Social & Public Health Services Committee
REPORT 05-012
9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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

Also Present: H. Hale Tomasik, Acting General Manager, E. Richardson,
V. Woodcox, G. Hendry, Public Health & Community Services
G. Peace, City Manager
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 05-012 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Hamilton’s Best Start Implementation Plan (SPH05005(a)) (City Wide)
   (a) That the Best Start Implementation Plan (Appendix C*) as developed by the Best Start Network and community partners be approved.
   (b) That the approved plan be submitted to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services as required by the province.
   (c) That the Ministry of Children and Youth Services continue to further integrate early learning and child development with the education system.
   (d) That Council correspond with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to advocate that the Province consider full funding of the Best Start Initiative beyond the present five year commitment.

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(e) That Council correspond with the Ministry of Education, urging a directive be initiated to both the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board to facilitate a co-operative transition in the implementation of Hamilton’s Best Start Program by amending the Boards Sole Source Policy related to Child Care Services.

(f) That Council meet with the Trustees of both the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board to better understand the Board’s Sole Source Policy on Child Care.

*Note: Due to bulk, Appendix C is available for perusal in the Office of the Clerk.

2. Changes to Earnings Exemptions and other Transition Supports

Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-02 (SPH05041) (City Wide)

(a) That the changes to the policy and delivery of the Ontario Works Program as outlined in Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-02 be received for information.

(b) That an additional five case manager positions to the amount of $325,000 gross ($162,500 net) be hired effective November 1, 2005.

(c) That a report be submitted to Council in one year to report on the impact of the changes outlined in this report in caseload and costs.

(d) That Council correspond with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and request the additional 2005 and 2006 in year costs for these mandated services in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Province and Ontario’s Municipalities.

(e) That a copy of this report also be forwarded to Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

3. Changes to Ontario Works Eligibility Criteria for Adults Living With Parents

Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-03 (SPH05044) (City Wide)

(a) That the changes to the policy and delivery of the Ontario Works Program as outlined in Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-03 and ODSP Transition Directive 2005-01 be received for information.

(b) That an additional 6.5 FTE Ontario Works staff be hired effective November 1, 2005 at an annualized cost of $445,000 gross ($223,000 net).
(c) That a report be submitted to Council in one year to report on the impact of the changes in caseload and costs.

(d) That Council correspond with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and request the additional 2005 and 2006 in year costs for these mandated services in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Province and Ontario’s Municipalities.

(e) That a copy of this report also be forwarded to Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

4. Exemption of Rental Fees – Steele Park - Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club

(a) Based on the longstanding partnership that has existed between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club who operate programs out of a City owned property adjacent to Steele Park;

That the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club be exempted from the annual rental fee of $1,200.00 for the use of Steele Park, in order to operate a child care playground as one of the three demonstration sites selected in Ontario for the Provincial Best Start Initiative.

(b) And that the members of the Community Services Standing Committee be provided a copy of this motion, for information, at their meeting of October 11, 2005.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

The Clerk noted a typographical error on page 3 of report SPH05044. A corrected copy of the section of that report was distributed to members of Committee.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

(c) Chair

During the course of the meeting, Chair McHattie relinquished the Chair on several occasions to Vice Chair Bratina in order to join in the debate.

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(d) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 27, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

(e) Hamilton’s Best Start Implementation Plan (SPH05005(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Ms. Rebecca Barrows-Vrankul, Director, Parent & Child Branch made a power point presentation to members of Committee regarding the Hamilton’s Best Start Implementation Plan. The Best Start plan will be phased in over the next 4 – 5 years across Ontario with the first phase beginning in Hamilton in 2005.

Mr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Best Start Program, provided an update regarding the Best Start Network and spoke to all of the challenges the group has encountered in moving forward with the implementation of the Best Start Plan. He reviewed the initiatives of the program including the expansion of child care, the Development of Early Learning and Care Hubs and the Integration of Service and Parent Engagement. A copy of the presentation was provided to members of Committee.

Members of Committee raised questions and concerns regarding dis-placement of non-profit agencies, amending School Board Policies, integration with health team centers, obtaining long term commitments, tight timelines and the huge expansion of human resources to implement this plan.

Councillor Merulla suggested that Council correspond with the Ministry of Education requesting that they amend their Sole Source Policy related to Child Care Services. Chairman McHattie also suggested that Council might want to meet with the Trustees of both School Boards in order to get a better understanding of this policy.

On a motion (Merulla/Morelli), Committee added the above noted suggestions into the original recommendation.

(f) Changes to Earnings Exemptions and other Transition Supports Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-02 (SPH05041) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Vicki Woodcox, Director, Employment, Housing & Long Term Care reviewed the mandated changes that came into effect on August 1, 2005.

On a motion (McHattie/Jackson), the Committee amended recommendation (d) to include costs for both 2005 and 2006.
(g) **Changes to Ontario Works Eligibility Criteria for Adults Living With Parents**

Ontario Works Transition Directive 2005-03 (SPH05044) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

Vicki Woodcox, Director, Employment, Housing & Long Term Care reviewed the mandated changes that came into effect on August 1, 2005.

On a motion *(McHattie/Jackson)*, the Committee amended recommendation (d) to include costs for both 2005 and 2006.

(h) **Motions**

Councilor Merulla introduced a motion on behalf of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls club respecting the exemption of $1,200.00 in annual rental fees for Steele Park.

Committee approved the motion and agreed to forward a copy for information to the Community Services Standing Committee.

(i) **General Information (Item 11)**

(i) 11.1 **Nutritious Food Basket – Outstanding Business Item A**

(Due Date: October 11, 2005) (No Copy)

On a motion *(Bratina/Kelly)* Committee agreed to amend the due date to November 29, 2005.

(j) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. McHattie,
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
October 11, 2005