Social Services Committee
REPORT 06-006
9:30 a.m.
May 9, 2006
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:  Chair B. Bratina
Councilors B. Kelly, T. Jackson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla

Also Present:  J. Soldera, Acting General Manager, V. Woodcox, C. Buffett, B. Bax, Community Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL & SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-006 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Volunteer/Sub-Committee Minutes – For Information Only (Item 5.1)

That the following Volunteer/Sub-Committee Minutes be received for information:

(a) Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2006
(b) Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2006
(c) Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2006

2. The EnerGuide for Low-Income Households Program (EGLIH) – Letter of Agreement (SSC06009) (City Wide) (Item 5.2)

(a) That Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation be advised that the City of Hamilton will act as the delivery agent for the EnerGuide for Low-Income Households Program (EGLIH).

Council – May 10, 2006
(b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the Letter of Agreement, attached as Appendix “A” to Report SSC06009, in a form satisfactory to Corporate Counsel.

(c) That correspondence be sent to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, which is responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, advising that the City of Hamilton is pleased to partner with the Federal Government to deliver the EnerGuide for Low-Income Households Program.

3. Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative, Spring 2006 Update (City Wide) (SSC06010) (Item 8.1)

(a) That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, correspond with the Federal Minister of Labour and Housing to advocate for continued funding of programs to address homelessness through renewal of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

(b) That copies of the letter to the Federal Minister of Labour and Housing be provided to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the local Members of Parliament.

4. Best Start Update (SSC06006(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

That staff be directed to continue implementation of the approved Hamilton Best Start Plan within the 2006/07 approved funding allocation including the capital expansion of child care spaces identified in Appendix A attached to Report SSC06006(a).

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

The Clerk noted that there had been a revision to the EnerGuide for Low-Income Household Program Report (Item 5.2) and that a revised copy of the report had been distributed to members of Committee.

The Committee approved that agenda as amended.

(b) Declaration of Interest

None

(c) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 26, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.
(d) Volunteer/Sub-Committee Minutes – For Information Only (Item 5.1)

Chairman Bratina noted a concern regarding the health inspection of mould as noted in Item 3.3 of the March 10, 2006 Tenant Advisory Committee Minutes.

A general discussion ensued with members of Committee questioning what the acceptable levels were, if there were guidelines in place and whether or not the City could intervene on private property.

The Committee directed that Public Health staff be requested to provide an update to the Board of Health Committee regarding the above noted concerns of mould inspection. In addition, staff from Hamilton Housing was also asked to provide an update to the Social Services Committee regarding the detection of mould on City properties and how this is addressed.

(e) Best Start Update (SSC06006)(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

Ms. Jane Soldera provided an update to Committee regarding the ramifications to the Best Start Program as a result of the recent federal government announcement of the cancellation of the Canada-Ontario bi-lateral agreement.

(f) General Information

(i) Outstanding Business List

Councillor McHattie asked staff to provide completion dates for all the items on the Outstanding Business List that did not have due dates noted.

(ii) Poverty Round Table

Chairman Bratina noted the presence of Mr. Paul Johnson, a member of the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, and asked him to provide a brief update to the members of Committee.

Mr. Johnson advised that their work plan was on target with an end of spring release of their proposed community plan. He suggested that there needs to be change to the structure, policies and practices on how we deliver programs and services, especially when all three levels of government are involved in the programming. Mr. Johnson concluded by noting that the members of the Roundtable will come back to the City and provide an update.
(g) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina  
Chair

I. Sturgeon,  
Legislative Assistant  
May 9, 2006