



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSB BOARD MEETING

Minutes

June 20, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Board Room

Members Present: John Deforge
Paul Branconnier
Ken Duplessis
Steven Olsen
Kevin Burke
Bruce Killah
Al MacNevin
David Santi
Ian Anderson

Regrets: Ryan Bignucolo
Vern Gorham
Angela Kelly
Rob Campbell
Denise Portelance-Godin

Staff Present: Lori Clark
Bryan Welsh
Kristian Thorne
Connie Morphet
Josh Parkinson

Others Present: Robert Smith, Interim Chief of Paramedic Services

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 3. Business Arising from Closed Session**
- 4. Adoption of Agenda**
Resolution 24- 45

Moved by: Ian Anderson
Seconded by: David Santi

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Resolution 24- 46

Moved by: Paul Branconnier
Seconded by: Kevin Burke

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the May 16, 2024 Board meetings be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. Committee Meetings

6.1 Human Resources Committee

6.1.1 Human Resource Policy Revision

Bryan Welsh, Human Resources Consultant, walked the Board through the revisions to the Criminal Reference Checks.

The current policy required that all staff, with the exception of the Finance staff, have a Vulnerable Sector Check. This has been posing an issue as the OPP have not been accepting our Vulnerable Sector Check requests unless the position has direct contact with vulnerable persons.

The change in the policy allows the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services board to choose which level of Criminal Reference Check is required for the position being filled.

Resolution 24- 47

Moved by: Kevin Burke
Seconded by: Al MacNevin

WHEREAS the Human Resources Committee has reviewed the revisions to Human Resources Policy C.1.16 Criminal Reference Checks and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB accepts the Human Resources Committees recommendation and approved the revisions to Policy C.1.16 Criminal Reference Checks within the Human Resources Manual effective June 1, 2024.

6.2 Program Planning

6.2.1 HPP Investment Plan

Kristian Thorne, Integrated Human Services Manager walked the Board through the [Homelessness Prevention Plan \(HPP\) Investment Plan - Issue Report](#) and the Investment Plan Report.

Staff received confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in May that our HPP allocation will be provided as expected for the 2024-25 year.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board's HPP allocation is \$2, 537, 600 annually.

HPP is administered under a service agreement between the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and each service manager.

The HPP aims to address chronic homelessness across the province and flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing initiatives

This investment plan has been submitted to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing conditionally pending board approval.

The Homelessness Prevention Program will continue to provide services and activities to prioritize keeping seniors in their own homes.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB will continue to provide a direct shelter subsidy to assist those on our Community Housing wait list to maintain their current accommodation without accessing their basic needs.

HPP will continue to be used to support alternative emergency shelter solutions including short term stays and transportation to meet immediate needs. HPP is used to alleviate pressures experienced by not having a formal emergency shelter in the district.

The funding will be used to continue to offer supports in response to ever changing community need including rent supplements, food security and short-term housing assistance.

A portion of the HPP funding will be used to continue construction of our supportive housing building in Espanola. Capital funding in the amount of \$1,692,600 will be used for 3 of the 10 accessible units within the new building.

Resolution 24- 48

Moved by: Kevin Burke

Seconded by: Paul Branconnier

WHEREAS the Program Planning Committee has reviewed the HPP Investment Plan - Issue Report and is recommending approval to the Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board accept the Program Planning Committees recommendation and approve the HPP Investment Plan - Issue Report and authorize staff to action the recommendations contained within the report.

CARRIED

6.2.2 Canadian Mental Health Association

Kristian Thorne, Integrated Human Services Manager walked the Board through the highlights of the [2023-2024 Canadian Mental Health Association Year End Report](#).

2023-2024 was a steady year and represented a “new normal”. There were no new pandemic-related restrictions and most activities resumed fully.

With the rising cost of living, food insecurity continued to be a major challenge for many tenants. The Housing Case Managers took advantage of Second Harvest Food Rescue to support in alleviating some of the food insecurities amongst tenants in the Manitoulin and Lacloche buildings.

The Neighbourhood Model at 66 Robinson St. in Little Current continues to thrive as a collaborative, team approach to providing services to seniors. With the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, VON, March of Dimes, and the Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA-S/M) as partners, wrap around supports are coordinated to help senior residents maintain their health and access to the community.

Other community partnerships the HCM'S engaged in throughout this year are with Community Living, adult protective services, OPP, the Rapid Access to Addiction clinic, Public Health and Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Efforts from all community partners are designed to assist our residents in achieving the best possible outcomes for each individual circumstance that may arise.

Outcomes of support offered by HCM's

Key Highlights of Services

- 18 individuals were supported with case management services.

- 100% of the “at risk” tenancies, who accepted services, were preserved, or are working towards a resolution.
- 588 brief services were offered.

Future Direction

Recruitment for Sudbury East

CMHA-S/M has experienced several challenges with regards to recruitment and the position has been vacant since November 2022. In May 2024, it was agreed that a position would be hired with a home location of Sudbury. That position will be travelling to Sudbury East three (3) days per week to provide support within each building located in Warren, Noëlville and St. Charles. Virtual support will also be available.

Resolution 24- 49

Moved by: Kevin Burke

Seconded by: Ian Anderson

WHEREAS THE Program Planning Committee has reviewed the 2023 - 2024 Canadian Mental Health Association Year End Report and is recommending approval to the Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB approve the 2023 - 2024 Canadian Mental Health Association Year End Report as presented.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Ontario Learn and Stay Grant 2024-25 Application Launch

Robert Smith, Interim Chief of Paramedics Services, gave the Board an update on the [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant for 2024-25](#).

The 2024/2025 academic period marks the second year for the Province’s Learn and Stay Grant system made available to specific programs, including for the students studying to be a Paramedic.

The Learn and Stay system is a grant program where the costs associated with studying (which includes full tuition, books and the cost of Base Hospital Certification) to become a Paramedic are paid by the Ontario Government, and considered paid once the graduate meets their service commitment of six (6) months work in the same service region as the college for every full year of study funded by the grant. The Paramedic program is a two-year academic diploma and as such requires a one year employment commitment to Northern Ontario Paramedic Services.

The following Northeastern Ontario Paramedic Programs included in the Learn and Stay Grant Program are:

- Cambrian College, Sudbury
- College Borel, Sudbury
- CTS - Sudbury
- CTS – Sault Sainte Marie
- CTS – North Bay
- Northern College, Timmins

Paramedic Services has been meeting with these colleges over the last number of weeks and is preparing to bring in eight students from CTS – Sudbury for their precepting residency in late July. The design should allow for these candidates to become Primary Care Paramedics in the services by early fall.

Additional work is under way to bring in students from the other colleges in early 2025 for spring 2025 recruitment.

Staff are confident that the continuation of the Learn and Stay Grant Program in concert with a fulsome recruitment strategy will allow for successful establishment of a staffing pool that will ensure public safety.

7.2 2024 Review of the Housing and Homelessness Plan

Kristian Thorne, Integrated Human Services Manager gave the Board an update on the 2024 Review of the Housing and Homelessness Plan.

Services managers are required to complete a review of local housing and homelessness plans at least once every five years.

This review is in addition to the report we provide annually of progress to our current Housing and Homelessness plan.

Our last review was completed in [2019](#), which means a review is needed in 2024

In March of this year, we received notification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the ministry is in the process of

reviewing current policy and direction that is intended to guide local plan to ensure alignment with government priorities.

The ministry has requested that services managers do not complete the review of local plans until further communication from the ministry is received.

To date we have not received any further direction in this regard.

We will be providing our annual H&H update to MMAH this summer and will present this to the Board in September.

7.3 National Housing Strategy

Kristian Thorne, Integrated Human Services Manager gave the Board an update on the National Housing Strategy funding.

Further to information provided to the Board in November, April and May regarding funding on hold under the National Housing Strategy, we have an update to share.

On May 28th, 2024, the Federal & Provincial Governments released a [Joint Statement](#) indicating that they have reached an agreement on a revised action plan for Ontario that will now unlock the \$357 Million of federal funding previously on hold under the National Housing Strategy.

The Government will be proceeding with COCHI, OPHI AND COHB benefits for this fiscal year.

On [June 17th, 2024](#), we received funding allocation confirmation from Minister Calandra for the COCHI & OPHI programs. The funding allocations are unchanged, and we will be moving forward with scheduled projects.

- COCHI allocation is \$412,800
- OHPI allocation is \$192,200

Details on the COHB allocations have yet to be confirmed.

Additionally, Ontario's Action Plan has committed to some additional measures to ensure targets are met by 2028, these measures include the following:

- Establishing annual provincial supply targets with service managers and Indigenous program administrators.
- Direct funding toward the achievements of these targets.
- Implementing robust data collection & reporting mechanisms.

More details pertaining to these measures will be forthcoming as well as engagement with both service managers and Indigenous Program Administration.

8. Other Business

Bruce Killah, Chair of the Board, acknowledged that the Board is aware of the hard work that staff had put in to create and maintain the programs that benefit the people who live in our municipalities and unorganized areas.

9. Next Meeting - September 19, 2024

10. Adjournment

Resolution 24- 50

Moved by: David Santi

Seconded by: Steven Olsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 10:45 a.m. until the next regular meeting to be held on September 19, 2024.

CARRIED

Board Chair

CAO