



**MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD  
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES  
SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE MANITOULIN-SUDBURY**

210 boul Mead Blvd  
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9  
Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-7850  
Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805  
<http://www.msdsb.net>

## **Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board**

### **Third Quarter Activity Report - November 2009**

This is the first of the consolidated Quarterly Reports which we will be sending to member municipalities and posting on our public website. We have attempted to create a document which is concise enough to be included in council agenda packages if you so desire. The plan is to send these Quarterly Reports out in May, September and November of each year.

The program statistics are provided separately and updated monthly on the website.

See: <http://www.msdsb.net/ADMIN/MonthlyProgramStats.php>

This quarterly report includes an overview report from me and concise high level reports from each program. We are trying to keep these reports brief and to the point. More detail on all of the issues mentioned in these reports can be found on the Board's redesigned website. The Quarterly Financial Report follows this report.

#### **CAO Overview**

In mid- June, the CAO- Gary Champagne went on an extended sick leave. The Board contracted with David Court of David Court Consulting to serve as Acting CAO on an interim basis. Mr. Court had been the CAO of the Algoma DSSAB for 35 years and had recently been engaged in a similar replacement capacity with the Timiskaming DSSAB. In October, Fern Dominelli, the Director of Social Services was named Acting CAO effective November 1, 2009.

In July /August we worked on implementation of the Board's Strategic Plan. The plan is on the website and can be viewed at the following location.

See: <http://www.msdsb.net/ADMIN/docs/ProgramIssues/Strategic---Final-Copy-Numbered-recomendations.pdf>

A summary of the recommendations and the status of implementation of each recommendation can be seen at:

See: <http://www.msdsb.net/ADMIN/docs/ProgramIssues/Strategic-Plan-Recommendation-Summary-Update-Nov-2009.pdf>

Of 102 separate recommendations 64 have been fully complete. Another 27 are recommendations which have no fixed finalization because they represent ongoing activities. 6 items, which can be completed, remain outstanding and will be completed before January 31, 2010. Another 5 items have been delayed for consideration in 2010 or later years.

In September, we began the lengthy 2010 budget process which was completed at the October Board meeting. In addition we completed a detailed review of reserves which was also presented at the October Board meeting.

### **Children's Programs**

#### **Best Start Child Care**

Our primary concern over the summer months was whether the provincial termination of Best Start child care funding would lead to denial of child care fee subsidy to existing recipients or new applicants. In August, we received a confirmation from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services of our 2010-11 and 2011-12 ongoing funding. We saw a reduction in 100% provincial subsidy of \$273,258 for the 2010-11 and an ongoing annualized reduction of \$381,360 effective 2011-12. Based on this information, we determined that there would be no negative impact on families or children. We can accommodate this loss of provincial funding because the present demand for child care is less than the Best Start original allocation so the cut could be absorbed.

#### **Dr. Charles Pascal Report to Premier on Early Learning in Ontario**

See: <http://www.msdsb.net/ADMIN/Correspondence/CS-Pascale-Report---With-Our-Best-Future-in-Mind.pdf>

In July, we received this report which when implemented will have a very significant impact on this Board's children's programs, the formal child care system and the education system. The Board was very pleased to see that many of the recommendations made by this Board related to governance in children's services were reflected in the Pascal report. Due to the number and significance of the changes implementation will occur over the next 5-6 years.

## **Best Start Network**

In September we made one-time funding available for Hubs to address work plan pressures in programming. These 100% provincial funds are intended to increase direct programs for families. Each Hub will determine how to overcome shortcomings in their current Hub programming and move toward developing Best Start Child & Family Centers as described in the Pascal Report.

## **Quality Assurance**

The Child Care Quality Assurance Audit of child care providers commenced on September 23. The Audit team did an introductory visit to set dates and times for observation and they familiarized themselves with each site. On September 25, the Audit Team met with the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Children's Program Supervisor for an overview of the Child Care Centre's performances around Quality Assurance.

## **Emergency Medical Services**

### **Statistics**

The Ministry of Health & Long Term Care (MOHLTC) data collection program for ambulance calls continues to be unreliable across Ontario. We and others have identified the issue and forwarded it the Ministry. This problem remains unresolved. Accordingly, the statistics must be considered unavailable at this time.

### **Public Access Defibrillation (PAD)**

In September, the Board made a commitment to continue to support the PAD program and budget for training and eventual equipment replacement costs. In addition, we have been approved for an additional 20 PAD locations by the Heart & Stroke Foundation. We are waiting on a new agreement for these additional PAD units. We expect the 3<sup>rd</sup> round rollout will be able to start in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009.

### **Ambulance Deliveries**

In late July we received 3 new Ambulances as the 3 oldest units in the fleet were decommissioned. Recent improvements to the new units include a computerized system which promises to require less maintenance and produce greater flexibility. The vehicles, although no larger externally than the previous years' model, contain many advances related to increasing the usable interior space for the crews.

## **New Noëlville EMS Station - Municipality of French River**

We moved into the new Noëlville EMS Station on August 26<sup>th</sup>. We would like to congratulate the Municipality of French River on the successful completion of this new complex which includes the EMS station. The Paramedics really appreciate all that this new station provides in terms of space and a brighter environment.

## **Ongoing Worker Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) Work Plan**

During the second and third quarters of 2009, we met with a representative from WSIB in relation to the number of injuries and our increased New Experimental Experience Rating (NEER). WSIB has started to refocus on education and prevention. As part of their plan, they are reviewing EMS services across the province.

A review by the WSIB representative led to a work plan. The work plan focused on a return to work plan, a first aid plan, and safe operating procedures. The return to work program was developed with the help of our Human Resources consultant - Aurel Malo. The first aid plan and safe operating procedures were reviewed by the EMS Operations Manager. Assistance in developing clearer and more concise plans was given by the EMS Field Managers. We had the information that the WSIB was looking for though not in a format or documented to WSIB standards. Throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> and into the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter work was completed to meet those standards.

An initial progress meeting with the WSIB representative was held in mid August. The representative noted that the EMS Dept now met the WSIB requirements. A final meeting is scheduled for during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to assess progress in terms of injury prevention.

## **Jeff Horseman Announcement**

On September 17<sup>th</sup> EMS Director-Jeff Horseman announced that he would be leaving the organization in October to take a position with Huron County. This move allows him to return each night to his family in Bruce County. We will all miss Jeff's enthusiasm and leadership and wish him the best in the future. The search for a new Director of EMS has commenced with a candidate hopefully being chosen late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. In the interim, an announcement was made regarding acting roles. Michael Maclsaac was named Acting Director, Jeff Aiken was named Acting Operation Manager, and David Wolff was named Acting Field Manager.

## Ontario Works

### Enhanced Employment Services (ESS) for Vulnerable Persons - Implementation Plan

Funding has been allocated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to provide services for persons on social assistance with no or marginal attachment to the labour market that are also experiencing multiple barriers to employment. The 100% provincial funding made available to the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB is \$46,000 per year for a total of \$92,000 for the two year period ending March 31, 2011. The purpose of the funding is to re-connect, support and prepare vulnerable populations for participating in appropriate education, training services and employment. To achieve labour market success, some individuals may require upfront intensive supports that will prepare them to participate in pre-employment activities. This will assist people with no or minimal attachment to the labour force who are most at risk during an economic downturn.

We used funding to contract with Alpha en Partage to hire a full time employee to assess and work with the targeted clients. Hôpital Régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital has also hired a Case Manager to service our referred clients with addictions and/or mental illness.

### Summer Jobs for Youth Program

The DSSAB received 100% provincial funding to place students with employers on Manitoulin Island through the Youth Opportunities Strategy.

Placement Results

Funded Youth Placements 40

Youth who Applied to Program 72

Employers Applying for Placements 36

Job Orders Received from Employers 103

Youth Actually Placed 55

F/T Placements 54

P/T Placements 1

Youth Completing Placements 51

This program was a great success as it was open to Manitoulin private sector and public/not-for profit sector employers.

## **Ontario Works Local Policy Manual - Changes**

Since the last time Board approved the Ontario Works Manual in June 2009, there have been some changes to the provincial Rent Bank rules that require an amendment to the Health Communities Fund Policy. Also there was a change required to the last Month's Rent policy.

### **Social Housing**

#### **Provincial Housing Strategy Consultation**

This province wide consultation came to Sudbury on September 24. The session was well attended by a number of interest groups and individuals who wanted to provide comment with regard to the long term plans for affordable housing. Thirteen sessions were held across Ontario. Additional submissions may be sent up to December 31, 2009. See: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page6395.aspx>

#### **Capital Repair Projects**

The Maintenance Manager, Graham Lewis has been implementing the Capital Repair Plan approved by the Board for 2009. All of the work undertaken is done to ensure that the buildings are renovated to extend the building's life span. Life Safety Systems and energy conservation are priorities.

#### **Affordable Housing Program (AHP) - Economic Stimulus Plan**

The Social Housing Repair and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) component of the AHP is designed to allow for repairs to the existing social housing stock. This DSSAB has received a total of \$842,175 for the two year term of the program. This includes \$377,341 in year one which ends March 31, 2010 and \$464,854 in year two which ends March 31, 2011. SHRRP funding allows us to fast track capital repairs. This will lead to the improvement of the DSSAB owned public housing and non-profit housing buildings.

The Northern Repair Program was extended as part of the AHP extension. This program provides funding for essential repairs to allow low income persons to continue to reside in their own homes. Our Northern Home Repair Plan submission was approved by mid-September in the amount of 1.2 million dollars. This allocation is an increase of \$200,000 over the previous amount approved in 2008. The DSSAB's initial program was successful as we allocated the funds made available within the

mandated timeframe. We anticipate achieving our goals again. ManTech Services has been engaged to assist us with inspection services.

Fern Dominelli, CAO (A)

November 2009