

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 New Provincial Funding

A letter was received from June Kelloway-Tarrant, Regional Program Manager, announcing additional child care fee subsidy for \$338,500. This funding is allocated for the fiscal 2008/09 year and must be reported in March 2009.

7. Program Director's Report

7.1 OW Implementation Plan

The Committee was provided with an updated 2008 Ontario Works Service Delivery Model Review Implementation Schedule. The Schedule is available on line.

7.2 Child Care Best Start Viability

The Committee was provided with information regarding the Ministry of Children and Youth's financial commitment to child care viability and the "ongoing fiscal allocation" which is funded 100% by the Ministry. This allocation will be included in the 2009 budget.

7.3 Response to Dr. Charles Pascal

The Committee was provided information regarding the Best Start Network's plan to respond to Dr. Charles Pascal and the issue of full day junior and senior kindergarten. The province's decision to provide full day education for this age group will have serious implications for child care centres in our region who are already struggling with viability issues.

7.4 Caring and Sharing

The Committee was provided with information regarding the "Caring and Sharing" workshops being developed by the Children's Program Manager and the Aboriginal Resource Worker. These workshops are providing a forum for senior and junior kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators to get to know one another and familiarize each other with the program philosophy and curriculum.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 OW Service Delivery Model Review Implementation Plan

The Dryden OW office is progressing, with a tentative move-in day around the long weekend in October. Staff have located a suitable location in Sioux Lookout. The Director will contact the Municipal administration to discuss the possible relocation and the municipality's plan. A workshop is planned for September 16 and 17 for OW caseworkers to address change management and the new roles and responsibilities within the new structure.

8.2 Report OW2008-01 Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is part of Ontario's plan to expand opportunity for low-income families. The OCB includes the former Child Tax Credit, National Child Benefit Supplement, the Back to School and Winter Clothing Allowance and the Children's Basic Needs allowance from OW assistance. This means families may receive less from social assistance but the monthly OCB will make up the difference. OCB does not differentiate payments based on the age of the child or the make-up of the family while social assistance rates do. The OCB cheque

does not decrease when families leave social assistance, thereby lowering the "welfare wall" which keeps families on the social assistance roll.

8.3 Report OW2008-02 Winter Clothing Allowance

The creation of the 100% provincially funded Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) coincided with the removal of the children's basic needs, winter clothing and back to school allowance from social assistance. These changes in social assistance were made in the month of August. To mitigate the impact of the elimination of the Back to School benefit, the KDSB included a benefit of \$100 per school age child in the OW August entitlement. The funding came from an NCBS account earmarked for OW clients. There will be no benefit to provide for winter clothing for OW children in 2008. Should the KDSB approve providing winter clothing allowance of \$111 per OW child under discretionary benefits, the approximate total cost would be \$51,060.00, local share \$10,212. The 2008 budget was created with this cost included.

8.4 Report OW2008-03 NCBS Reinvestment

The Ministry has provided estimates for NCBS savings in 2008 as well as the estimated savings from Social Assistance Restructuring (SAR). The estimated savings from NCBS is \$124,000 and the estimated savings from SAR is \$29,000 for a total of \$153,000. The Ministry has indicated an expectation that municipal investments in the NCB reinvestment programs will continue.

8.5 Report CC2008-06 KACL Infant Spaces

The Kenora Association for Community Living is requesting \$60,000-\$80,000 in capital and a suitable amount in start up (\$30,000) to create ten infant spaces at their Lakeside Kid Zone. Creation of child care spaces for the younger age group will allow the centre to adjust their services to the current demand for child care spaces. The request would not impact the 2008 budget as it would be funded from the unconditional grant.

8.6 Ontario Works Budget

The budgets were presented to the committee, but the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. to reconvene by conference call on Friday, September 5th in order to allow time for the Director to provide more information to the Committee. The meeting reconvened with all members of the Committee present or on conference call.

The Ontario Works budget presented represents an increase in local share of \$126,645 or 8.72%.

The expenditures or benefits paid to clients were increased by \$105,000 due to second quarter reports that indicated an increase in the benefits issued and a slightly higher caseload. Committee members questioned why the cost of benefits was higher in 2008. The explanation could lie in the late spring/summer season and the terrible weather which would impact seasonable employment, the high Canadian dollar; the cost of gasoline, the forestry crisis, the more expensive benefits available such as hearing aids and prosthetics, there could be a number of reasons. There is no local control over most of the budget as benefit levels are mandated by the Ontario Works Act.

The National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) was increased from \$60,000 in 2008 to \$153,000 in the 2009 budget. The budget in 2008 reflected 50% of the NCBS reinvestment the KDSB had historically budgeted for. The Ontario Child Benefit was implemented in August of 2008, the NCBS claw-back ended and the messaging at the time indicated that there would be municipal savings. In December 2007, the Ministry sent out a memo indicating that municipal savings should be reinvested into programs alleviating child poverty. The KDSB was notified that DSSABs were still expected to maintain investments and would be required to report on those savings. The forecasted NCBS savings for 2009 are \$124,000 and the Social Assistance

Restructuring savings are \$29,000 for a total of \$153,000, 100% local share. This correction of the NCBS reinvestment represents approximately three quarters of the overall budget increase.

The total Ontario Works operational expenditures have increased \$24,809 over the 2008 budget. This increase came from the reallocated KDSB administration, \$13,781, an increase in the reallocated KDSB Board costs of \$2,125, and the remainder coming from the increase in travel costs of the Local System Support budget due to office relocation.

8.7 Child Care Budget

The Child Care Program transfers have increased by \$304,650. This figure represents the additional fee subsidy provided this year by the Ministry to support child care. As it looks like the KDSB has sufficient fee subsidy in 2008, the new subsidy will be carried over into the 2009 budget. This funding is 100% provincial dollars. The net local cost for child care programs does not change from the 2008 budget.

The child care administration costs were up slightly coming in at \$12,737 over the 2008 budget. This increase was alleviated by an increase in the revenue received from the Ministry of Children and Youth. The KDSB is allowed administration costs up to 10% on all funding, so the Aboriginal child care and the new fee subsidy allocation provided enough revenue to reduce the net local cost for child care by \$21,113, providing a decrease of 2.75%.

8.8 Best Start Budget

The Best Start budget is 100% provincial dollars. The increase in total Best Start Expenditures represents enhanced funding and ongoing fiscal allotment. This was funding that historically was provided in the early summer after the province had completed their year end and budget approvals, however we were advised to add it to our budget for 2009 as an "ongoing fiscal allotment". There is no local share.

9. RESOLUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-24 Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approves a one-time distribution of funding from Ontario Works discretionary funds of \$111.00 per school age child to replace the 2008 Winter Clothing Allowance.

CALLED; CARRIED Action: Board of Directors

9.2 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-25 Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the \$153,000 for National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) reinvestment in the 2009 budget to build community capacity for support of children in low income families.

CALLED; CARRIED Action: Board of Directors

9.3 MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-26 Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approves funding in the amount of \$100,000 from the Best Start Unconditional Grant

to the Kenora Association of Community Living to renovate their child care centre to accommodate ten infant spaces.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Board of Directors

9.4 **MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-27**

Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommends the 2009 Ontario Works budget to the Finance Committee as presented at the September 9, 2008 OW/CC Committee meeting.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Finance Committee

9.5 **MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-28**

Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommends the 2009 Child Care budget to the Finance Committee as presented at the September 9, 2008 OW/CC Committee meeting.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Finance Committee

9.6 **MOTION NO.: OWCC2008-29**

Moved by Ray Leray
Seconded by Joyce Timpson

RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Works/Child Care Committee recommends the 2009 Best Start budget to the Finance Committee as presented at the September 9, 2008 OW/CC Committee meeting.

CALLED; CARRIED

Action: Finance Committee

10. **NEXT MEETING**

At the call of the Chair.

11. **Adjournment**

Confirmed this 27th day of October A.D. 2008,

By Resolution No.: OW/CC2008-31

Kim Thain, Chair