Social & Public Health Services Committee  
MINUTES  
9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, October 24, 2006  
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:  
Chair B. Bratina, Vice-Chair S. Merulla  
Councillors B. Kelly, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, B. Morelli

Also Present:  
J. Priel, General Manager,  
V. Woodcox, C. Buffett, G. Hendry, J. Soldera, Community Services  
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION:

1. 100% and Other Funded Positions - Quarters 2 and 3 (City Wide)  
(HCS03026(g) (Item 5.1)

   (Merulla/Morelli)  
   That Report HCS03026(g) respecting 100% and Other Funded Positions – Quarters 2 and 3 be received.  
   CARRIED

2. Tenant Participation in the Electoral Process (SSC06032) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)

   (Merulla/Morelli)  
   (a) That Report SSC06032 respecting Tenant Participation in the Electoral Process be received.  

   (b) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business list of the Social Services Committee.  
   CARRIED
3. **Tenant Advisory Committee – Citizen Committee Report (SSC06031) (Item 5.3)**

   (Merulla/Morelli)
   That Report SSC06031 respecting Tenant Advisory Committee – Citizen Committee Report be received.
   
   CARRIED

4. **2007 Tenant Advisory Committee Budget Submission (SSC06030) (City Wide) (Item 5.4)**

   (Merulla/Morelli)
   (a) That the budget submission from the Tenant Advisory Committee be received.

   (b) That the budget submission and requested funding be referred to the 2007 budget process as attached as Appendix A to Report SSC06030.

   CARRIED

5. **Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee – Citizen Committee Report (SSC06029) (Item 5.5)**

   (Merulla/Morelli)
   That Report SSC06029 respecting Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee – Citizen Committee Report be received.

   CARRIED

6. **2007 Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Budget Submission (SSC06028) (City Wide) (Item 5.6)**

   (a) That the budget submission from the Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee be received.

   (b) That the budget submission and requested funding be referred to the 2007 budget process as attached as Appendix A to Report SSC06028.

   CARRIED

7. **Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism (FCS06101) (City Wide) (Item 5.7)**

   (Merulla/Morelli)
   (a) That report FCS06101 respecting Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism be received.
(b) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business list of the Social Services Committee.

CARRIED


**(Merulla/Morelli)**

Whereas, having a safe secure home is a basic human right; and

Whereas, children and families are the fastest growing segment of Canada's homeless population eroding efforts by municipalities and others to nurture healthy, stable communities, and

Whereas, the City of St. John's, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and other organizations across the nation have recognized that homelessness and the lack of affordable housing is a national concern requiring long term solutions; and

Whereas, the National Homelessness Initiative was established by the federal government in 1999, investing $1.2 billion over the past six years in local solutions that address homelessness; and

Whereas, the National Homelessness Initiative is strongly supported by local organizations and the Government of Ontario and is recognized as an international best practice by the United Nations; and

Whereas, the National Homelessness Initiative will expire on March 31, 2007 unless the new federal government acts soon to renew the program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Hamilton urges the Government of Canada to renew and expand the National Homelessness Initiative, and calls upon municipalities and provincial and territorial governments across Canada to add their voices in support of this important program.

CARRIED

9. **Response To June 27th Delegation Presentation By The Coalition For Residential Care Facilities And Tenants (Outstanding Business Item No. M) (SSC06026) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

**(Jackson/Morelli)**

(a) That Report SSC06026 respecting Response To June 27th Delegation Presentation By The Coalition For Residential Care Facilities And Tenants be received.
(b) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business list of the Social Services Committee.

CARRIED

10. Impact of Ontario Works 2005-06 Transition Directive relating to Special Diet Allowance (SSC06008a) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(Kelly/Morelli)
(a) That Report SSC06008(a) respecting Impact of Ontario Works 2005-06 Transition Directive relating to Special Diet Allowance be received.

(b) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business list of the Social Services Committee.

CARRIED

11. Youth Advisory Committee (SSC06017(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

(Jackson/McHattie)
(a) That Report SSC06017(a) respecting the development and implementation of a Youth Advisory Committee of Council be received and forwarded to the Emergency and Community Services Committee for consideration in 2007.

(b) That staff be directed to forward the program enhancement identified in Report SSC06017(a) and the budget submission as detailed in Appendix B attached to Report SSC06017(a), to the 2007 Budget process.

CARRIED

12. Homemakers and Nurses Services Program Update (HCS03012(f)) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)

(Jackson/Kelly)
(a) That the transfer of the Homemakers and Nurses Program be extended beyond December 31, 2006 to no later than March 31, 2007, and that up to $99,930 be allocated from the Social Services Initiatives Fund to support the program until the transition plan has been finalized.

(b) That staff provide Council an Information Update on the negotiated transition plan for the Homemakers and Nurses Services Program prior to implementation.

(c) That staff refer any potential fiscal impacts resulting from the negotiated transition plan for the Homemakers and Nurses Services Program to the 2007 budget process.

CARRIED
13. **2007 National Child Benefit Strategy (SSC06023) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)**

   (McHattie/Morelli)
   (a) That Report SSC06023 respecting the City of Hamilton’s 2007 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy be received and forwarded to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in 2007.
   (b) That staff be directed to forward the program enhancements identified in Report SSC06023 to the 2007 Budget process.
   (c) That upon approval of Report SSC06023, staff submit the 2007 National Child Benefit (NCB) Strategy to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).
   (d) That upon approval of Report SSC06023, it be forwarded to the Grants Sub-Committee for consideration with respect to transferring twenty (20) NCB Community Grants to the Community Partnership Program and that any decision by them be subject to the approval of appropriate funds in the 2007 Budget process.
   (e) That staff be given direction to continue the 2006 NCB Strategy on an interim basis until such time that the Emergency and Community Services Committee considers Report SSC06023 and the 2007 Budget process is finalized.

   **CARRIED**

14. **Social Services Downloading Report 06-002 (Item 8.5)**

   (i) **Province’s Delay on a Decision respecting the Uploading of Social Services (Item 4.1)**

   (McHattie/Morelli)
   (a) That a letter be sent from the Mayor to the Premier and leaders of all other parties, on behalf of the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee, insisting that the City of Hamilton be represented on the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review Committee.
   (b) That the letter request clarity as to the make-up of the Committee to ensure that representation from local social service agencies and the business sector are included at the discussion table.
   (c) That all local area MP’s and MPP’s be copied on the letter to the Premier.

   **CARRIED**
15. Re-establishment of Sub-Committees Reporting to the Emergency and Community Services Committee (CL06011(e)) (City Wide) (Item 8.6)

(McHattie/Jackson)
(a) That the Sub-Committees as outlined in Appendix “A” attached to Report CL06011(e), as amended by Committee on October 24, 2006, be re-established, to report to the Social Services Committee in the next term of Council;

(b) That the required Council appointments for the Sub-Committees as noted in Appendix “A”, in accordance with the composition as shown, be determined at the caucus meeting of the new term of Council;

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda (Item 1)

There were no changes noted by the Clerk.

(b) Declaration of Interest (Item 2)

None

(c) Approval of Minutes (Item 3)

The minutes of the September 12, 2006 Social Services Standing Committee meeting were approved as presented.

(d) Delegation Requests (Item 4)

On a motion (Merulla/Morelli), members of Committee waived the Rules of Procedure in order to allow the following delegations to be heard this morning:

4.1 Maggie Hughes, Hamilton, Re: Poverty & Policy

4.2 Best Start Update – Paul Johnson

4.3 Brother Richard MacPhee, Alan Whittle, Good Shepherd Centres Re: Impact Regarding the End of the SCPI Program
(e) Presentations (Item 6)

(i) Maggie Hughes, Re: Poverty & Policy (Item 6.1)

Maggie Hughes appeared before Committee to speak to the issue of poverty. She noted concern regarding the low minimum wage rate, the downloading of Social Service costs to the municipal level and provided examples of her concerns. Ms. Hughes concluded her presentation by suggesting to Committee that the City needs to lobby the Provincial Government to make them financially and legally responsible for the payment of Social Services. A copy of Ms. Hughes’ presentation was circulated to members of Committee.

Chair Bratina thanked Ms. Hughes for her presentation.

(ii) Best Start Update (Item 6.2)

Paul Johnson provided an update to members of Committee regarding the Best Start Program. He reviewed the following initiatives of the program:

- Their vision
- Their accomplishments
- Their principles in moving forward

Mr. Johnson advised that 1143 new spaces would become available this fall, which works out to a 15% increase in space.

Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation by thanking City staff for all their assistance and support in partnering with the Best Start program. A copy of Mr. Johnson’s presentation was circulated to members of Committee.

Chair Bratina thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation.

(f) Staff Presentations (Item 7)

(i) End of Federal Government Program – Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative – Verbal Update (Item 7.1)

Cathy Buffett, Director of Community Programs, provided an update to members of Committee regarding the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) program.

Ms. Buffett reviewed the Objectives, History, Accomplishments, Program Sustainability, Program Risks and the Next Step of the SCPI Program.
Staff noted the importance or raising community awareness regarding this issue. A copy of Ms. Buffett’s presentation was circulated to members of Committee.

7.1.1 Brother Richard MacPhee, Alan Whittle, Good Shepherd Centres Re: Impact Regarding the End of the SCPI Program

Brother Richard MacPhee and Alan Whittle appeared before Committee and provided an overview of the programs offered by the Good Shepherd Centre. They noted that many of the programs are supported by SCPI funding and that these programs improve the lives of many people in our community. A copy of the presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

At the request of Chair Bratina, Committee allowed Peter Hutton the opportunity to address Committee in order to provide comments regarding the SCPI program.

7.1.2 Peter Hutton, Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)

Peter Hutton, SHAC, noted a concern regarding the loss of federal support for many community programs.

He encouraged members of Committee to recommend to Council that the City join with other municipalities in asking the federal government to continue its funding role with housing and homelessness programs.

Councillor Merulla introduced a motion that urges the Government of Canada to renew and expand the National Homelessness Initiative. Committee approved the motion as noted as Item 8 of the report.

(ii) Response to June 27th Delegation Presentation by the Coalition for Residential Care Facilities and Tenants (SSC06026) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Cathy Buffett, Director of Community Programs, spoke to the four issues raised by the delegation from the Coalition for Residential Care Facilities and Tenants at the Social Services Committee meeting held on June 27, 2006:

- Tenant Protection
- Education Activities
- Personal Care Services (Access to Mental Health Systems)
- Housing Ombudsmen
Ms. Buffet advised Committee that the Residential Tenancy Act received Royal Ascent last week.

A copy of Ms. Buffet’s presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

(g) 2007 National Child Benefit Strategy (SSC06023) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

(i) Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee of the Ontario Association of Social Workers, Hamilton & District (Item 8.4.1)

Sally Palmer appeared before Committee and advised that she was pleased to see the City has made a start towards returning its 20% share of funds clawed back by the Province. Although, she did note a concern regarding the length of time it took the City to return these funds. Ms. Palmer advised that they support the direction of the proposal for returning the City’s share of the clawback funds, but would ask the Committee to consider amending it to reflect the accelerated transition alternative suggested in the proposal itself, so that all the funds would be returned in 2007. A copy of Ms. Palmer’s presentation was circulated to members of Committee.

(iii) Teresa Kaulback, Income Security Working Group (Item 8.4.2)

Teresa Kaulback spoke to members of Committee regarding her experiences in being a single mother and a recipient of Ontario Works. She noted that the process was too long in returning the money to the recipients and urged the City to speed up the process in order to help women survive with their families.

A copy of Ms. Kaulback’s presentation was circulated to members of Committee.

(iii) Ursula Samuels, Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits (Item 8.4.3)

Ms. Samuels spoke to members of Committee regarding the importance of returning the supplement to families who receive OW and ODSP. She explained that it would make the difference between trying to live and exist.

Joe-Ann Priel advised Committee that the City of Hamilton was the only community trying to maintain programming and return funds. She explained that in 2006, funds were returned back to OW and ODSP families in the amount of $150.00 per child.
Committee discussed the matter and had additional information supplied by staff.

Committee thanked the delegations for their presentations and received the Information Report.

(h) Social Services Downloading Steering Committee Report 06-002 (Item 8.5)

Councillor McHattie noted an administrative error in the report and asked staff to make the corrections.

(i) Re-establishment of Sub-Committees Reporting to the Emergency and Community Services Committee (CL06011(e)) (City Wide) (Item 8.6)

Councillor McHattie requested that the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee, as noted on Appendix B, be reinstated for the 2006 – 2010 term of Council and that Appendix A be amended to reflect this change.

Committee approved the Councillors recommendation.

(j) Outstanding Business

(Jackson/Kelly)

That the Outstanding Business List be amended as follows;

New Due Date: Q1/07

New Due Date: Q1/07

New Due Date: Q1/07

11.4 Outstanding Business List Item E, Roomers and Boarders Update.
New Due Date: Q1/07


CARRIED
(k) **Acknowledgements**

Chair Bratina spoke to all the accomplishments that had been achieved in the past year and thanked members of Committee and staff for all their efforts.

(l) **Adjournment (Item 13)**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
October 24, 2006