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,
J. Soldera, K. Extance, B. Bax, Community Services
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE SOCIAL & PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT
06-003 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1.  2006 Ontario Works Addiction Services (SPH05034(a))(City Wide) (Item 5.1)
   (a) That report SPH05034(a) respecting the 2006 Ontario Works Addiction
       Services be received.
   (b) That item “H” respecting the Ontario Works Addiction Services
       (SPH05034) be identified as completed and be removed from the Social
       Services Committee Outstanding Business List.

2.  Best Start Update (SSC06006) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)
   (a) That staff be directed to continue implementation of the approved
       Hamilton Best Start Plan within the 2005/06 approved funding allocation,
       in accordance with Option #1 of Report SSC06006 noted below, pending
       an announcement of further funding of the Initiative by the Province of
       Ontario:
(i) Option 1
The City of Hamilton advise Boards of Education and other community service providers that it is temporarily suspending spending on all planned projects not yet under construction until formal re-assurance of future provincial funding of the Best Start initiative is received from the Province of Ontario. Those projects currently under construction would proceed. The un-conditional 2005/06 grant would allow the City to sustain the programs and services associated with the spaces that have been created to date, and those currently under construction until approximately 2008. This option presumes no additional funds in 2006/07.

(b) That Council request that the Federal Government continue to honour the National Early Learning and Care Program, and the existing Bi-lateral Agreement between the Federal Government and the Province of Ontario. Further, that copies of this request be forwarded to all area Members of Parliament, area Boards of Education, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Province of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal and Social Services Association, and Hamilton’s Best Start Network.

(c) That Council request that the Province of Ontario continue to honour its commitment to 100% Provincial funding of the Best Start Initiative for the period 2005 to 2010; and request clarification of the Province’s long-term commitment to funding of the Initiative beyond that date. Further, that copies of this request be forwarded to all area Members of Provincial Parliament, area Boards of Education, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and Hamilton’s Best Start Network.

3. Emergency Shelter Funding Pressures

(a) Whereas the Province of Ontario has failed the City of Hamilton by not amending the Ontario Works Act 1997 and has adversely affected Emergency Shelter funding;

Whereas Premier Dalton McGuinty had promised in numerous campaign platforms that the priority of the Ontario government must be to deal with the provision of services for the most vulnerable people in our society;

Whereas the City of Hamilton’s priority to combat poverty and homelessness has been publicly stated;
Therefore be it resolved that the City of Hamilton requests the Premier of Ontario to amend the Ontario Works Act 1997 to increase Emergency Shelter funding to include personal support services.

(b) And that copies of this correspondence be forwarded to the Minister of Community and Social Services, the area M.P.P.’s, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) to indicate the significant impact in our community should the funding associated with personal support services for homeless persons in emergency shelters be eliminated.

4. **Emergency Shelter Funding Pressures (SSC06003) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)**

That Item 4 of Social Services Committee Report 06-003 be referred back to the Committee pending receipt of additional information from the Province, and analysis of the same.

(a) That the General Manager of Community Services be directed and authorized to give twelve months notice to Emergency Shelter programs and services which will no longer receive Emergency Shelter funding for personal support services, effective October 1, 2006;

(b) And that the funding for Emergency Shelter programs and services from October 1, 2006 until October 1, 2007 be allocated from either the Hydro Fund or Hydro Dividends, at an approximate cost of $780,000.00.

5. **4 Bridgewater Court: Donation of Provincial Land to the City of Hamilton for a Joint CityHousing Hamilton / Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Development (SSC06004) (Ward 9) (Item 7.4)**

(a) That the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be commended for the vision and commitment to meet the affordable housing needs of Hamilton residents through the donation and transfer of the Provincially-owned property at 4 Bridgewater Court to the City of Hamilton and the funding allocation for CityHousing Hamilton under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

(b) That the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be advised that the City of Hamilton will accept the transfer of the property known as 4 Bridgewater Court (PIN 17097-1047 / Block 3, Plan 62M-648, City of Hamilton) for the purpose of creating affordable housing in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Canada and Habitat for Humanity Hamilton.
(c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents and agreements, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and any other transactions that will give effect to:

(i) the transfer of the 4 Bridgewater Court property from the Province of Ontario to the City of Hamilton; and,
(ii) the City’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity Canada and Habitat for Humanity Hamilton that will facilitate the joint development of the 4 Bridgewater Court property for affordable housing.

(d) That 4 Bridgewater Court be declared surplus to the requirements of the City of Hamilton in accordance with the “Procedural By-law for the Sale of Land”, being By-law No. 04-299.

(e) That Legal Counsel be authorized to prepare the necessary transfer deed from the City of Hamilton to CityHousing Hamilton Corporation in order to facilitate the development and construction of the affordable housing units at 4 Bridgewater Court.

(f) That any applications for funding under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program made by CityHousing Hamilton and Habitat for Humanity for Bridgewater Court be endorsed.

6. Strengthening Hamilton’s Community Initiative (SSC06005) (City Wide)

(a) That City Council contributes $125,000 in 2006 to the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion and that this amount be funded on a one-time basis from the 2005 corporate surplus.

(b) That the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion be advised that funding for 2007 and 2008 will be subject to budget availability, and a review of operational plans and year-to-date results.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda noted.

(b) Declaration of Interest

None

c) Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the February 28, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

(d) **Best Start Update (Item 7.1)**

Ms. Jane Soldera, Director of Social Development and Early Childhood Services, provided an update to members of Committee regarding the Best Start Program. Members of Committee asked for further clarification regarding the three proposed options. Staff confirmed that we can create 524 new spaces this year and fund these spaces until 2008. A copy of Ms. Soldera’s PowerPoint presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

Mr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Best Start Network spoke to Committee regarding the loss of funding and the cancellation of the new spaces and suggested that this was a lost opportunity for Hamilton.

The Committee approved Option 1 of the staff report.

(e) **Emergency Shelter Funding Pressures (Item 7.2)**

Ms. Cathy Buffett, Director of Community Programs made a presentation to members of Committee regarding the closure of Emergency Shelter programs and services which will no longer receive Emergency Shelter funding for personal support services, effective October 1, 2006. A copy of Ms. Buffett’s PowerPoint presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

On a motion *(Merulla/Jackson)*, the Committee approved a recommendation requesting the Province to amend the Ontario Works Act 1997 and restore Emergency Shelter funding to include personal support services. In addition, Committee approved a second motion *(Merulla/Jackson)* directing staff to continue funding the Emergency Shelter programs and services for an additional twelve months and recommended that the funding for this program be allocated from either through Hydro Dividend Funds or the Hydro Fund.

(f) **4 Bridgewater Court: Donation of Provincial Land to the City of Hamilton for a Joint CityHousing Hamilton / Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Development (SSC06004) (Ward 9) (Item 7.4)**

Mr. Keith Extance, Program Manager, Housing Development and Partnerships, updated Committee regarding the donation and transfer of the Provincial-owned property at 4 Bridgewater Court to the City of Hamilton. He explained that Bridgewater Court is a partnership between CityHousing Hamilton and Habitat for Humanity.

Members of Committee approved the staff report as presented.
(g) **Strengthening Hamilton’s Community Initiative (SSC06005) (Item 8.1)**

On a motion *(Jackson/Merulla)*, the Committee amended the staff recommendation by adjusting the funding to $125,000.00 which was the initial amount requested by the Transition Implementation Committee.

On a motion *(McHattie/Morelli)* direction was provided to staff to report back to Committee with additional information on the following:

- the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism – 10 Point Plan
- Canada’s Action Plan Against Racism

(h) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina  
Chair

I. Sturgeon,  
Legislative Assistant  
March 21, 2006