



## **2012 Second Quarter Activity Report Sept. 27, 2012**

The following is the most recent consolidated Quarterly Report which we are sending to member municipalities and posting on our public website. Expect Quarterly Reports in February, May, September, and November of each year.

The program statistics are provided separately and updated monthly. They are available on the website by clicking the following link: [Monthly Program Statistics](#)

### **CAO Overview**

The DSB [2012 Second Quarter \(Unaudited\) Financial Report](#) was presented to the Board and projects a year-end municipal share surplus of \$111,540. This surplus includes Ontario Works allowances forecasted to be under budget by \$42,936. In addition the municipal share of Children Services is forecasted to be under budget by \$39,898; the Social Housing is forecasted to be under budget by \$59,458; and the Emergency Medical Services is over budget by \$14,844.

The DSB quarterly financial reports are available on the DSB website by clicking the following link: [Quarterly Financial Reports](#)

### **DSB AGM in Killarney**

The DSB AGM held in Killarney on May 23, 2012 was a great success. There were 20 participants representing 13 municipalities in attendance. Based on the evaluations received the only issue was some participants had a difficult time hearing the presenters and this will be corrected at the next meeting by ensuring microphones are available for the presenters.

Since the DSB was created in 1999, this was our 4th AGM in the 13 years. Through the evaluations participants were asked to indicate how often the DSB should host these types of meetings. Based on the responses received, the Board approved [Resolution 12-60](#) at the June 2012 Board meeting. This resolution renames the "Annual General Meeting" to "General Meeting" and all member municipalities will be called together for General Meetings when deemed most appropriate by the Board.

The agenda, minutes and presentations can be found on the DSB website by clicking on the following link: [DSB 2012 AGM](#)

# Emergency Medical Services

## Collective Bargaining

The Collective Agreement between the DSB and OPSEU Local 679 (representing paramedics) expired on the first of this year. As reported last quarter, after a tentative agreement was reached it was turned down by the Union membership and we are still awaiting the resumption of discussions.

## Paramedic Mandatory Training

Yearly mandatory training was held over the month of May. During the day long sessions paramedics reviewed many skills and protocols and learned a new piece of equipment (CPAP detailed below). Topics of review included the importance of accurate documentation and rapid medical assessments. The Sager traction splint, Bag Valve Mask, airway adjuncts, and stretcher usage were also reviewed with the aim of safe usage as the main goal. A skill station to practice the dispensing of medication and safe injection mechanics was also provided for review. Lastly, CPR certification was offered to all staff after the official training was complete. This year there were substantial changes to the CPR standards. Throughout the day, components surrounding the background of changes to CPR were ingrained within the stations and after the official training was complete those wishing to stay to receive the remaining information were tested for official certification.

## CPAP Introduction

Constant Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) equipment has been used successfully in hospital and pre-hospital settings for congestive heart failure, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, drowning, CO poisoning, pulmonary infections and other conditions. The system helps avoid the need for intubation, gives patients comfort during extreme breathing difficulties, reduces future lung infection and may, therefore, reduce mortality.



During the month of May, our Paramedics became trained in the application and usage of CPAP. This knowledge is added to other medical procedures that the Paramedics are currently practicing. In order to be able to provide this skill the paramedics had to become educated and certified by a Ministry of Health Base Hospital Program. Since the training, and service wide implementation on the first of June, CPAP has been used

on one female patient who was experiencing extreme shortness of breath. The CPAP device assisted her to take deep breathes, kept her airway open and possibly saved her life.

## **Hiring Process**

The EMS Department started the yearly hiring process in late May. This year we produced an accelerated process because of a sudden increase in staffing difficulties. We reviewed over 50 applications and invited 20 applicants to participate in the on-site testing which consisted of a written test, 2 oral medical scenarios, and 2 random equipment testing stations. Staff interviewed 13 candidates and the top candidates were offered employment pending successful completion of the orientation program.

## **Children's Services**

### **Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program**

With the commitment of the government to move forward with full day kindergarten, and with the passing of the budget, there has been some new correspondence from the Ministry of Education. Firstly, the government released its paper "[Modernizing Child Care in Ontario](#)" Within this paper; the province has expressed its commitment in modernizing child care with the intent that this paper will encourage conversation about the vision and the objectives over the next three years.

Key action areas over the next three years include:

- 1) Changing the funding formula
- 2) Providing capital funding priorities
- 3) Enhancement of program quality
- 4) Modernizing of legislative framework
- 5) Supporting accountability and capacity building

The discussion paper highlights the areas of focus while it also presents some interesting questions on how to accomplish these goals. The paper is open to the public and responses can be provided directly at the MEDU [website](#).

In light of the discussion paper and the passing of the provincial budget, the Ministry has announced additional funds to help support day care's facing potential impacts from the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten. The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Children's Services department is working closely with providers to address their negative impacts and to access these funds to help them focus their program on children from 0 to 3.8 years of age.

## **Best Start Network**

The Best Start Network continues regular monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month. Minutes to these meetings can be found on the [Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start website](#). The Best Start Network attended a Planning Workshop that took place on May 8, 2012. The workshop facilitated the network in the development and identification of action items and goals. Since that time, the Best Start Network met in June and began working on a template which brings the identified items into a formal plan that will include timelines and desired outcomes.

## **Child Care Providers meeting**

The annual provider's meeting, which includes the attendance of day care Supervisors and Executive Directors, was held on June 15, 2012. The day was facilitated by Martin Liberio who focused on teaching attendees about Emergent Learning and how to implement this pathway of learning within their daycares. Providers responded positively and left with the knowledge to help facilitate the implementation of emergent learning curriculum and emergent learning care environments within the day cares they serve.

## **NOSDA Child Care Networking Committee**

In light of the recent release of the discussion paper "[Modernizing Child Care in Ontario](#)", the NOSDA Child Care Committee will be meeting to compile a joint response to this discussion paper. The committee will be reviewing and finalizing a response for submission by the due date in September. Since the discussion paper clearly suggests that the funding model will be reviewed, key items that are expected to be topics of discussion include the importance of flexibility to allocate funds, and the importance of a base funding model. Any changes to the funding model must consist of base funding that will ensure the viability of our northern child care operators.

# **Ontario Works**

## **Ontario Works Caseload**

In the 2nd quarter of 2012, the Ontario Works Caseload average is 464. Compared to last year at this time, the caseload has decreased by 8% which is mostly due to seasonal employment. The 2012 budget was based on an estimated monthly maximum caseload of 488. As of June 2012, the caseload totals 450 for the complete District.

As a result, the Ontario Works Allowance gross budget surplus is \$100,912 and the municipal share is \$42,936.

## **Employment Ontario (EO)**

On May 2, 2012, we hosted our first Professional Development Seminar and Luncheon for the Employers in the Sudbury North Area. The intent of this seminar was to provide the employers in the region with a brief overview of what the Employment Ontario Program entails. We also enlisted a guest speaker to discuss 'Human Rights and Recruitment', a topic that most employers can relate to. A total of 15 employers were in attendance and the evaluations were all very positive. Based on the response from employers, we look forward to providing similar opportunities in the future.

## **Provincial Budget**

DSB staff provided the board with an [Impact of Provincial Budget - Issue Report](#) during the April board meeting outlining the impacts of the budget which included changes to the Discretionary Benefits and the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit.

Part of those changes included the involvement of the DSB staff making changes to the current Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits policy. Staff provided the Board with a summary of options during the June board meeting. The biggest change in this policy now allows staff to deny benefits request that would qualify under the policy but are unable to approve as the DSB has met or exceeded the provincial maximum on discretionary benefits. This change in policy is required now as the new provincial maximum on Discretionary Benefits will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

DSB staff are finalizing the Ontario Works Discretionary Benefits policy changes and will be providing the Board with recommendations for changes in policy in the fall.

## **Sudbury East Cambrian Services**

In April 2012, the DSB was advised that due to funding constraints Cambrian College was no longer going to fund Alpha-en-Partage to deliver Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) services at the St-Charles site. Cambrian's funding will end July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The DSB staff have met with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and with Cambrian College as well as with Alpha-en-Partage to lobby for the continuation of LBS services and to ensure that a seamless transition occurs for the clients of the Sudbury East region. This service is an integral part of the Ontario Works program and is a very important one especially in such a rural community. An update will be provided in the next quarterly report.

## **Summer Jobs for Youth**

In May 2012, for the 4<sup>th</sup> summer, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received confirmation from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that the DSB was going to deliver the Summer Jobs for Youth program on Manitoulin Island. Staff began the process by hiring two Summer Youth Leaders as well as advertising in the papers and on the DSB website to ensure our community partners were aware of the program. The DSB received 68 employer applications and 101 student applications. Unfortunately, the DSB only received funding for 40 student placements but managed to place 59 students due to the success of the continued support from the Ministry.

## **Social Housing**

### **10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan**

To assist with the development of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, the DSB has contracted the services of Social Planning Council (SPC) of Sudbury. This project is off to a very good start and staff continues to work with the SPC to meet our work plan goals. There will be community consultations in the fall and the DSB staff will ensure municipalities are made aware of these dates.

### **Tenants**

During the quarter, 14 new tenancies were created. 13 one bedroom units and 1 family unit were rented from April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There were a total of 12 move-outs during this period.

### **Applicants**

During the second quarter of 2012 our portfolio saw an overall increase to the waiting list of 6%. The overall change from December 31, 2011 breaks down as follows:

- 1 Bedroom + 19 applicants
- 2 Bedroom + 5 applicants
- 3 Bedroom + 2 applicants
- 4 bedroom + 1 applicant

## **Revenues**

Revenues for the period of January to June 2012 are \$528,883 as compared to the budgeted amount of \$528,053. The results are a small surplus of \$830.

## **Arrears**

Arrears for the period averaged 2% of total revenue for this quarter. An integrated approach to collecting arrears is utilized to maintain tenancies and ensure timely collection of outstanding rent.

## **Events**

The DSB partnered with Our Children Our Future to host a container gardening initiative and it was a great success! With over 100 container gardens made, and over 130 registered visitors to our site in a 3-hour window. We are very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to similar projects in the future. As an added bonus, our local EMS staff took the time to bring an Ambulance on site and allowed the children to explore the vehicle. This was very popular. In addition, local Fire Chief and Deputy Police Chief also made a presence at the event and entertained the children.

## **Infrastructure & Asset Management**

### **Foleyet EMS Base**

Smart Structures, the general contractor originally hired by the DSB to construct the base notified us in June that they would not be completing the base. Consequently, the DSB has hired a new General Contractor – Leo Santerre and Son Construction to complete the EMS base. The current substantial completion target date is October 5.

## **Energy Initiatives and Cost Savings**

### **Air Conditioner Levies**

The DSB initiated a policy for 2012 to recoup the costs associated with a tenant operating an air conditioner in housing units in which the DSB pays electrical costs. Tenants were given notice in 2011 that this was coming for 2012 and that they would be assessed \$50 per air conditioner. Surveys conducted by IAM custodians in July 2012 indicated that 85 tenants had air conditioners in their units. The resultant \$4,000 plus revenue will be put against DSB electrical costs.

## **Energy Saving Lighting Program**

Nine DSB facilities including EMS bases and Integrated Social Services offices have been assessed and approved for lighting upgrades with resultant energy savings. The 2012 capital costs for the installation of this lighting is \$3,505 with a calculated energy savings of \$2,510 per annum. This amounts to an investment payback in 1.4 years after which we realize the full savings per year.

## **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)**

The Program Delivery and Fiscal Plan which outlines how the DSB will allocate the IAH monies has been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MMAH).

For Year 1, \$100,000 of the total allotment of the DSB's \$1,015,176 was used in the Ontario Renovates component of the IAH initiative. This money assisted 6 families for repairs to their homes in the DSB catchment area.

For Year 2, the DSB has an allotment of \$375,558 to be spent under the Ontario Renovates IAH component. To date there are 11 active files assigned to Year 2.

## **Summary**

We have had a very busy second quarter. If municipal Councils have any questions or would like DSB staff to attend a municipal Council meeting please feel free to contact me at the address below.

### **Fern Dominelli**

Chief Administrative Officer  
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
Phone: 705-862-7850 ext.234  
E mail: [fern.dominelli@msdsb.net](mailto:fern.dominelli@msdsb.net)  
Website: [www.msdsb.net](http://www.msdsb.net)