THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL:

1. Nutritious Food Basket - BOH09024 (City Wide) (Item 5.1) (Whitehead/Ferguson)
   (a) That Report BOH09024 regarding the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket be received;
(b) That the Board of Health write to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community and Social Services to request that the Province act on the following components of the Poverty Reduction Strategy as soon as possible:

(i) Establish an independent committee including low-income people, policy experts and advocates to develop rational and just criteria for determining Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates;

(ii) Implement OW and ODSP rates that reflect the real cost of living and are indexed annually to reflect inflation, including the findings of yearly Nutritious Food Basket surveys conducted by local Boards of Health based on protocols established by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; and

(iii) Set the shelter component maximum for OW clients at 85 percent of the median market rent for each local housing market, based on annual surveys conducted by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation;

(c) That the Board of Health request that all levels of government make significant investments in affordable housing.

CARRIED

2. 2009 Smoke-Free Ontario Funding Confirmation BOH09026 (City Wide) (Item 5.2)  
(Whitehead/Ferguson)  
That Report BOH09026 entitled “2009 Smoke-Free Ontario Funding Confirmation” be received.

CARRIED

3. Communicable Disease and Health Hazard Investigations Quarterly Report (Q2) (April 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009) - BOH09012(a) (City Wide) (Item 5.3)  
(Whitehead/Ferguson)  
That Report BOH09012(a) entitled “Communicable Disease and Health Hazard Investigations Quarterly Report (Q2) (April 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009)” be received.

CARRIED
4. Child and Adolescent Services Program Evaluation Project 2009/2010 - BOH09027 (City Wide) (Item 5.4)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
That a formal evaluation of Child and Adolescent Services’ Quick Access Service, be undertaken and the cost be 100% funded through the Provincial grant, including the temporary increase in FTE.

CARRIED

5. Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee Minutes of June 3, 2009 (Item 5.5)

(Whitehead/Ferguson)
That the Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee Minutes of June 3, 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED

6. Delegation from Michelle Hruschka, representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits and the Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee respecting the issue of ensuring safe, healthy and adequate food for those in need. (Item 6.1)

(Merulla/McHattie)
(a) That the presentation from Michelle Hruschka representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits respecting the issue of ensuring safe, healthy and adequate food for those in need, be received;

(b) That staff be directed to respond to the presentation on a point by point basis to establish a plan of action where applicable, to mitigate the concerns outlined by the Food Security Issues Committee (of the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits) and that the response be forwarded to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

CARRIED

7. Fall Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Preparedness BOH09028 (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(Pearson/Powers)
(a) That Report BOH09028 respecting Fall Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Preparedness be received;
(b) That staff be directed to implement the outsource model for pH1N1 immunization clinics for 2009/2010 which involves redeploying 140 internal staff per day and hiring 185 staff from external agencies for a total cost of $4.4 Million;

(c) That the Chair of the Board of Health correspond with the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care to request additional funds for the incremental costs of pH1N1 immunization clinics and disease control activities.

CARRIED


(Powers/Pearson)

CARRIED

9. Correspondence (Item 11.1)

(Powers/Pearson)
That the dispositions for the following items of communication be approved:

(a) Letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated July 2, 2009 acknowledging receipt of the City’s letter of September 25, 2008 endorsing the request from the North Bay Parry Sound District Board of Health for 100% funding of small drinking-water systems (SDWS).

Recommendation: Be received.

(b) Letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care advising that the Province is providing $23,172,138 to the City of Hamilton for the provision of mandatory and related public health programs which includes an increase in the funding previously announced for an Infection prevention and Control Nurse for each public health unit and the Small Drinking Water Systems Program.

Recommendation: Be received.

(c) Letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated July 17, 2009 giving approval that the City of Hamilton provide General Geriatric Health Promotion Education.
Recommendation: Be received.

(d) Letter from Suzanne Strasberg, MD, President, Ontario Medical Association, requesting support that all school boards follow the lead of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and require their high school cafeterias to post the calorie counts of all menu items.

Recommendation: Be received.

(e) Copy of a letter from G. Allen Heimmann, MD, MHSc, Medical Officer of Health and Secretary of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, addressed to the Minister of Health Promotion respecting the Board’s endorsement of the United Way Windsor-Essex County’s Funding Proposal to the Ministry of Health Promotion for the Child and Youth Health and Wellness After-School Strategy.

Recommendation: Be received.

(f) Letter from the Federal Minister of Industry in response to Council’s letter endorsing the resolution from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health urging government to regulate food and beverage marketing targeted to children.

Recommendation: Be received.

(g) Copy of letter from John Albanese, Chair, Northwestern Health Unit, addressed to the Premier of Ontario respecting the Ministry of Health Promotion’s decision to discontinue current program funding for the Youth Action Alliance (YAA) program. (See Item 5.2)

Recommendation: Be received.

(h) Letter from Monika Turner, Director of the Public Health Practice Branch of the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care respecting 2008 Physician Services Agreement – MOH/AMOH Compensation Initiative. (Added Item)

Recommendation: Be received.

CARRIED
FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Eisenberger introduced and provided certificates to the Deputy Mayors for the Month of September, 2009 - Michelle Bawden and Melanie Du Four

(b) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised of the following changes:

(i) Added presentation 7.3 respecting the Child Blood Lead Study.

(ii) Added Letter from Monika Turner, Director of the Public Health Practice Branch of the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care respecting 2008 Physician Services Agreement – MOH/AMOH Compensation Initiative.

Recommendation: Be received.

(Pasuta/Whitehead)
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(c) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None declared.

(d) MINUTES (Item 3)

(McCarthy/Bratina)
That the Minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS

(i) Michelle Hruschka, representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits and the Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee respecting the issue of ensuring safe, healthy and adequate food for those in need. (Approved July 7, 2009) (Item 6.1)
Michelle Hruschka, representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits addressed the Board. She read from a prepared statement, a copy of which was included in the agenda and she responded to questions.

The Board discussed the following issues:

- Health inspections of food banks;
- The separation of Community Services and Public Health Services in relation to overseeing community food security and food supply;
- The living wage issue;
- Report BOH09024 regarding Nutritious Food Basket which is on this agenda – the City is requesting action from the Province with respect to this issue and a copy was provided to the delegation;
- Food stamps or debit cards;
- Community gardens and green houses;
- Representation of food banks users on City committees;
- The feasibility of regulating volunteer organizations;
- A complaint process for and education of food bank users.

(Merulla/McHattie)
That the presentation be received and direction be given to staff to respond to the concerns expressed by the delegation and to present the response to the Emergency and Community Services Committee as outlined in Item 6 of this Report.

CARRIED

(f) Presentations

(i) Fall Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Preparedness BOH09028 (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Doctor Elizabeth Richardson made a PowerPoint presentation which provided some additional information to Report BOH09028 and hand outs were distributed. Her presentation included the following topics:

- Implications of pH1N1 for Fall 2009/Winter 2010
- Surveillance Activities
- New H1N1 Expenses for 2009/2010
- Seasonal Flu Vaccine
- pH1N1 Flu Vaccine
- Clinic Staffing Option A: Maximize Preservation of PH Services
- Clinic Staffing Option B Maximize Redeployment of PHS Staff
- Overall PHS Services during pH1N1 Response
- The Human Cost/Service Impact of Outsource Model
- The Human Cost/Service Impact of Redeployment Model
- Recommendations:

Staff responded to questions posed by the Board. The following issues were discussed:

- When will the Province advise on the requisite number of shots (vaccinations)?
- Will schools be closed to control an outbreak?
- What has been occurring in other provinces?
- What has been occurring in other countries?
- AMO’s position – i.e. that the Province needs to help;
- What is the likely impact on the levy from the two Options (i.e. outsource model vs redeployment model).

The Mayor thanked staff for regularly informing Councillors respecting this issue and for a job well done.

(Pearson/Bratina)
That the presentation and staff report be received.

CARRIED

(Pearson/Powers)
That the recommendation contained in the PowerPoint presentation as outlined in Item 7 of this Report be approved.

CARRIED

(ii) Pandemic Planning from a City Perspective (No copy) (Item 7.2)

The Mayor vacated the Chair and left the meeting and Deputy Mayor Ferguson assumed the Chair.

Carla McCracken made a PowerPoint presentation and hand outs were distributed. She indicated that in her hand out she provided notes for the slides and included a descriptive list of the acronyms. Her presentation included the following topics:

- Review various pandemic response plans
- How they are integrated?
- How we are going to communicate?
- Detail on the community pandemic plan
- Plan Framework

Council – September 30, 2009
• Simplified response framework
• Pandemic Response Structure
• Community Pandemic Plan
  • Response structure
  • Activation procedures
  • Execution procedures
  • Areas of responsibility
  • Communication channels
  • Contact information
  • Integration with other plans
• Scope
  • Coordination of the support agencies and service resources
    • Food
    • Shelter
    • Financial Assistance
    • Emotional and Spiritual
    • Seniors
    • Children
    • Persons with Disabilities
    • New Canadians & Non-English Populations

Staff responded to questions and various issues were discussed including assisting community agencies and community service providers in developing their pandemic plans.

(Powers/Whitehead)
That the staff presentation be received.

CARRIED

(iii) Update Respecting the Child Blood Lead Study (Added Item 7.3)

Matthew Lawson made a PowerPoint presentation respecting the Child Blood Lead Study and copies were distributed. His comments were with respected to the preliminary findings of the study and included but were not limited to the following:

• Study Components
  • Community Clinics for Blood Lead Testing
  • Household Interviews
  • Collection and Analysis of Household Water and House dust samples
  • Collection & Analysis of Soil samples from household

Council – September 30, 2009
Staff responded to questions and the Board discussed the issues which included the following:

- The Federal and Provincial Governments and other agencies are interested in the results;
- The adverse effects of lead on the cognitive development of children;
- Lead testing protocol for water testing in certain facilities;
- Next steps: analysis needs to be done with water, dust, soil, etc. – the variables need to be analysed – what is driving the blood lead levels in the City;
- The impact of industry on lead levels;
- The role of Environment Canada;
- Although the limits set by Environment Canada may not be exceeded, the effects of the emissions over time are a concern;
- High lead levels in imported toys and the role of Health Canada;
- The Household questionnaire included questions concerning toys, glazes on pottery, etc.
- The Board requested that the results of the lead pipe replacement program be included in the next update regarding this issue.

(Powers/Pearson)
That the staff presentation be received.  
CARRIED

(g) Outstanding Business List (Item 11.2)
(Powers/Duvall)
That the due date of the following Outstanding Business List Item be changed as indicated:

(i) Item “A” – Public Health Services, Public Works and Community Services working group joint report to assess tobacco-free parks, playgrounds and beaches  
(Due: September 28, 2009) New Due Date: October 26, 2009
CARRIED
(h) Adjournment

(Mitchell/Pearson)

There being no further business, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger, Chair
Board of Health

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Assistant
Board of Health
September 28, 2009