Social Services Committee
REPORT 06-009
9:30 a.m.
June 27, 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, J. Soldera, B. Powell, M. Weingartner, Community Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL & SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-009 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) Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2006
(b) Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2006

2. 2006 Incentive Funding for Ontario Works Consolidated Verification Process (CVP) (City Wide) (SSC06019) (Item 5.2)

That Report SSC06019 respecting the 2006 Incentive Funding for Ontario Works Consolidated Verification Process (CVP) be received.

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3. **Ontario Works Family Support Initiative (City Wide) (SSC06020) (Item 5.3)**

That Report CCS06020 respecting the Ontario Works Family Support Initiative be received.

4. **Hamilton's Youth (SSC06017) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**

(a) That Council receive the Preliminary Youth Scan Report as attached to this report in Appendix A attached to Report (SSC06017) for information.

(b) That Council support the development and implementation of City-wide Summit on Youth in partnership with the committee convened by Police Services and other community stakeholders.

(c) That staff be directed to explore the feasibility of instituting a City-wide Youth Advisory Committee of Council and other models of addressing the needs of youth.

5. **Transition Directives Ontario Works Program (SPH05020(a))(City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

(a) That Report SPH05020(a) respecting the impact of Ontario Works Transition Directives 2004-02 be received.

(b) That Item “A” respecting the Transition Directives Ontario Works Program be removed from the Social Services Committee Outstanding Business List.


(a) That Report SSC06018 respecting Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) clients participating in Ontario Works (OW) Employment Assistance be received.

(b) That Council approve the hiring of four additional staff – one Program Manager, two employment Development Consultants and one Employment Services Clerk on a temporary basis from 100% provincial funding.

7. **Transportation Cost Provisions for Social Assistance Recipients (SSC06011) (City Wide) (Item 8.3)**

(a) That Council correspond with the Minister of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to request an increase in social assistance rates to include transportation costs for recipients of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Supports Programs (ODSP).
(b) That copies of the letter to the Minister be provided to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA).

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 June 13, 2006 Social Services Standing Committee meeting were approved as presented.

(d) Henry Aviles, Housing Help Centre and Len Dingman, Coalition of Residential Care Facilities Tenants

Re: The New Provincial Residential Tenancies Act (Item 6.1)

Henry Aviles and Kaz Klonowski spoke to Committee regarding proposed changes to Bill 109. They noted concern regarding the requirement of a Written Tenancy Agreement, Care Home Information Packages and the Eviction Process. A copy of their presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

A lengthy discussion ensued and members of Committee raised questions and concerns regarding Residential Care Agreements, tenant education, differences between municipally subsidized facilities and provincially/federally funded Residential Care Facilities and the concept of transferring subsidies to individuals. It was noted that a staff report addressing the issue of moving subsidy from residents to individuals was scheduled to come back to Committee at the end of the year.

On a motion (Merulla/Jackson), Committee approved the following recommendation;

(a) That the presentation by Henry Aviles and Klonowski be received;

(b) That staff be directed to review the three issues itemized below, and report back to Committee with additional information;

- Written Tenancy Agreement
- Care Home Information Packages
- The Eviction Process

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(c) That staff be directed to report back to Committee with comparative information regarding municipally subsidized facilities and provincially/federally funded Residential Care Facilities;

(d) That staff be directed to explore the feasibility of implementing a Housing Ombudsman office.

Chairman Bratina thanked Mr. Aviles and Mr. Klonowski for their presentation.

(e) Hamilton’s Youth (SSC06017) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

Mark Weingartner made a presentation to members of Committee respecting Hamilton’s Youth. In response to a Council directive to develop a Youth Task Force, staff undertook a preliminary Youth Scan which included a review of indicators, key informant interviews and a best practices review. A copy of Mr. Weingartner’s PowerPoint presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

A discussion ensued and members of Committee raised the following questions and/or concerns; commended the police task force which is currently in place, noted the importance if including youth between the ages of 12 – 19, include all youth not just troubled youth, proceeding with the intent of implementing a Youth Advisory Committee for the next term of Council and the importance of addressing culture & recreation issues within the City.

Chair Bratina relinquished the Chair to Councillor McHattie in order to introduce a motion respecting soil contamination in Hamilton parks.

That Public Works staff be directed to investigate and prepare an inventory of parks within the City of Hamilton where there is a suspicion of soil contamination;

And that staff be requested to consider remediation methods for these parks (eg. similar to those undertaken at Beasley Park) and report back to Public Works Committee.

Committee approved the motion.

Councillor Bratina resumed the Chair.

Discussion regarding the implementation of a City-wide Youth Advisory Committee ensued.

Councillor Jackson supported the creation of this Advisory Committee and suggested that the City should be ready to advertise and proceed with this initiative following the election this fall.

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Staff agreed to continue working on the implementation of a City-wide Youth Advisory Committee and to report back to Committee with a final report in the fall.

Committee approved the staff recommendation.

(f) **Outstanding Business List (Item 11.1)**

*(Kelly/Jackson)*

That the Outstanding Business List be amended as follows;

- Outstanding Business List Item E, Task Force to Address Negative Adolescent Behavior was noted as being complete and removed from the list;

*CARRIED*

The Clerk advised that Joe Rinaldo, General Manager of Finance & Corporate Services requested to speak to Committee regarding a motion that had been introduced at the last meeting respecting the Property Tax Component of Tenant Rental Payments. The Clerk explained that Mr. Rinaldo was not able to attend the meeting this morning but would be added to a future agenda.

(g) **Adjournment (Item 13)**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Social Services Committee adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina  
Chair  

I. Sturgeon,  
Legislative Assistant  
June 27, 2006