



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

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MINUTES
of the
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held in its 210 Mead Blvd., Espanola Boardroom on
November 25, 2004

Present: Pat Best, Fernand Bidal, Collin Bourgeois, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Leslie Gamble, Frank Gillis, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every

Staff: Gary Champagne, CAO
Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary)
Connie Morphet, Director of Finance
Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services
Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor
Peter Bradley, Manager, Social Housing

Guest Presenters: John Gerhard, Board member, ICAN/CERD
Valerie Scarfone, Executive Director, ICAN
Mary Ellen and Randy Burnett, Manitoulin District parents of a 24 year old ICAN client.
ICAN is an acronym for Independence Centre and Network
CERD est un acronyme pour Centre de Réseau d'Indépendance

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Frank Gillis, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 DELEGATIONS – ICAN (Independence Centre and Network) www.ican-cerd.com

In his introductory remarks of the ICAN presenters, Gary Champagne indicated that ICAN had asked to speak to the Board because of:

- the fact that the DSSAB's members consist of elected municipal politicians who represent the municipalities of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts; and
- the fact that while ICAN's catchment area includes all of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts, the range of residential and community support services that it provides to its physically challenged clients is presently limited to the City of Greater Sudbury; and
- the fact that while ICAN has every year lobbied the provincial government to see its budget increased to enable it to be present in the outlying rural and remote communities of these two Districts, they have thus far remained unsuccessful;
- the fact that the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts are the only Districts in the North where the types of support services that ICAN offers are restricted to the major urban centre in those Districts; and
- the ICAN Board decision to seek the support of the DSSAAB and the municipal councils of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts in its attempts to see it provided the provincial financial support required to enable it to extend its services to the various regions of the two Districts.

Noting that ICAN is a Sudbury-based, non-profit organisation whose mandate it is to provide physically challenged persons with opportunities for independence and community inclusion by providing individualized support and rehabilitation services, John Gerhard elaborated upon the range of support services that ICAN provides. A copy of his presentation was circulated to all members. Mary Ellen Burnett then spoke to the differences that ICAN's services have made in the lives of her family and her 24 year old daughter.

A Q&A session followed their presentation.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Gerhardt repeated that ICAN's objective was to seek the support of the municipal councils of the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts municipalities in ICAN's bid to see its budget increased to allow it to make its service presence evident in all of the regions of its Manitoulin and Sudbury District catchment area, thereby making it possible for physically challenged adults and their families to receive the supports they need in the communities that they have always called home. As it now stands they have no alternative but to uproot themselves and relocate to Sudbury.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Chair Frank Gillis thanked the ICAN delegates for their most informative and emotionally gripping presentation. He noted that while Board members would be discussing ICAN's call for support in greater detail later in the agenda, he assured them that their request had not fallen on deaf ears. He praised ICAN for so candidly manifesting its interest in doing what it can to see the range of services it offers to physically challenged people available to them, as close to their home communities as circumstances permit.

He noted that ICAN and the DSSAB were one when it came to that objective; an objective that he referred to as the "Healthy communities' mandate" of the municipally elected mayors, reeves and councillors around the DSSAB table. He noted that the prime interest of the DSSAB's members was the sustained health and vitality of the towns and villages that make up the four regions of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District catchment area. He concluded by remarking that the ability of those communities to accommodate the community health and social service needs of their residents, in their home regions, be they young or old, rich or poor, physically capable or physically challenged was the business of the DSSAB's municipally elected members, the business of doing what it can to sustain the social and physical infrastructures that are so vital to the health of its member communities.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 04-120 Moved by: Collin Bourgeois **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**

4.0. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

Congratulations to Collin Bourgeois

The Chair led the Board in their expressed applause of Collin Bourgeois who has been nationally recognized by the Richelieu Club movement for his voluntary work and contributions in the area of youth suicide prevention.

5.0 CLOSED SESSION (10:20 a.m.)

Resolution No. 04-121 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens
THAT the Board move into closed session to discuss Human Resources and Property matters. **Carried**

Resolution No. 04-122 Moved by: Dale Van Every **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
THAT the Board adjourn this closed session at 10:40 a.m. **Carried**

6.0. MINUTES

6.1 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Resolution No. 04-123 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux
THAT the Minutes of the October 28, 2004 Board Meeting be approved. **Carried**

7.0. BUSINESS ITEMS

7.1 Business Arising from In-Camera Session

7.1.1 Wikwemikong Ambulance Service Budget

Resolution No. 04-124 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux
THAT the Board accept to approve the Budget Committee's recommendation as to the
Year 2005 Wikwemikong Ambulance Service Budget to be forwarded to the MOHLTC.
Carried

7.1.2 Ambulance Facilities Update

Gogama – Although the DSSAB has yet to receive its duly authorised copy of the agreement pertaining to the purchase of the MNR building, the telephone confirmation of the agreement having been signed was received from the MNR. Appreciating that the delays encountered have led the local engaged contractor to indicate that he is no longer available to do the work, the Board accepted its Administration's recommendation to proceed with an "Invitational" RFP to a selected number of contractors that the DSSAB has done work with in the past.

Chapleau and Espanola – Subsequent to its Administration review of the "two bay" facilities being built elsewhere, the Board accepted to proceed with the construction of two bay facilities that are similar in design to the 2616 sq. ft. facility recently built in Cochrane, Ontario. As a cost saving measure, the Board approved that its Administration approach J.L Richards Engineers re: (i) the cost of having the Cochrane blueprints adapted to the requirements of both the Chapleau and Espanola stations and allow the right to their use in the future construction of any future ambulance station constructions the DSSAB may require, as well as (ii) the cost of having them provide oversee site visits at identified critical points of the construction of both the Chapleau and Espanola facilities.

It was agreed that the DSSAB's CAO and other appropriate Administration staff will meet with the officials from the Chapleau Hospital to discuss possible properties it may have available to the DSSAB as a potential ambulance facility site.

7.2 Procurement Policy

Resolution No. 04-125 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Ray Chénier
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board must have a Procurement Policy in place in order to be in compliance with its obligations under the Municipal Act,
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB gives its 1st and 2nd
reading of the here identified Procurement Policy. **Carried**

8.0 REPORTS

8.1. BOARD COMMITTEES

8.1.1. Budget Committee

Fern Bidal, Committee Chair, reported on the matters reviewed at its November 24, 2004

meeting, those being the Child Care Budget, EMS Wages and Benefits, the DSSAB's Capital Services Budget and the Wikwemikong Ambulance Service Budget that was discussed in greater detail during the In Camera portion of the meeting. Mr. Bidal reported that the Committee is satisfied with the progress being accomplished and the thoroughness of the information that is being made available to the Committee.

Resolution No. 04-126 Moved by: Fern Bidal **Seconded by:** Richard Stephens
That the Board accept its Budget Committee's Report. **Carried**

8.2. CAO REPORT

8.2.1. Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Children's Services Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)
- [3rd Quarter Financial Report](#)

There were no questions regarding the Operational Management Reports circulated.

- **Verbal EMS Report** - There being no formal EMS Report, Gary reported that, in standing with the MOHLTC expectation that the province's DDAs, at this time of year, inform the MOHLTC as to the 90th Percentile Response Time Standards that they will be committing themselves to in the coming year, he indicated that, with the Board's concurrence, it was the DSSAB Administration's intent to indicate to the MOHLTC that this DSSAB intended to maintain the same Response Time Standards in place in 2004. The Board's concurrence is herein duly noted.

The CAO also spoke to the fact that the services of the IBI Group, in the persons of Marvin Rubenstein and Daryl Culley, have been retained to comment on the adequacy and robustness of the DSSAB's current EMS management structures and staffing configurations – i.e.- whether additional staff are required (and if so whether this be in the short term or long term). In this regard, they will pay particular attention to the workload of our supervisory levels as well as that of our front line EMS delivery (medics).

Notwithstanding that the CAO has the Board's approval to exercise his discretionary authority when it comes to securing the additional temporary H.R. resources that he may deem needed to meet the more than habitual workload pressures that the EMS management team's ranks are facing at this particular time, Frank Gillis clearly summed up the Board's understanding that additional full time personnel will only be hired subject to the Board's prior review and approval of the business case, if any, that would be advanced re: same.

8.2.2 Strategic Issues Report

8.2.2.1 MMA Meeting Report

Gary reported that he and Ray Taylor, the DSSAB's EMS Operations Manager had presented their Report on the state of the DSSAB's Land Ambulance services in the West Manitoulin area, and in particular the state of the services offered out of the Gore Bay station.

He noted that also present from the Board were its Chair Frank Gillis, as well as Board members Richard Stephens, Pat Best and Dale van Every.

Gary indicated that he and Ray were satisfied that they were able to convey the facts as

to the services present and the fact that the DSSAB was responding to all calls within the Ministry approved Response Time Standards set by MOHLTC on the strength of the performance of the Land Ambulance Operator in place in 1996. Asked to comment on the meeting, he indicated that while he was satisfied that he and Ray had attempted to factually respond to all of the questions raised, he preferred not to venture an opinion as to how the meeting went, preferring to leave it to others to judge the meeting on the strength of what they might hear about it from those who weren't there.

Gary noted that while some vocalised the opinion that the Gore Bay station "on site presence" of medics should be increased to twelve hours/day, 7 days per week, Gary noted that he had responded by indicating that:

- while the Ministry of Health provided data indicated that established 90th Percentile Response Time standards for the Gore Bay/West Manitoulin area were being met under the present paramedic deployment structures; and
- while everyone would like to see the called for ambulance arrive within minutes of when it is called for; and
- while the final decisions on all service delivery increases ultimately rest in the hands of the municipally elected mayors, reeves and councillors who sat as members of the DSSAB's Board members;
- the challenge before the Board's municipally elected members lies in their ability to come to service enhancement and service expansion decisions that are in keeping with their ability to pay for the services sought.

Gary noted that he concluded his reply by pointing out that it is a question of finding the right balance between the "Humanity" and the "Economics" of the matter; a balance that was rendered more difficult by the flaws inherent to the land ambulance provincial-municipal cost-sharing funding arrangement, a good example of which is the fact that the province only picks up 1% of all paramedic wage increases which have seen "double digit increases" in the last year and will likely be double digit increases again in 2005. Our member municipalities are responsible for the remaining portion of the increase.

Frank Gillis reported that he had also attended and was glad to have been there. He congratulated Richard Stephens for doing a good job chairing what could potentially have been a difficult meeting. He also commended Gary and Ray for what he described as an excellent presentation. He indicated that his key hope through it all was that the citizens of West Manitoulin not mistake opinions with facts when it comes to their continued trust in the ongoing quality and availability of the ambulance services in their area. The facts show that established Response Time standards are being met.

Richard Stephens thanked Gary, Ray and Frank for attending. He added that the general consensus at the meeting was that the MMA understood that the DSSAB was doing the best it could with the resources available.

8.2.2.2 DSSAB's Provincial-Municipal Cost-Sharing Funding Formula

Building on the last item, Board members discussed what Gary indicated he and the Chair described as the ongoing and unfortunate impression of some of the DSSAB's member municipalities that the DSSAB is a very expensive organisation that is costing municipalities more money than it should.

Earle Freeborn noted that per his recollection of the previously circulated "Return on Investment" document that spoke to the facts and figures for the year 2002, - the last year that the "after-CRF" facts are available for, - it showed that the federal and provincial

governments kicked in about 93 cents for each 7 cents that the municipalities spent on the municipal services that the DSSAB manages across the two Districts.

Earle noted that the DSSAB was dead on in its expressed concerns regarding what is going to happen to the CRF. He agreed with the DSSAB's position that the underlying problem lies in the need for the province to come to an equitable provincial-municipal cost sharing formula that does not leave Northern Ontario municipalities unable to locally raise more than they effectively can, through their property tax base, to support the regional presence and municipal say as to the basic range of health and social services that all concerned are prepared to see regionally available and accessible to their constituents.

Ray Chénier indicated that the DSSAB and its member municipalities also had to keep a close eye on what might come out of the province's proposed PLT Reform, none of which looked too promising for Northern Ontario.

A further discussion of the "flaws" with the Land Ambulance funding formula and the failure of the InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group to even begin to talk about this DSSAB's longstanding and often repeated NOSDA supported resolutions about the administrative infrastructure funding concerns of DSSABs led to the following resolution.

Resolution No. 04-126 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Laurier Low

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has indicated that it is going to change if not totally eliminate the CRF formula presently in place when it comes to the provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangement; and

WHEREAS the availability of the dollars that municipalities receive via the annual CRF allocations is critical to the ability of Northern Ontario municipalities and Municipal Service Managers such as DSSABs to meet their municipal service management obligations and expectations; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario municipalities stand to lose the most from the as yet unknown changes to or removal of the CRF; and

WHEREAS DSSABs have already identified the herein-indicated to the InterMinisterial-DSSAB Working Group established by the province to examine the administrative and program support infrastructure funding needs of DSSABs to effectively carry out their legislated service mandate;

BE IT HEREIN RESOLVED that the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administration Board does herein petition the Premier of Ontario to:

1. Apply the DSSAB's net Year 2003 (after CRF) provincial-municipal cost-sharing percentage to the 2005 budget year. (Northern municipalities stand to lose the most from unknown changes to CRF: impact in 2005 may be particularly harsh if compounded with likely increases to municipal share of ambulance budget increases: keeping the net (after CRF) 2003 Provincial/Municipal cost-sharing % in place for 1 year (2005) would help deal with the changes to any provincial-municipal cost-sharing arrangement); AND
2. Have the Province comment on the feasibility of working towards a DSSAB funding formula along the lines of the « Special Circumstances » funding formula in place for its Public School Boards and identified by DSSABs, via NOSDA, as a potentially viable administrative and program support infrastructure funding formula that could also be well suited to DSSABs.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB send a copy of this resolution to its member municipalities, its local members of parliament as well as

to Ontario's nine other DSSABs.

Carried

8.2.2.3 Cross Border Billing Update

Gary informed the Board that, per their instructions, the letters to neighbouring DSSABs/CMSMs regarding Cross-Border Billing monies that we deemed were owed to our DSSAB had gone out to their Mayors/Chairs and Councillors/Board members. The CAOs and Clerk-Treasurers of these same DDAs were also advised of the coming letters and their EMS Directors provided with the working papers explaining our calculations of the sums payable. Gary noted that an electronic copy of the sample letter to our neighbouring DDAs had also been sent to each of the DSSAB's member municipalities for their information purposes.

8.2.2.4 Strategic Planning Retreat

Gary briefly spoke to the significance of the DSSAB's logo as the background to the discussions which he and the Chair had had re: the value of planning a "Strategic Planning Retreat" for DSSAB Board members in the coming year.

Resolution No. 04-128 Moved by: Bruce Killah **Seconded by:** Laurier Low
That the CAO's Operational Management and Strategic Issues Report be accepted.

Carried

9.0. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. ICAN Independence Centre and Network

Frank asked for and received the consensus of the Board that it support the request made from ICAN during their presentation earlier in the morning. Gary was asked to draft a letter that is to be addressed to each of the DSSAB's member municipalities requesting that they support ICAN's request to receive some of the additional funding that they require to be able to begin to serve the outlying areas of their catchment area and that copies of their resolutions re: same be forwarded to ICAN.

9.2. Best Wishes

Since there will not be a scheduled Board meeting in December and since members will only meet at the call of the Chair, Board members extended their best wishes to one and all for a safe and happy holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

Resolution No. 04-128 Moved by: Ray Chénier **Seconded by:** Collin Bourgeois
THAT we do now adjourn at 12:10 p.m. until the next regular meeting to be held at the call of Chair in the DSSAB's Espanola Mead Boulevard Board Room. **Carried**

Chair

Chief Administrative Officer
(Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)