the Local Employment Service Redesign Tables.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 9.2 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-14 Moved by Kim Thain
Seconded by Ray Leray

Resolved that the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve funding for projects from the National Child Benefit Supplement Reinvestment Fund totaling \$153,000.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

10. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting date tentatively set for June 15 at 10:00 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 11:48 a.m.

Confirmed this 22nd day of June, A.D. 2009

By Resolution No.: OW/CC 2009-16

Joyce Timpson, Chair