

KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Ontario Works/Child Care
Committee held on Tuesday, July 29, 2008
at the Kenora District Services Board Office in Dryden
Commencing at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Kim Thain - Chair
Joyce Timpson
Dianne Apland, OW/CC Director
Toni Thurbide, Director of Finance

ABSENT: Ray Leray
Sten Lif, CAO

GUESTS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the OW/CC Committee was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-17 Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Kim Thain

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee approve the agenda as amended for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at the Kenora District Services Board Administration office in Dryden commencing at 1:00 p.m.

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 JUNE 2008

MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-18 Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Kim Thain

RESOLVED THAT the OW/CC Committee approve the minutes of the June 10, 2008 committee meeting.

CALLED; CARRIED

ACTION: File

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1

The Township of Ignace submitted a request for an additional \$6,868 to their Ontario Works budget for an expected shortfall in 2008. The reply sent to the Township of Ignace by the Director was that if the cost overruns were due to the Employment Coordinator and Employment Trainer, the KDSB would cover those costs after the fourth quarter reports were received. Ignace sent a reply requesting the matter be presented to the Board. The Committee requested more information before the matter proceeded further and directed staff to contact Ignace for an itemized budget of the projected shortfall.

6.2

Information was provided to the Committee on the progress of the OW offices regarding Consolidated Verification Process updates and achievement levels. At the end of May, KDSB had completed 22% of its CVP target. While this number may seem low, it does not reflect those cases in intermediate stages.

6.3

At the time of the meeting, the correspondence regarding the new child care funding had not been received. The information was provided verbally and since the meeting date, a letter was received by the Chair that the KDSB was receiving an additional \$338,500 funding for child care fee subsidies. This investment is 100% provincial funding.

6.4

A letter was received from the Sioux Lookout Child Care Centres requesting start up funding of \$30,000.00, Board Report CC 2008-04.

6.5

A letter was received from Ignace Nursery School Co-op requesting start funding of \$30,000.00, Board Report CC 2008-05.

6.6

A memo was received from Marg Trippier, Coordinator of the Ear Falls Child Care Centre and Family Resource Program. Following an Air Quality inspection on June 17th, the Ear Falls Council decided to close the centre until the test results from the inspection were available. Facilities in the Township were considered as possible temporary locations for the Child Care program, however the stringent licensing requirements made such options limited and Ear Falls Council decided to keep the Child Care Centre closed until test results were available. Child Care staff were employed at the Centre, cleaning and sorting old equipment, supplies and toys. Results of the inspection are not available at this time.

6.7

The caseload in the Kenora District showed a slight dip in June but continues to be high, highest numbers in June for the past seven years. Current caseload stands at 582, Kenora 283, Dryden 162, Sioux Lookout 78, Red Lake and Ear Falls 33, Pickle Lake 5, and Ignace 20. Regular OW cases total 552, with Temporary Care cases at 16 and Ontario Disability Support Program participants at 14.

6.8

The Social Assistance Statistics distributed by the province provide demographic analysis of our caseload in the district as well as a comparison to other DSSABs in the north. Sole support parents in the Kenora district account for 35% of the caseload while single persons without children account for 48%. Sole support parents have average net earnings of \$895 per month while singles without children have average net earnings of \$337 per month. This compares with statistics across the north; sole support cases make up 36% of the caseload and singles without children make up 55%; average net earnings across the north come in at \$684 for sole support parents and \$373 for singles without children.

6.9

Correspondence from the Director of the Ontario Works Branch regarding the estimated municipal cost savings from social assistance restructuring for 2008-09 was received just days before the Committee meeting. A full Board Report will be forthcoming at the next Committee meeting.

7. Program Director's Report

7.1

The Director gave a verbal report on the progress made to date with the renovations to the Dryden office. Terra Deco was the only contractor submitting a bid and has begun work on the suite next door to the main KDSB office. Work is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Staff are looking in Sioux Lookout for a suitable location for the Ontario Works office.

A training workshop is being planned for all caseworkers. Front line workers will be able to provide input into the division of roles and responsibilities within the new structure.

7.2

The Ontario Works Restructuring eliminated the Back to School Allowance and the Winter Clothing Allowance effective August 1st of this year. The OW August cheque saw the children's basic needs removed from the benefit list. At the same time the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) deduction was eliminated.

Families will receive an enhanced Ontario Child Benefit cheque around the 20th of each month which will combine the child tax credit, the NCBS, and the children's basic needs portion of their OW allowance. This enhanced benefit will not only be available to OW clients but to the working poor as well. A full Board report will be forthcoming at the next Committee meeting.

7.3

The Indian Welfare Service (IWS) audit was completed at the KDSB office. Preliminary reports indicate that there were a few discrepancies within our files; however Auditors were verifying information as per the 1965 agreement between the federal and provincial governments, which stipulates that registration as an Indian status as well as reserve residency are both qualifications under IWS. The Ontario Works Act does not require registration as an Indian status for eligibility for IWS. The final report will be distributed to the Committee when it is received.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1

Child Care Policy - Withdrawal Without Notice establishes clear guidelines for withdrawing from an Early Learning Program and/or terminating the fee subsidy agreement with the KDSB. Notice of 10 working days prior to withdrawing the child from the program is required. If a parent fails to provide notice, the parent will be responsible for the remaining fees.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-19

Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Kim Thain

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approves start up funding in the amount of \$30,000 from the Best Start Unconditional Grant to Sioux Lookout Municipal Child Care Centres to create an after school program at Sioux Mountain School.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Board of Directors

9.2 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-20

Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Kim Thain

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approves start up funding in the amount of \$30,000 from the Best Start Unconditional Grant to the Ignace Nursery School for the expansion of an after school program in Ignace.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Board of Directors

9.3 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-21

Moved by Joyce Timpson
Seconded by Kim Thain

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve the following new Child Care Fee Subsidy policy: Fee Subsidy - Withdrawal Without Notice

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Board of Directors

10. NEXT MEETING - September 9, 2008 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment - 2:30 p.m.

Confirmed this 9th day of September, A.D. 2008,

By Resolution No.: OW/CC 2008-23

Kim Thain, Chair