



**The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Social Services Committee
Open Session
AGENDA**

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Vassilakos - Vice Chair, Mayor Mathieson, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Brown, Councillor Bunting, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Mark, Councillor McManus, Councillor Ritsma

Staff Present: Rob Horne - Chief Administrative Officer, Joan Thomson - City Clerk, Carole Desmeules - Director of Social Services, Andre Morin - Director of Corporate Services, Ed Dujlovic - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, David St. Louis - Director of Community Services, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Jacqueline Mockler - Director of Human Resources, Tatiana Dafoe - Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Chair to call the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Clifford provided regrets for this meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

3. Sub-committee Minutes

Sub-committee minutes are provided for background regarding the discussion held at the May 10, 2017 Sub-committee meeting.

4. Delegations

None scheduled.

5. Report of the Director of Social Services

5.1 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update (SOC17-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update be received for information.

Motion by _____

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update be received for information.

5.2 Ontario's Basic Income Pilot (SOC17-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot be received for information.

Motion by _____

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot be received for information.

5.3 Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for Rural and Remote Communities (SOC17-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400, for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

Motion by _____

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400, for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

6. For the Information of Committee

6.1 New Business

Discussion took place regarding a shelter for homeless men. The Director provided information on a new program that Council will be receiving a report on. The minutes for this item in their entirety are available as part of the May 10, 2017 Social Services Sub-committee minutes.

7. Adjournment

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time:

Motion by _____

Committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Committee meeting adjourn.



The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Social Services Sub-committee
MINUTES

Date: May 10, 2017

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Vassilakos - Vice Chair, Councillor Bunting, Councillor Clifford, *Councillor Ritsma

Staff Present: Carole Desmeules - Director of Social Services, Kim McElroy - Manager of Ontario Works, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary

Also present: Eden Grodzinski (Item 5.1), Media

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order and advised that Councillor Ritsma would be late for the meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Director of Social Services

4.1 Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update (SOC17-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services reviewed the Management Report and advised that when the Ministry pushed back the deadline for submission of the plan to September from May, staff thought it was a great opportunity to present a more complete understanding of the project and do greater public consultation.

She then introduced the consultant, Eden Grodzinski, who was present at the meeting. Her consulting firm was hired to do a needs assessment, facilitate a community consultation process and develop an implementation plan and communication strategy. The final report will be coming in August.

Referring to a Powerpoint presentation, Ms. Grodzinski reviewed the background regarding the Ontario Early Years Centres, noting that currently service availability is not consistent across the Province. In reviewing the transition plan, she stated that the new programs will build on the strengths of the current programs and provide rationale for location of delivery sites.

One of the things they are looking at as part of the decision making framework is the number of fixed and satellite locations, ensuring that families have the same access to programs no matter where they live.

With respect to the planning process, Ms. Grodzinski advised that they are in the process of mapping data and they have not received the budget for this project from the Province yet. She noted that the 2002 budget for Early Years programming has remained static. Extensive public consultation is underway and they received 1000 responses to a

parents/caregivers survey.

Discussion took place regarding whether the plan was Perth County focused. Ms. Grodzinski advised that she will be reaching out to neighbouring municipalities, noting that users do not follow boundaries.

The Director stated that the timeline for this project is tight and noted that they are trying to meet the same mandates as larger municipalities with larger resources, with fewer resources. Extensive thought has gone into the planning and the extension of the timeline has helped.

Motion by Councillor Bunting

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update be received for information.

Carried

4.2 Ontario's Basic Income Pilot (SOC17-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services reviewed the Management Report, noting that this program is not just for people on Ontario Works, it is for people who are falling into the specified income group. These people could be working full time at minimum wage and still qualify. The process for selecting participants will be random and the program is being delivered outside of all current delivery methods, such as Ontario Works. If someone wants to apply for the program, they can call 211 and receive information on how to apply.

Discussion took place regarding whether programs such as these encourage people not to work. The Director stated that she believes it will make people more financially secure and help them to be successful. As Service Manager, they have had a lot of questions for the Province, such as whether OW benefits will be maintained. This program has been successful in other countries.

Discussion took place regarding this program could lead to cost savings in the system in other ways. It was also noted that basic income could improve lives, as families could have more time together if parents are working less. It was noted that the human component in programs like this is often overlooked.

Motion by Councillor Clifford

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Supervisor of Social Services

5.1 Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for Rural and Remote Communities (SOC17-009)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400, for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

*Councillor Ritsma arrived at 5:15 p.m.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services provided some background on this item and stated that this partnering strategy was advertised. Staff decided to apply and were successful. As part of the 2017 CHPI funding, money was committed to the creation of a trusteeship program. Staff are proposing to combine this grant with the existing funding to allow the program to be expanded. The trusteeship service offers financial services to ensure rent and other bills are paid on time to avoid becoming homeless.

Staff are spending a lot of time on housing outreach, with the mandate of assisting with addiction and preventing homelessness and the caseload is growing. Sub-committee will receive a report at the next Social Services meeting on a homelessness survey. It will be mandated by the Province next year but staff were ready so they decided to move ahead with it this year. The Director stated that they are dealing with more complex cases

and people are facing more barriers such as addiction and mental health issues and wrap-around support is very important.

Discussion took place regarding shifting funds to help people deal with issues. The Director stated that she believes that housing or financial support alone is not the answer and intensive support over a period of time is the key. It must be delivered in conjunction with community supports and she believes in that strategy.

It was stated that more and more burden is placed on the schools as a result of challenges faced by students today, including addiction, mental health concerns and poverty, and they do not have the resources. It was suggested that conversations with schools, including staff, students and the school boards, take place as part of the wrap around supports being discussed. The Director stated that she will take this into consideration and noted that they have been doing a lot of work with the youth at Shelterlink. It was noted that they are a valuable component but they make up a narrow component of the youth who need services. Many students and their parents are not receiving services at all. It was suggested that students may reach out for services in a place they feel comfortable, such as at school.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400, for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

Carried

7. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

There are no Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes to be received at this time.

8. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is June 14, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 5:35 p.m.



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: May 10, 2017
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
 CEO, Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation
Report#: SOC17-008
Attachments: Presentation - OEYCFC Transition Plan Report Update – May 10, 2017

Title: Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update

Objective: To provide an update on the revised timeline and process for developing the Ontario Early Years and Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report.

Background: In 2016, the Ministry of Education announced plans to integrate existing provincially funded child and family programs known as the Ontario Early Years Centres and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres into a new governance and operating structure known as Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC). This change is part of a provincial plan that will take place in all municipalities across Ontario.

Further to previous reports (SOC16-005 and SOC17-002) in preparation for the transition year, the Ministry of Education requested that the City of Stratford Social Services Department develop and submit a comprehensive transition plan report to meet the new OEYCFC structure. (*Ref: Ministry of Education, Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres, Planning Guidelines for Service Systems Managers, July 2016*).

On April 13, 2017, the Ministry of Education announced that the deadline for the submission of the Transition Plan Report would be extended from May 31, 2017 to September 29, 2017.

Analysis: Following the completion of a Request for Proposal process in January 2017, the City of Stratford Social Services Department engaged the services of an independent consulting firm (JPMC) to conduct a local needs assessment, facilitate a comprehensive community consultation process, and develop a multi-year implementation plan and communication strategy.

The transition plan is intended to build on the strengths and assets of the existing early years and family support programs, as well as identify new opportunities to realign early years services to better meet the needs of the families and children in our community. It would include rationale for site distribution and locations, as well as recommendations on existing and future service programs that are:

- High quality and contribute to healthy child development;
- Welcoming and accessible to all children, caregivers and families throughout Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys;
- Responsive to changing community needs;
- Based on current evidence and best practices;
- Integrated with other community services.

The locations and operators of the new OEYCFC services have not yet been determined. An extensive consultative process is underway to help inform these decisions. This planning process involves:

- Broad-based consultations with parents and caregivers - Over 1,000 responses were received to a parent/caregiver survey that was conducted in Fall 2016;
- Site visits and conversations with front-line staff, parents and caregivers attending early years and family support programs;
- Interviews and focus groups with the existing OEYC lead agency (Perth Care for Kids), childcare supervisors network, school boards, public health, libraries, Children's Aid Society, and other specialized community service providers;
- Inventory of existing early years and family support programs;
- In-depth analysis and data-mapping of available socio-demographic and service utilization statistics (e.g. 2016 Census, birth rates, Early Development Instrument, etc.);
- Planning meetings with the Perth Service Integration Committee of the Kids First Network.

The City of Stratford Social Services Department would take a phased-in approach to the implementation of the new system in order to minimize any disruptions to children, families, caregivers, existing service providers and staff.

As indicated on the attached presentation, the proposed Transition Plan Report and recommendations will be submitted to the Social Services Sub-Committee for review and approval in August.

Financial Impact: Fees associated with the development of the Transition Plan Report are being paid out of the 2017 provincial planning allocation for OEYCFC, which was approved by Council on January 9, 2017.

Beginning in January 2018, the City of Stratford Social Services Department, as Consolidated Service Manager, would be responsible for the local planning, implementation

and ongoing management of these provincially funded early years and family centre programs in Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys.

Existing service agreements between the Ministry of Education and organizations funded for child and family programs will remain in place until December 31, 2017.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update be received for information.



Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
CEO, Perth and Stratford Housing Corporation



Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer

Ontario Early Years Centres



A Place For Parents And Their Children.

Ontario Early Years & Child Family Centres Transition Plan Report Update

Presentation to Social Services Sub-Committee
May 10, 2017



Today's objectives

- To update Councillors on the new vision for early years programs in Ontario
- To review the community planning process now underway, as well as timelines and decision-making criteria
- To share key messages for communication purposes



Background

- Ontario Early Years Centres were originally established in 2002, based on provincial electoral ridings at that time (Perth-Middlesex)
- In 2016, the Ministry of Education announced its plan to integrate all provincially funded early years and family support programs, and establish a common mandate, identity and governance structure called Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs)
- This change is part of a provincial plan that will take place in all municipalities across Ontario
- Effective January 2018, the City of Stratford Social Services Department is the Consolidated Service Manager that will be responsible for overseeing and managing provincially funded early years and family support programs in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County.



Transition Plan

- Service agreements between the Ministry of Education and organizations that receive funding for existing child and family programs (Perth Care for Kids) will remain in place until December 31, 2017
- The City of Stratford Social Services Department will need to have funding agreements in place by January 1, 2018 for the delivery of OEYCFCs.
- A comprehensive transition plan outlining the City's plan to meet the new OEYCFC structure must be developed, approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education by **September 29th** (deadline extended - originally May 31st)

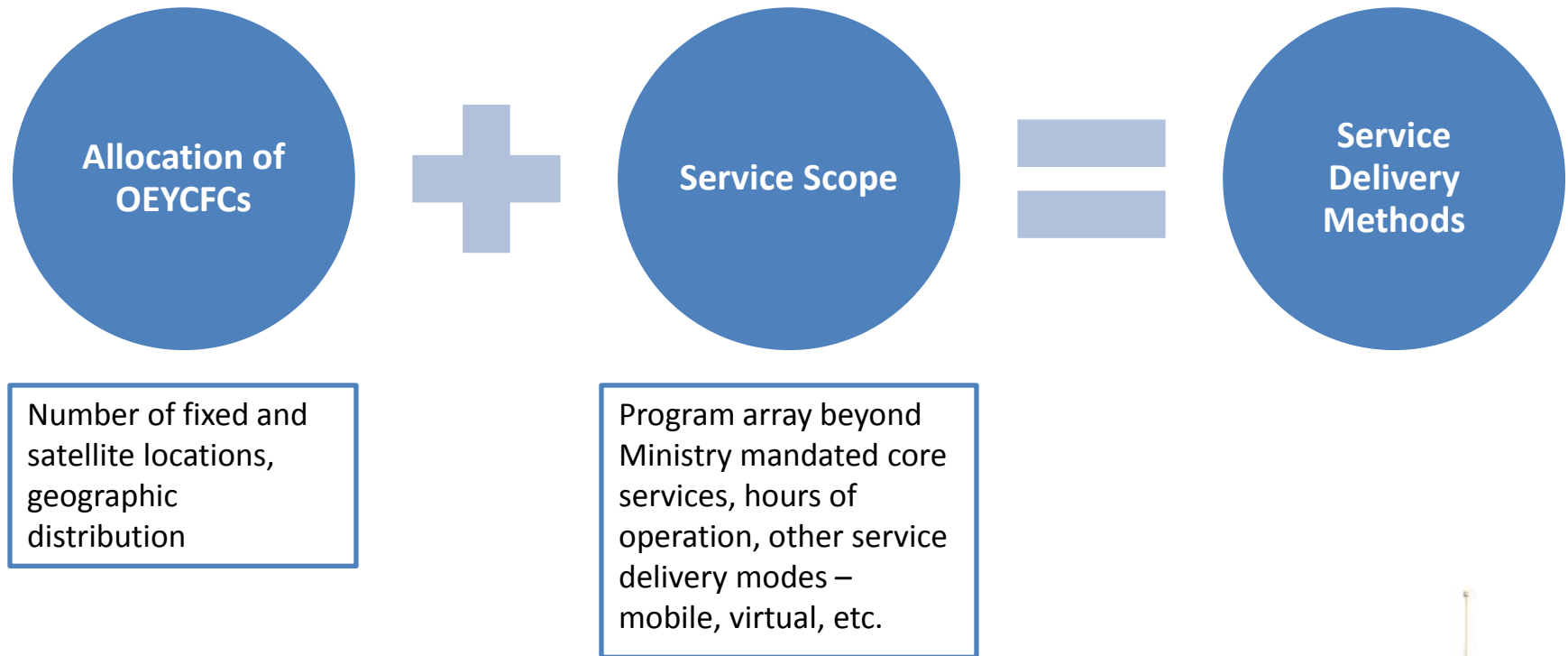


Objectives

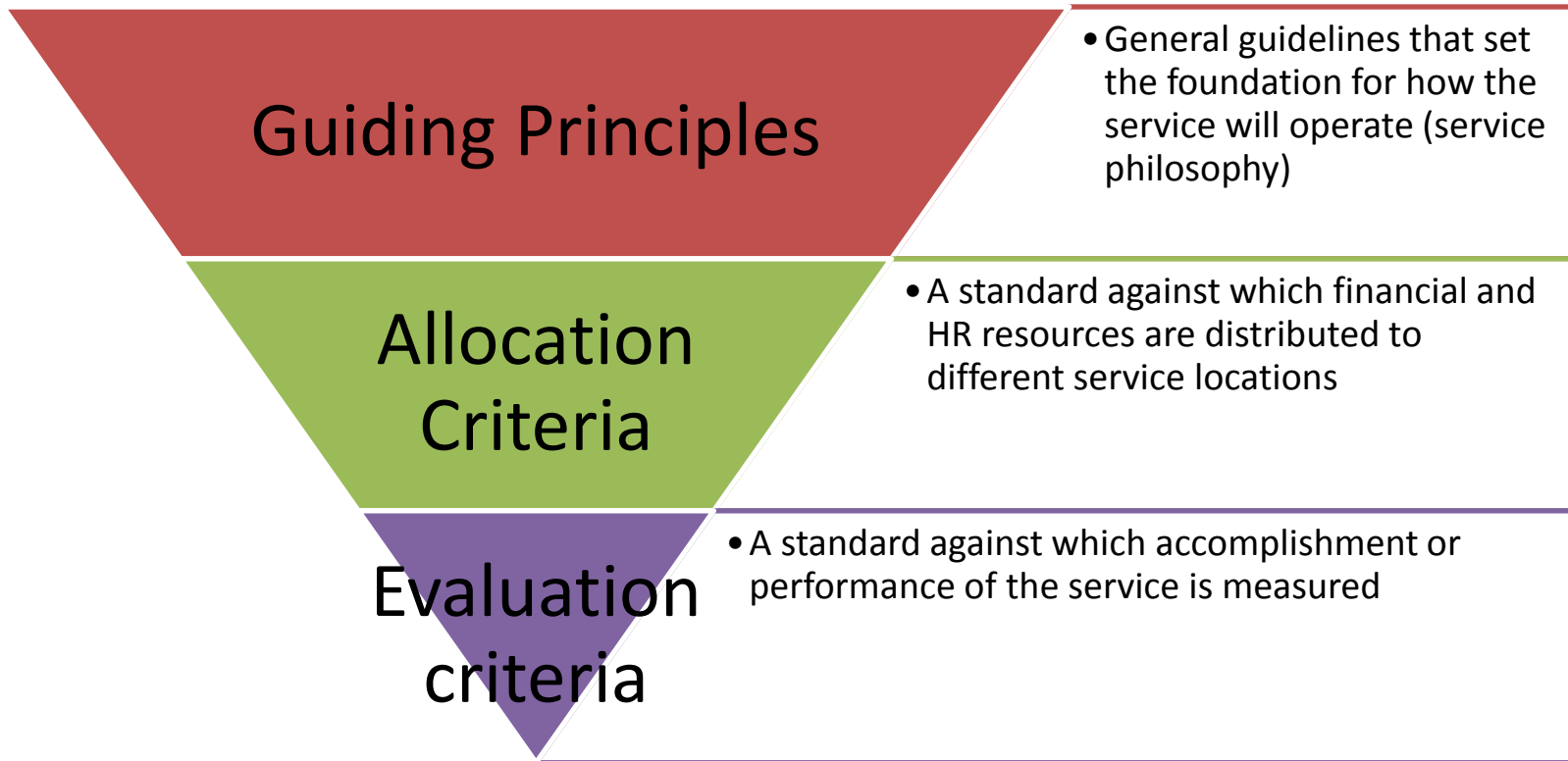
- Ensure that children and their parents/caregivers have access to the same suite of high quality, early years and family support programs regardless of where they live in the province
- Enhance public awareness of available programs and services
- Address community needs and changing demographics
- Ensure programs are reflective of current research best practices (*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*)
- Better integrate programs with other relevant community services



Decisions required



Decision-making framework



Proposed decision-making criteria for OEYCFCs

Guiding Principles

- Child and family centered
- Welcoming
- High quality
- Inclusive
- Integrated
- Community led

Allocation of OEYCFCs

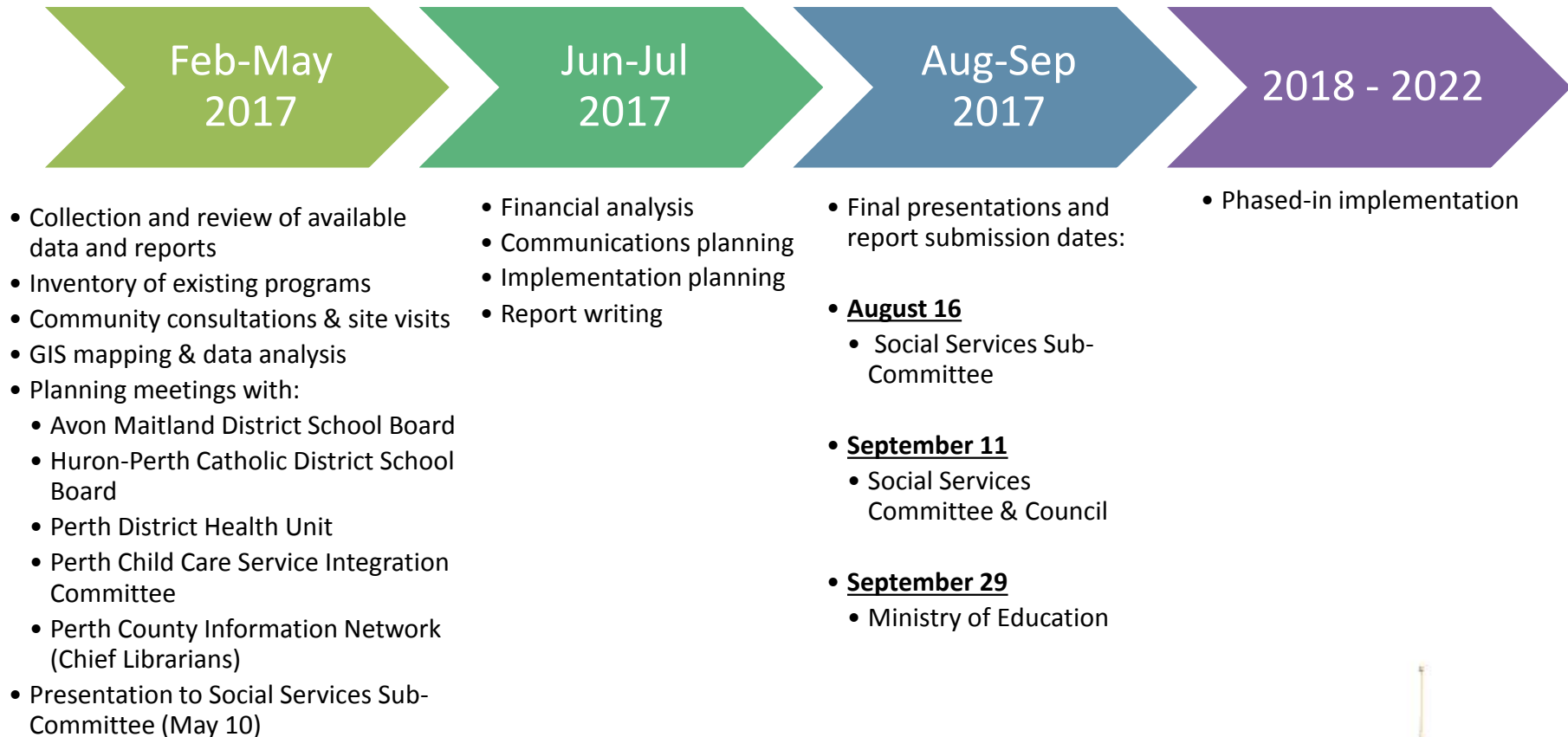
- Level of community need
- Accessibility and space availability
- Service integration
- Service continuity
- Resource implications

Service Scope

- Reflective of current research and best practices
- Level of community interest
- Service needs/gaps
- Potential reach/impact
- Resource availability



Planning process



Consultation process

Broad-based consultations

Parent/caregiver survey – 1000 respondents
(Oct-Nov)

Children's services providers forum
(Dec 6)

Targeted consultations and site visits

OEYC staff and program participants

City-funded family support programs

Community partners – childcare providers, school boards, libraries, public health, CAS

Perth Service Integration Committee

Review of planning parameters
(Mar 27)

Validation of data
(May 23)



Key messages

- We know how important the early years are in forming a solid foundation for a child's entire life, and are committed to delivering programs and services that promote early learning and development, and support parents and caregivers.
- We are committed to building on the strengths and assets of existing programs, as well as identifying new opportunities to realign services to better meet the needs of children and families in our community.
- We will ensure that children, parents, and caregivers have ample opportunities to provide ongoing input to inform local programs and services.
- We will take a phased-in approach to the implementation of the new system in order to minimize any disruptions to families and staff.





MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 26, 2017
To: Social Services Sub-Committee
From: Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
 CEO, Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation
Report#: SOC17-010
Attachments: News - Ministry of Community & Social Services, April 24, 2017

Title: Ontario's Basic Income Pilot

Objective: To provide a preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot.

Background: On April 24, 2017, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) introduced a basic income pilot program for Ontario. As the attached MCSS document indicates, this pilot project is intended "to assess whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people on low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth". (MCSS-Finding A Better Way: A Basic Income Pilot for Ontario, April 24, 2017).

Preliminary pilots will take place in three test regions including Hamilton, Brantford and Brant County, Thunder Bay and surrounding area and Lindsay. These locations include residents living in both urban and rural areas, and will host 4,000 eligible participants between the ages of 18 and 64 years. Participants will be randomly selected to receive the basic income, or to be part of a control group who do not receive it. Additional information about how interested individuals can participate will be made available to test communities in the near future. The province is also in the early stages of planning a separate, parallel First Nations Basic Income pilot, co-created and designed with First Nations partners.

Analysis: The Basic Income model would ensure that eligible participants receive:

- Up to \$16,989 per year for a single person, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to \$24,027 per year for a couple, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to an additional \$6,000 per year for a person with a disability.

An April 24th communication from the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) advises that this pilot will test how a basic income might benefit people living in a

variety of low income situations, including those who are currently working over a 3-year period.

OMSSA also indicated that more than 35,000 people and organizations shared their ideas on a range of topics including who should be eligible for a basic income, which communities to include, how a basic income should be delivered and how the pilot should be evaluated during the consultations. A third-party research consortium that will evaluate the study will be announced shortly. The province will form an advisory group with research and evaluation experts to ensure that the pilot is conducted with the utmost integrity, rigour and ethical standards.

The Director of Social Services will participate in an OMSSA Leadership Table technical briefing discussion with MCSS representatives including Janet Menard, Deputy Minister and Karen Glass, Assistant Deputy Minister, Poverty Reduction Strategy Office on May 4, 2017, and will provide an update at the meeting.

Financial Impact: Not applicable at this time.

Staff Recommendation: **THAT the preliminary report on Ontario's Basic Income Pilot be received for information.**



Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
CEO, Perth and Stratford Housing Corporation



Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer

Ontario's Basic Income Pilot

April 24, 2017 9:00 A.M.

Finding a Better Way: A Basic Income Pilot for Ontario

Ontario is launching a pilot project to assess whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people on low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth.

Ontario's March 2016 Budget was the beginning of the process toward designing the Basic Income pilot. That Budget announced a commitment to create a Basic Income pilot project to test the model in Ontario.

In June 2016, the government asked long-time basic income advocate the Hon. Hugh Segal to provide advice on how to best design a made-in-Ontario pilot. His report, [Finding a Better Way: A Basic Income Pilot for Ontario](#), was released in November 2016. It included a number of key considerations and recommendations on how the Government of Ontario should design a basic income pilot. The discussion paper provided advice and recommendations in the areas of pilot design, site selection, basic income amount, delivery, outcomes and measures, and governance and administration.

Speaking to People Across Ontario

The Government of Ontario used Mr. Segal's report to launch the consultation phase of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP) in November 2016. Consultations were held across the province, giving people a voice in determining what the pilot could look like. Consultations were broad and inclusive, gathering input from a cross-section of people in Ontario. These consultations included in-person public meetings, online surveys and written submissions to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to express their opinions on how the pilot should work.

Between Nov. 3, 2016 and Jan. 31, 2017:

- 32,870 people responded to the public survey
- 1,213 people responded to the expert survey
- 1,193 people attended the in-person meetings

537 written submissions were received from private citizens and community groups.

In March 2017, Ontario released the Basic Income Consultations: What We Heard report summarizing the feedback gathered from the consultations. The feedback received during this consultation phase was critical in designing the OBIP.

Pilot Objective

Ontario's economy is in a relatively strong position, however many people in the province are not feeling that growth in their everyday lives. People are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living and facing "precarious employment" with little job security or benefits. The three-year OBIP, which will begin in late spring 2017, will study whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers and give people the security and opportunity they need to achieve their potential. It will also study whether giving people a basic income can be a simpler and more economically effective way to provide income security support to people living on low incomes.

The pilot will measure outcomes in areas such as:

- Food security
- Stress and anxiety
- Mental health
- Health and healthcare usage
- Housing stability
- Education and training
- Employment and labour market participation.

Locations

The pilot will take place in the following locations:

- Hamilton, Brantford and Brant County - Launching late spring 2017
- Thunder Bay and the surrounding area - Launching late spring 2017
- Lindsay - Launching by fall 2017.

The locations were selected so that the pilot can study outcomes in urban, rural and mixed urban/rural areas. The regions were also assessed for their economic need, demographics and access to local resources and services.

First Nations

The government is working with First Nations communities and partners on an approach that

reflects the advice and unique perspectives of First Nations communities, organizations and peoples. In a separate but parallel process, a basic income pilot for First Nations is being co-created and designed in collaboration with First Nations partners.

Evaluation

The study will be evaluated by a third-party research consortium to be announced shortly. The province will also form an advisory group with research and evaluation experts to ensure the OBIP is conducted with the utmost integrity, rigour and ethical standards.

Participants

Study participants will be:

- Randomly selected
- 18 to 64 years old
- Living in one of the selected test locations for the past 12 months or longer
- Living on a lower income.

Individuals will be informed and provide consent to participate in the pilot. Participation in the pilot will be voluntary, and participants can opt out at any time.

How the Ontario Basic Income Pilot Works

The payment will ensure a minimum level of income is provided to participants. Aligning with the advice of Hugh Segal, payments based on 75 per cent of the Low Income Measure (LIM), plus other broadly available tax credits and benefits, would provide an income that will meet household costs and average health-related spending.

Following a tax credit model, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot will ensure that participants receive:

- Up to \$16,989 per year for a single person, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to \$24,027 per year for a couple, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to an additional \$6,000 per year for a person with a disability.

Participants in the pilot will be able to increase their total earnings by combining a basic income with income they earn through work. The basic income amount will decrease by \$0.50 for every dollar an individual earns by working.

The basic income will be responsive to changes in a participant's circumstances, such as a

significant decrease in earnings, change in family composition, or change in disability status.

Ontario will invest \$50 million per year in the OBIP for each of the three years of the pilot.

Impact on existing benefits

Child tax benefits

Participants currently receiving child benefits, such as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), will continue to be eligible to receive them during the pilot.

CPP and EI benefits

Participants on Employment Insurance (EI) or on the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) will have their monthly basic income payment reduced dollar for dollar.

Drug and dental benefits

People receiving support through Ontario Works who enter the pilot will continue to receive the Ontario Drug Benefit, and people on the Ontario Disability Support Program will continue to receive the Ontario Drug Benefit and dental benefits.

Basic income examples

1. Single individual with two children on Ontario Works who has no employment earnings.

	Current	Pilot
Basic Income		\$16,989
Ontario Works - Maximum Basic Needs and Shelter	\$12,228	
Other Tax Benefits (e.g. OCB/CCB)	\$16,668	\$16,668
Net Total	\$28,896	\$33,657

2. Single individual with two children who works a full-time minimum wage job.

	Current	Pilot
Basic Income		\$6,245
Net Employment Earnings	\$20,106	\$20,106
Other Tax Benefits (e.g. OCB/CCB)	\$17,668	\$16,232
Net Total	\$37,774	\$42,583

3. Couple with two children, with both parents working full time in a minimum wage job.

	Current	Pilot
Basic Income		\$2,538
Net Employment Earnings	\$39,199	\$39,199
Other Tax Benefits (e.g. OCB/CCB)	\$12,186	\$10,321
Net Total	\$51,385	\$53,098

Next Steps

Later this spring, randomly selected individuals from the Hamilton, Brantford, Brant County and Thunder Bay locations will receive information in the mail inviting them to apply to be part of the OBIP.

Eligible individuals will then be selected to either receive the basic income or be part of a control group made up of people who will not receive payments. Individuals receiving the basic income will be compared to the selected control group. Supports will be available to assist potential participants in completing their applications both centrally (via phone or email) and locally (in-person). Payments are expected to begin in the summer 2017.

Individuals living in Lindsay will receive information in the fall of 2017.

Up to 4,000 participants receiving payments through the OBIP will be included in the pilot at full implementation.

For information on OBIP visit ontario.ca/basicincome.

- [YCombinator](#) is also studying the idea of a basic income in Oakland, California.
- [Read about the impact](#) of the Dauphin, Manitoba basic income experiment in the 1970s.
- The OBIP was also informed by a number of expert reports from across the political spectrum, including feedback from the [Mowat Centre](#), the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#), and the [Fraser Institute](#).

Lyndsay Miller Minister's Office, Ministry of Community and Social Services

416-325-5450

Theresa Lubowitz Minister's Office, Ministry of Housing

416-585-7647

Daniel Schultz Communications Branch

416-212-3325

[Available Online](#)
[Disponible en Français](#)



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: May 10, 2017
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Jody Brown, Social Services Supervisor
 Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
 CEO, Perth & Stratford Housing Corporation
Report#: SOC17-009
Attachments: None

Title: Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for Rural and Remote Communities

Objective: To obtain approval for entry into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400 for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.

Background: In January 2017, the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), with the support and administration of the United Way Simcoe Muskoka, issued a call for proposals for initiatives designed to prevent and address homelessness in rural and remote communities in Ontario.

In response, the Social Services Department in consultation with local community partners submitted a proposal for a one-year pilot initiative that would fill an identified local service gap through the provision of "Housing Help" and "Voluntary Trusteeship Services" for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Housing Help and Voluntary Trusteeship Services are core human service programs, recognized as best practices for the prevention of homelessness and the promotion of housing stability. Across Ontario a number of municipalities have implemented these programs and are part of the provincial association of agencies and organizations offering such services, for example, [Housing Help Association of Ontario](#).

- **Housing Help Services** would provide a number of services that would help people who do not have a place to live or who are at risk of becoming homeless with support for housing searches, landlord mediation, tenant conflict resolution, and referrals to other

programs and services to address barriers to housing stability (e.g., health care, children's services, etc.) in an effort to support independent living.

- **The Voluntary Trusteeship Services** would offer financial management supports and budgeting assistance to ensure rent and other expenses are paid on time, and would help people with money matters thereby contributing to housing stability by avoiding them having to leave their home due to financial problems.

The proposed Housing Help and Trusteeship initiatives are essential community services whose main mandate is to assist people to find and keep suitable housing and are consistent in meeting the strategies established under the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys.

Analysis: Communities in Stratford and Perth County currently offer a range of services and supports to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This includes income assistance, emergency shelter, food hampers and meal programs, and legal aid services; however, dedicated Housing Help Services and Voluntary Trusteeship Services are not yet available in our communities.

The Social Services Department is proposing that the Housing Division partner with one or more local non-profit human service partners to pilot this new initiative that would include and make available drop-in Housing Help Services and Voluntary Trusteeship Services for residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As noted above, these are considered core human service programs that are common across municipalities in Ontario and elsewhere, and are considered best practice for preventing homelessness and building housing stability.

In April 2017, the Social Services Department was advised that the adjudication committee for the Ontario HPS for Rural and Remote Communities fund had approved a grant in the amount of \$64,700 to be used for these purposes. More specifically, funds are intended to be used to complete a needs assessment and community scan to design and develop the program, and thereafter to purchase the services of a local non-profit agency to hire a frontline worker to provide direct client support, as well as to equip a central drop-in space at a Housing Resource Centre in Stratford with computers/internet access, photocopier, telephone access for clients, etc. The funding would also support the local agency to offer satellite services in other public spaces, such as libraries and community centres, throughout our catchment of Perth County.

Project Deliverables and Timeline:

The fiscal year 2017-2018 would serve as a pilot period to:

- conduct a needs assessment, community scan, and literature review in order to design the program, award the contract/sign agreements, order supplies and equip service delivery site, and hire and train staff person(s) from May-August 2017
- initiate the program, including data tracking elements for program evaluation; accept new clients starting in September 2017

- conduct mid-term review and make program adjustments, as indicated by December 2017
- conduct final review and determine next steps by March 2018.

Community Participation and Support/Other sources of funding:

This initiative is intended to be a collaborative endeavour between the City of Stratford Social Services Division, Housing Services and Ontario Works Departments and one or more local non-profit organizations serving vulnerable persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and living in poverty.

The City of Stratford acts as the Service Manager for the provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). As part of the 2017 CHPI budget approved by the Ministry, funding was also committed to the creation of a trusteeship program. These funds would be combined with the 100% one-time grant to support the pilot program consistent with CHPI guidelines. At this point, preliminary discussions have been held with local non-profit agencies and there would be interest in collaboration should the funding contract agreement for the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) be approved to proceed.

Data Collection and Case Management:

In order to assess the ongoing feasibility of the initiative, Social Services staff intend to track both program outputs and client outcomes. That is, individual client data would be recorded, including what services have been rendered and to what impact. Regular reviews of aggregate data reports would be conducted, and confidential client file reviews of case notes would also be conducted to explore program fidelity and impact. Time and resources permitting, focus groups with staff and clients may be conducted to explore program strengths and areas in need of improvement.

Financial Impact: If approved, the Social Services Department would receive one-time 100% grant funds in the amount of \$64,700 for the period of April 2017 to March 2018. This is one-year funding with no guarantee for future funding. The City of Stratford as the Service Manager for the provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) had committed \$20,200 in the approved 2017 budget towards creating a trusteeship program, which would be combined with the Federal funding grant from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy to support the implementation of this pilot program.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into a one-year funding agreement in the amount of \$67,400, for the Ontario Homelessness Partnering Strategy for Rural and Remote Communities as funded by the Government of Canada and administered by the United Way Simcoe Muskoka.



Jody Brown
Supervisor of Social Services



Carole Desmeules, Director of Social Services
CEO, Perth and Stratford Housing Corporation



Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer