



6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Letter from District Municipality of Muskoka re Ontario Works share of ODSP Savings

A copy of a letter was received from the District Municipality of Muskoka regarding Ontario Works Share of ODSP Savings. Several concerns were articulated: Enhancing employment options for ODSP families is a positive endeavour. Employment has many positive social and self-worth benefits for ODSP recipients. Without municipal supports, the potentiality of employment for ODSP recipients will drop off. The initiative was based on identifiable savings and in all likelihood ODSP earnings will be reduced and the savings reduced for both the Province and the Municipalities. The initiative is counter to the wording and the general spirit of the municipal employment role envisioned by the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Model Review. The initiative began with consultation and there should have been consultation regarding ending the initiative. The letter recommends that a Task Group be formed by the province to review the broad issues of ODSP employment.

6.2 Letter from Assistant Deputy Minister's Office, Social Policy Development

A copy of a letter in response to the District Municipality of Muskoka from the Assistant Deputy Minister's office stated that the ODSP cost sharing of Provincial savings was intended to support the development of a streamlined protocol for referring eligible ODSP recipients to Ontario Works employment services. The ministry is providing additional, one-time Cost of Administration (COA) funding in 2009 to help delivery agents transition for the coming year. The Ministry expects that better local employment planning, achieved through the integration of Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program and Employment Ontario will lead to improved employment outcomes for clients and enhanced use of resources.

6.3 Letter from Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services to KDSB Chair

A letter was received advising that while the federal government terminated the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the final payment of \$254 million was spread out over four years, 63.5 million per year. The federal funding will run out on March 31, 2010. The Ministry of Children and Youth are stepping in with a one-time investment of \$18 million to help families maintain their child care arrangements through 2009-10 school year and into the summer. Minister Matthews urges the KDSB to join her in calling on the federal government to reinstate the \$63.5 million investment. The 2009/10 reduction for the Kenora District Services Board is \$40,700.

6.4 Letter from June Kelloway-Tarrant, Regional Program Manager, Children's Services

This letter is an update on the implementation of "A Shared Responsibility: Ontario's Policy Framework for Child and Youth Mental Health". A comprehensive database has been developed in order to generate descriptive products such as maps, graphs and charts for analysis. Using the database, MCYS is developing core provincial/regional profiles that include detailed information learned from mapping client needs, CYMH services, funding, and wait times provincially and by region. In addition, other data related to population, prevalence, education and Ministry of Health information as they become available will be overlaid to provide a comprehensive picture that is relevant to service providers at the local level. The Committee discussed the Children's Aid Society and the discussion currently happening between the KDSB and CAS staff regarding apprehended children and sharing information when the children are enrolled in child care. Sarah Stevenson, the Children's Program Manager, is currently working on a protocol with the CAS office and will provide an update at the next Committee

meeting.

**6.5 Letter from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

This letter advised the KDSB received \$18,796.00 in rent bank funds. The new Provincial Rent Bank Program will improve consistency in Service Manager fund administration and streamline reporting requirements. The new funding model for 2009/10 is based on equal weighting of service Manager area population, core housing need and renter population.

**6.6 Letter from Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services**

The letter advises the Provincial government has been able to maintain the third year of funding for interpreter and intervenor services, homelessness services, domiciliary hostel services and violence against women services.

**7. PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dianne provided information to the Committee regarding the Ontario Works budget submission to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The request for funding to the Ministry in both Employment and Administration exceeded the KDSB budget passed by the Board of Directors. The additional funding request was a precaution against rising caseload numbers, and unresolved implementation issues that may impact our 2009 budget figures. At this time of economic uncertainty, it was felt that requesting the additional funding would be the most reasonable action to take.

A follow up on item 6.3 from the April Committee meeting, the letter from Erin Hannah, Director of Ontario Works, advising that the Ministry's Disability Adjudication Unit (DAU) will start notifying ODSP recipients and spouses about medical reviews. The review will be a very small sample and so the impact on Ontario Works caseloads will be negligible at this time.

Dr. Pascal's report on Implementing Early Learning in Ontario was released on June 15. The recommendations contained in the report may have implications for the KDSB if the province moves forward on Dr. Pascal's advice. Municipal authorities (meaning CMSMs and DSSABs) with the necessary resources should be mandated to plan, develop, support and monitor an integrated network of Best Start Child and Family Centres providing families with the services currently provided by Best Start Hubs. The Province should transfer to municipal authorities funding for Best Start Child and Family Centres in a single envelope that includes all existing transfers for programs/resources that will be consolidated under Best Start, resources associated with regulation and oversight, plus child care savings generated from implementation of the Early Learning Program. Expansion of child care would take place through Best Start Child and Family Centres and school boards. Outcomes and targets would be developed through collaboration and funding flowed through municipal authorities and school boards to meet targets. The Province should adopt a three-year time frame, beginning in September 2010 to implement a two-year full day Early Learning Program prior to Grade 1 for every child who turns 4 by December 31.

Currently there are 191 JK/SK spaces in the Kenora District. Local child care providers have been re-licensing spaces for younger age groups to reduce wait lists and remain viable.

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8.1 Homelessness**

The Chair requested this item be put on the agenda to begin a dialogue regarding homelessness issues whether it be: assisting shelters in a more productive way, requesting funding for a Community Development Worker to work with the three municipalities currently working with homelessness shelters, looking at Social Housing funding to assist with rent supplement in transitional housing situations.

Dianne stated that the three shelter staff will meet some time this summer to discuss funding concerns and best practices.

Sten provided information about the transitional housing located in Red Lake, where the Ministry of Community and Social Services (so it is surmised) provided funding for the transitional housing; however it was a one time opportunity when the funding was accessed. There does not appear to be funding for transitional housing at this time and it was agreed by the Committee that the supports are needed by the homeless to stay housed.

Sten pointed out that no level of government wishes to take ownership of the homelessness issue and as a result the delivery of services is piece meal. The KDSB has not been mandated responsibility for homelessness; however the meager \$65,000 homelessness funding received by the KDSB is inadequate to fund three shelters and even with Ontario Works per diems, the shelters are struggling to stay open.

Sten suggest that the OW/CC Committee which is also the Homeless Committee utilize two agenda's when necessary to conduct the business of the OW/CC Committee and the Homeless Committee.

**8.2 The KDSB French Language Services Plan 2009**

There is one community, Ignace within the Kenora district that is designated as a French language community and under the French Language legislation must have French services available. The Committee discussed the report and the recommendations put forward.

**8.3 Charles Pascal Full Day Learning Report**

The report was discussed by the Committee and possible implications for the KDSB and our child care providers.

**8.4 Emergency Energy Fund Policy**

Dianne explained the rationale behind splitting the two policies and the new guidelines.

**8.5 Emergency Rent Bank Policy**

Dianne explained that the rent bank has become a regular program within the Ministry of Housing. The Ministry has been holding focus groups on collection of statistics and defining eligibility.

**8.6 Board Report BR2009-26 Ontario Works Cost of Administration**

Dianne provided information on cost of administration and the possible implications for the KDSB if the province should implement a cost of administration per case funding model.

Sten provided the Committee with information about NOSDA's work on OW Cost of Administration. NOSDA has suggested that the Ministry provide base funding plus a Northern Ontario component to provide extra funding to DSSABs in Northern Ontario. Larger centres have more services that smaller, northern communities don't; therefore, Toronto may be able to operate at \$700 a case, but DSSABs in the north cannot administer the program at that cost per case.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-17 Moved by Kim Thain  
Seconded by Ray LeRay

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve the French Language Services Plan as presented at the June 22, 2009 Ontario Works/Child Care Committee meeting.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 9.2 MOTION NO.: OWCC2009-18 Moved by Ray Leray  
Seconded by Kim Thain

Resolved that the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors rescind KDSB Policy KDSB-OW-IV-23: Emergency Rent and Energy Assistance Fund and approve the following new policies:

KDSB-OW-IV-26: Emergency Rent Bank  
KDSB-OW-IV-27: Emergency Energy Fund

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

10. NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting date tentatively set for August 10, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 12:15 p.m.

Confirmed this 10th day of August, A.D. 2009

By Resolution No.: OW/CC 2009-20

Joyce Timpson, Chair