



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD SOCIAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION

A meeting of the Social Services Sub-committee will be held on **Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium, City Hall, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford.

SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENT: Councillor Henderson – Chair presiding, Councillor McManus – Vice-Chair, Councillors Clifford and Ritsma.

REGRETS:

STAFF PRESENT: Heather Lovie – Manager of Ontario Works, Barb Hobson - Manager of Child Care, Jodi Akins - Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Media

AGENDA

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and Nature of Pecuniary Interest

Sub-committee:

Committee:

2.0 DELEGATIONS

None scheduled.

3.0 REPORT OF THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE

3.1 Child Care Division Funding Allocations - Stabilization and Health and Safety

Objective: To consider and approve the Child Care Stabilization and Health and Safety recommended funding allocations.

Background and Analysis: The 2014 budget allocations from the Ministry of Education and the approved budget of the City of Stratford have funding that is directed to address Child Care Health, Safety and Maintenance and Stabilization issues. The applications for funding are due May 30 annually for review and to prepare allocation recommendations. The Child Care Operators in Perth County have submitted their applications for 2014.

The funds are available from four different accounts in the City of Stratford approved budget.

1. Capital Retrofits
2. Repairs and Maintenance
3. FDK Transition/Transformation
4. Resource Centre/Community Development

The New Funding model adopted by the Ministry of Education allows Service System Managers the flexibility to move between categories most of the funding allocated in the Service Agreement. The only categories that have no flexibility are Capital Retrofits and Small Water Works. Funding can be moved into these two categories but cannot be allocated from this category for anything else than what is considered an allowable expense.

Capital Retrofits funding can only be used for one-time expenses to help transition and modernize licenced child care programs as they adapt to repercussions of the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten. These must be minor renovations of existing child care programs that can include washrooms, playground and development of child care spaces. If an operator identifies a minor capital item that cannot be completed by December 31, 2014, the funding can be allocated in the current year and spent in the following year. An objective is to utilize this funding account first with expenses that are applicable since it has no flexibility and has limited expenditure criteria.

The two categories of Repairs and Maintenance and FDK Transition/Transformation have the flexibility to be allocated to other accounts and expenses in the budget. The

criteria of Repairs and Maintenance are to address repair and maintenance needs of agencies providing licenced child care programs. They do not need to be a capital expense. The funding allocation from the Ministry of Education for 2014 is \$13,479.00 for Repairs and Maintenance.

The FDK Transition/Transformation funding category has the greatest amount of flexibility. One –time expenses that can be used with this funding include but are not limited to relocating programs, IT upgrades, retrofitting child care spaces, equipment, kitchen supplies and play space development towards emergent curriculum. The funds in this category can be used for Core Services such as Fee Subsidies, Wage subsidies and Operational Grants.

The last account of funding is Resource Centre/Community Development. This account is geared towards Health and Safety concerns, resource program supports and community programs support and development for all early learning programs in Perth County not only licensed child care programs.

Funding must be allocated to expenses that are approved as per the *Ontario Management Guidelines*. The operators must prove that they are a sustainable viable program without the financial supports from these categories. It should be noted that these funds are one time allocations for programs not to be used for ongoing operational expenses.

The Child Care Division received several proposals to be considered for this funding. The requests were reviewed and allocated in categories that the expense matches the criteria.

Agency	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Request Details
Anne Hathaway Daycare	\$42,848	\$42,848	Replace dryer, playground completion/toddler bathroom floor replacement/permanent storage inside and outside. Accessible washroom and doors.
Perth Care for Kids	\$36,093	\$36,093	Replace A/C system and 50% of cost of roof replacement.
St. John's Co-Operative Preschool	\$16,123	\$16,123	Complete playground, toy rotation and replacement and paint classroom and hallway.
1-2-3 Look At Me Nursery School	\$2,000	\$2,000	Toy rotation/ gross motor equipment for gym activities.
St. Marys Daycare	\$15,979	\$15,979	Kitchen equipment and electrical plugs/ washroom stall repairs/replace blinds/ Toddler equipment/ preparation for New Nursery School

			program.
Avon Co-Operative Nursery School	\$13,546	\$8,429	Paint washrooms, toddler equipment, lockable storage,
YMCA Daycare	\$23,025	\$23,025	Install washroom for additional younger children in school age program/Complete playgrounds/School age program expansion/security swipe card system
Town of North Perth	\$15,633	\$10,805	Gate for toddler program and outdoor play space
TOTAL	\$165,247	\$155,302	

Financial impact: The funding is incorporated in the 2014 Budget.

Staff recommendation: That the City of Stratford:

- Award \$42,848 to Anne Hathaway Day Care
- Award \$36,093 to PCFK
- Award \$16,123 to St John's Preschool
- Award \$8,429 to Avon Co-Operative Nursery
- Award \$23,025 to the YMCA of Stratford-Perth
- Award \$2,000 to 1-2-3 Nursery School
- Award \$15,979 to the Town of St. Marys
- Award \$10,805 to the Town of North Perth

Sub-committee discussion:

Sub-committee recommendation:

Committee discussion:

Committee recommendation:

4.0 REPORT OF THE MANAGER OF ONTARIO WORKS

4.1 Purchase of Service Agreement Renewal – Personal Counselling for Social Services Clients

Objective: To consider a request from the Director of Social Services to renew the purchase of service agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron, to provide personal counselling to clients of the Social Services Department.

Background and Analysis: Many individuals receiving services delivered by the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) are dealing with various pressures in their lives that can hinder both their job searching efforts and day-to-day functioning.

In its service plan to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), the department has made a commitment to assist clients using a more holistic approach to barriers that may decrease their ability to be productive members of the community. One of the ways to assist with this goal is to provide personal counselling services to individuals in an attempt to break down and deal with some of these barriers. Family counsellors deal with a myriad of issues such as addictions, abuse, mental health issues, bad credit, self-esteem, marital breakdown, bereavement, anger management and the list goes on. Our clients cannot afford to purchase these services themselves, and many issues that go unresolved, can develop into a significant life barrier, if left unchecked.

On October 8, 2007, City Council passed the recommendation for Social Services staff to contract with Family Services Perth-Huron to purchase the services of a full-time counsellor. To date, a total of 245 participants have attended counselling sessions and successes/progress has been noted in excess of 50% of the cases. Currently 38 individuals are attending ongoing counselling sessions and a further 91 have exited the program due to securing employment. Although the success of the counselling program is not to be considered the sole contributor to participant success, it certainly has added to the choices and options that participants have to assist them in reaching their employment goals.

Financial impact: There would be no additional expense to the City or partnering municipalities as this cost would be absorbed within the existing Addictions Services budget allocations for 2014/15.

Staff recommendation: That the renewal of the purchase of service agreement with Family Services Perth-Huron to provide personal counselling to clients of the Social Services Department be approved.

Sub-committee discussion:

Sub-committee recommendation:

Committee discussion:

Committee recommendation:

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by

That the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 p.m.

Meeting End Time: