



MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DISTRICT
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

210 Mead Boulevard, Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
Telephone: (705) 862-7850
Facsimile: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdss.net>

210, boulevard Mead, Espanola ON P5E 1R9
Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdss.net>

MINUTES
of the June 22, 2006
MANITOULIN-SUDBURY DSSAB BOARD MEETING
held at Espanola's DSSAB Mead Street Board Room

Present: Pat Best, Fern Bidal, Ray Chénier, Earle Freeborn, Leslie Gamble, Bruce Killah, Mike Lehoux, Laurier Low, Bud Rohn, Richard Stephens, Maureen Van Alstine, Dale Van Every, Dean Wenborn

Regrets: Frank Gillis

Staff: Gary R. Champagne, CAO; Suzanne Bouchard, E.A. (Recording Secretary); Connie Morphet, Director of Finance; Fern Dominelli, Director of Social Services; Peter Bradley, Manager, Housing Services; Jeff Horseman, Director of EMS; Karen Dominick, Community Programs Supervisor; Aurel Malo, Consultant, HR Services

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Ray Chénier, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA Resolution No. 06-48

Moved by: Richard Stephens **Seconded by:** Earle Freeborn
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4.0 MINUTES

4.1. Adoption of Minutes of May 25, 2006

Resolution No. 06-49 Moved by: Mike Lehoux **Seconded by:** Maureen Van Alstine
That the minutes of the May 25, 2006 Board meeting be approved. **Carried**

4.2. Business Arising from Minutes

4.2.1. Closed Session Meetings - Procedure and Content

Noting that the discussion of our Legal Counsel's correspondence (two letters) re: Closed Session meeting procedures and content had been put off until this meeting, the Chair asked if there were any questions or comments.

Board members concurred that the letters provided the clarity sought. That said, the Board did instruct the CAO to have our solicitor, Mrs. Kathleen Stokes, provide us with a further opinion as to the sanctions or remedies available to the DSSAB in the event that a member breaches or contravenes closed session meeting confidentiality rules.

5.0. NEW BUSINESS**5.1. Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP)**

Referring members to their pre-circulated documents re: the [AHP Home Ownership Plan](#) and the [AHP Northern Housing Plan](#) that the DSSAB's Administration prepared for Board consideration and submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) by no later than June 30, 2006 if the DSSAB intends to proceed with the implementation of these two AHP program initiatives in the Manitoulin and Sudbury Districts, the Chair called upon Peter Bradley to speak to those concerns or questions that Board members might have.

- Q - How will it be determined who receives any of the available funding?
A - Noting that the two initiatives are primarily targeted to low income earners, Peter went on to speak to the selection process, and the applicable forms, that he is busy preparing to ensure that eligible recipients will be assessed and chosen in keeping with the guidelines and criteria established by Ontario.
- Q - How will people know these programs are available?
A – Based on Sultan and Foleyet property sales experience, the intent is to again primarily spread the word and inform the public via the DSSAB's website, the DSSAB's office staff and via municipal office bulletin boards where posters on the AHP program initiatives and how to contact the DSSAB for more information will be provided.
- Q - Administration costs are supposed to be covered by the Ministry (MMAH). When can we expect that money?
A - The Administration funding available to us is modest. It was only increased as a result of strong and concerted CMSM/DSSAB lobbying re: the insufficiency of the dollars initially indicated. While the sums are still restrictive, the government has indicated that our administrative dollar cash flow should arrive in a timely manner. Peter indicated that while the final guidelines re: the Northern Housing component were not yet fully known, our Administration's experience with the MMAH officials we work with leaves us fairly comfortable that their verbal indications in the way of expected Administration funding cash flow timelines is leaving our Administration feeling satisfied that the cash flow time lines should not create any undue hardship for the DSSAB. Gary supported Peter's contentions re: our experience and working relationship with this particular Ministry's officials.

Resolution No. 06-50 Moved by: Earle Freeborn **Seconded by:** Mike Lehoux
WHEREAS the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Board (DSSAB) has received confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that it has received an allocation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for 50 units under the Northern Component of the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Programme (AHP); and WHEREAS the DSSAB has also received MMAH confirmation of an allocation of \$54,000 for 10 units under the Homeownership Component of the AHP Programme; and WHEREAS the DSSAB wishes to see the funding for the Northern Component and the Homeownership Component expended within its jurisdiction; and WHEREAS the DSSAB has received and approves the DSSAB Staff Reports entitled Manitoulin-Sudbury Northern Housing Component Delivery Plan and Manitoulin Sudbury Homeownership Component Delivery Plan;
BE IT THEREFORE HEREIN RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB's CAO be authorized to enter into an Administration Agreement (MOU) with the MMAH and that said Ministry be provided with a copy of the DSSAB delivery plans and notice of intent to participate in the above noted components of the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Programme.

Carried

6.0. REPORTS

6.1. CAO REPORT

6.1.1. Operational Management Reports

The following Departmental Reports were circulated:

- [Children's Services Report](#)
- [Ontario Works Report](#)
- [Social Housing Report](#)
- [Emergency Medical Services Report](#)

Children's Services Report

In reply to Dean Wenborn's question as to what happens to licensed child care spaces introduced under the Best Start Program banner once the four-year 100% funding commitment ends, the Chair indicated that while Mr. Wenborne might not be familiar with same as a result of the newness of his tenure on the Board, the matter is one that was the subject of a number of DSSAB discussions and one that is clearly reflected in a Board resolution on that very matter that was adopted back in March. Mr. Chénier indicated that while the resolution was found in the Board's March meeting minutes, he would have the DSSAB's CAO forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. Wenborne.

Ontario Works – "Living on OW/ODSP...food for thought" Report

Gary spoke to the above titled Report that he and Fern Dominelli prepared. He noted that the Report's facts speak for themselves when it comes to the allocated incomes persons on OW or ODSP are expected to live on. Gary drew Board member attention to:

- the comparison between these OW and ODSP allocations relative to Canada's established poverty line; and
- the indication that even with the 2% and 3% OW increases accorded by the McGuinty government since it took Office, - the first increases since the 1997 Harris government allocations roll-back - the buying power of an OW recipient's cheque is still falling behind relative to what it was at the time of the last provincial election.

6.1.2. Strategic Issues Report

6.1.2.1. [Canada/Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement \(LMDA\) and Labour Market Partnership Agreement \(LMPA\)](#)

The federal and provincial governments signed a Canada-Ontario Labour Partnership Agreement (LMPA) and a Canada-Ontario Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) in November, 2005. Ontario was the last province to enter into a Labour Market Agreement with the Federal government. As highlighted in other circulated documents re: these Labour Market Agreements, the key intent of this very significant federal-provincial undertaking is:

- to support the development of a skilled workforce;
- to support the rapid re-employment of unemployed Canadians; and
- to help address joint federal and provincial labour market priorities that are outside the scope of Employment Insurance funded programs.

The LMPA outlines investments of an additional \$1.368 billion over the next six years **to fill gaps** in labour market programming by assisting individuals who are not eligible for EI programming. The LMDA transfers responsibility to the Province **for the design and delivery** of EI-funded programs and services, beginning January 1, 2007.

The LMDA transfers responsibility to the province for the design and delivery of EI-funded programs and services that help unemployed workers get skills, work experience and employment assistance.

Ontario has in a similar manner heavily involved municipalities (via 37 CMSMs and 10 DSSABs) in the community level funding, design and delivery of employment programs and services that help unemployed OW and ODSP recipients and their adult dependants **“get skills, work experience and employment assistance.”**

Since Annex 3 of the LMDA clearly states that Ontario Works Service Managers are to be involved in the development of local service coordination and referral protocols and involved in local planning given the potential significance of the municipal level impact of these pending Labour Market Agreement changes, CMSMs/DSSABs are quite bluntly concerned that they have yet to have any clear indication from the Province as to when they will have a voice at the planning tables.

Gary referred to the circulated [City of Brantford Report](#) (one of the DSSAB's 47 CMSM/DSSAB peers) as a good summary of the issues and concerns that are driving municipalities and municipal service managers to advocate that they have a strong voice and a significant role to play at the provincial and regional tables where the development of the new employment services delivery model is being planned and designed.

It speaks to the concern of Municipalities (CMSMs and DSSABs) that nothing has to date resulted in a consistent and clearly articulated process for local CMSM/DSSAB participation. The lead provincial Ministry when it comes to this initiative is the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU).

MCTU is, at its corporate level, aware of our interest and the CMSM/DSSAB role in employment programming. They have also been made aware of the numerous co-location activities related to employment programming.

When pressed for answers as to when municipalities will be called to participate in the planning and coordination of what is to unfold at the local level, the MTCU response is that they are still very early on in their own internal processes and that it is their intent to at some point have a broader consultation with the sector.

This response is of no comfort given that it is since 1997, with the implementation of the Ontario Works program, that municipalities via 37 CMSMs and 10 DSSABs, have been expected to provide and co-fund increasing employment supports to those on social assistance: be that OW or ODSP. Legislated Policy Directives state that DSSABs must provide a full range of employment services, from Employment Resource Centres to direct links to employers. In standing with government directives, DSSABs have become local hubs for employment services in the community and have built the infrastructure to support this framework. Through this system, municipalities support the broader community of job seekers, providing employment assistance before requiring social assistance and to help people stay off the system once they're independent.

Municipalities have a vested interest in local labour force development. It is key to their economic development and, by extension, to their community health and well-being. As municipal service managers DSSABs are transparent in their activities, accountable to the community, have the capacity to deal with complex issues, work with multiple partners with collective and diverging interests and have a developed expertise in the area of local employment preparedness and assistance.

To date there has been no municipal involvement in the development of the new delivery model or the programs and services that will ultimately serve the unemployed in our communities. The only municipal consultation thus far has consisted of an MCSS hosted

meeting that a selected number of CMSMs were invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the needs of our current caseloads with regard to employment training programs.

Resolution No. 06-51 Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal

WHEREAS the Federal Government and Ontario has come to a Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) and Labour Market Partnership Agreement (LMPA); and

WHEREAS it is recognized that the provincial lead for the roll out of these agreements in Ontario has been assigned to the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU); and

WHEREAS Municipalities and DSSABs are heavily involved in local Labour Market planning and employment readiness initiatives but not being included in local planning and roll out of these initiatives;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB petition the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities to include a municipal and DSSAB role in providing input into the planning and in facilitating economic and labour force development at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the DSSAB recommend to both Ministries that the local planning bodies for the roll out of these initiatives follow the same geographic boundaries as CMSMs and DSSABs.

Carried

6.1.2.2 Emergency First Response Team (EFRT) Communications Systems

Gary informed the Board that he was attempting to keep them as up to date as possible regarding developments with respect to the new province wide radio system being introduced to Emergency Medical Services for both Ambulance Services and EFRTs.

There is concern re: the MOHLTC's plans to not equip EFRTs with the same portable radios that will be provided to paramedics for instances when they may have to be away from their vehicle with no communication. The MOHLTC's rationale for not providing EFRTs with the portable units lies in the fact that they do not now provide EFRTs with portable units.

While some of our seven EFRTs now have portable units that they would have apparently acquired through sources other than the MOHLTC, those units will no longer serve the purpose as they will not be compatible with the new radio system.

The Board was made aware that the matter is one of concern to our EMS Management and at least three of our EFRTs. The biggest concern that we have re: the matter are on the EFRT volunteer Health and Safety front. Gary pointed out that he has brought the concern to other Northern Ontario Designated Delivery Agents (DDAs) who have EFRTs in place. Preliminary indications are that they too share the same concerns as our DSSAB. The matter is one that we will be addressing at a future NOSDA meeting.

The Board discussion that ensued resulted in an expression of common concern regarding this situation. It was agreed that the DSSAB's Administration should continue to build its business case to see portable radios provided to EFRTs at the province's expense and provide the Board with the options it should consider should the province remain adamant in its refusal to do so.

6.1.2.3. DSSAB Governance and Accountability Report

Asked by the Chair if he had anything to report as a follow up to his last month's indications that the Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS) would very shortly be releasing brief written interim guidelines re: those DSSAB Governance and

Accountability changes and clarifications that the Province was prepared to proceed with subsequent to the Northern Ontario wide InterMinisterial consultations spearheaded by MCSS over the course of the last two years, the CAO noted that the Interim Guidelines had not yet been received but would be distributed to all members as soon as they arrived.

The Chair asked the CAO to remind the province that there was some urgency to the matter given that the Interim Guidelines were apparently intended to address the term of office of TWOMO Board members at this fall's coming municipal elections.

6.1.2.4. NEMI Council Meeting

The CAO reported on the discussions of the NEMI Council meeting that he attended on June 7, 2006.

He began by pointing out that he much appreciated the noted presence of Board members Bud Rohn and Richard Stephens at the NEMI meeting.

He mentioned that the meeting, to his mind, was a very positive meeting where there was a good deal of dialogue on a number of points of interest to all.

i. -Financial Concerns –

Gary believed he was able to clarify expressed concerns. Though not the only items discussed, they key ones that stood out are here presented in an abridged Q&A format:

Q - Why did NEMI's year over year increase to its apportioned share of the municipal share of the DSSAB's 2006 Operating budget increase by 6.1%?

A – The overall 2006 DSSAB budget sees a 2.41% year over year increase over what it was in 2005.

The overall 2006 DSSAB budget sees the municipal share come in at a 4.3% year over year increase to what it was in 2005. The Board decided to deal with the 4.3% in the following manner: 3% was solicited from municipalities with the other 1.29% being drawn from the DSSAB's reserves for the current year. That 1.29% will be hitting municipal apportionments in 2007.

NEMI's 6.1% increase to their 2006 apportioned share of the municipal share of the budget is primarily attributable to the increase in the town's weighted assessments which are in turn the result of increases to their municipal property assessment revenues.

The CAO conveyed that even if the DSSAB's 2006 budget had stayed at what it was in 2005, NEMI's apportioned share of the municipal share of the budget would have gone up by 2.8% as a result of NEMI's increased current value assessments.

Q – NEMI is paying a greater municipal portion of the DSSAB's municipal share of the budget than all other DSSAB member municipalities with the exception of the Town of Espanola. It as such looks like NEMI is carrying an inequitable portion of the municipal share of the DSSAB budget. Is this a fair comment?

A –Each of the DSSAB's member municipalities has an argument to make pertinent to the fairness of the amount they contribute to the municipal share of the budget. Ontario has from the beginning maintained that the municipal apportionment formula that is in place is a fair one that is based on the member municipalities' ability to pay to ensure the equitable availability of the DSSAB services provided.

The CAO pointed out that:

- the “municipality” that paid the highest portion of the municipal share of the DSSAB’s budget were the “Townships Without Official Municipal Organisation” that are more commonly known as “TWOMO” or “Unorganised Municipalities”. While their share of the municipal portion of the DSSAB’s budget is paid by the Province until such time as the province resolves the Provincial Land Tax (PLT) matter; the TWOMO payment represents 19.9% of the apportioned municipal share of the DSSAB budget;
- Espanola is next, followed by NEMI;
- The DSSAB has 20 Full Time employees working in NEMI. It has a 24/7 ambulance station situated in NEMI. It has a staffed OW office in NEMI. It has licensed child care spaces in NEMI. It has a staffed Social Housing complex that has 20 residents. It provides funding to a Municipal Non-Profit Housing complex that houses another ten residents. It also made a one-shot \$30,000 contribution to Cambrian College that kept it in Little Current when it was otherwise on notice as leaving the town. Cambrian has since signed a ten year tenancy lease which guarantees its presence in the Town for the foreseeable future.
- A quick analysis as to the cost-benefit of the DSSAB presence in NEMI sees the DSSAB generating \$3 in local investments for every \$1 NEMI contributes to the DSSAB’s operations.
- When the NEMI specifics are looked at, there are a number of member municipalities that would happily trade places with NEMI; Killarney was cited as a municipal member that argues that it contributes a great deal more to the DSSAB than it receives when one considers that the only DSSAB service that Killarney residents avail themselves of are the services of the local Land Ambulance station that is not in and of itself a staffed 24/7 operation.

Gary also referred Council members to the previously circulated Return on Investment documentation which showed how much all municipalities contribute to the DSSAB relative to the Federal and provincial governments’ DSSAB budget contributions.

ii. - Representation on the DSSAB Board – The CAO explained that the key concern which NEMI councillors had and which they asked him to convey to the DSSAB’s Board members is their belief that one (1) of the 14 seats at the DSSAB table should be permanently assigned to NEMI. It was conveyed that the seat should in fact consist of one of the Town of Espanola’s two seats.

The CAO informed NEMI council as to the [Province’s Guidelines re: Changes to DSSAB Board Representation](#). He indicated that:

- the present Board had no interest in pursuing the matter;
- there is likely not sufficient time to bring about the DSSAB Act Regulation change that NEMI would require to implement NEMI’s hoped for DSSAB representation change effective the term of office that begins subsequent to this fall’s municipal elections;

The CAO pointed out that per the representation protocol that he understands the four municipalities that are part of the DSSAB Act specified “Area” that includes NEMI would have established, NEMI will be at the DSSAB table for the four year term that commences subsequent to this November’s municipal elections.

Resolution No. 06-52 Moved by: Maureen Van Alstine **Seconded by:** Fern Bidal
That the CAO’s Operational and Strategic Issues Management Reports be accepted.

Carried

7.0. CORRESPONDENCE**7.1. Cochrane DSSAB re National Adventure Racing**

There was healthy discussion of the Cochrane DSSAB request that we contribute to offset the expenses that they incurred in providing their EMS presence towards the 2006 National Adventure Racing Championship which took place over an area that crossed our jurisdiction as well as their own and that of the Timiskaming DSSAB.

Resolution No. 06-53 Moved by: Les Gamble **Seconded by:** Dale Van Every
 THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB agree to provide \$983.33 to the Cochrane DSSAB to help defray expenses for EMS coverage during the National Adventure Racing Championship held in May/June 2006, and
 THAT the Cochrane DSSAB be asked to inform this DSSAB in advance if any similar occurrences come up in the future. **Carried**

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. Dean Wenborn spoke to a recent French River Municipal council concern associated to the DSSAB's possible financial institution banking changes. The Chair indicated that the concern had been fully discussed at both the Finance Committee level as well as at last month's Board meeting.

8.2. Les Gamble asked whether there was any provincial movement on the EMS Cross Border Billing gridlock. Gary replied that he was not aware of any change in the Province's decision to stay away from the question at this time though he does understand it is one of the financial matters the Province is continuing to examine.

9.0 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**9.1. NOSDA AGM September 13-15, 2006, Dryden, Ontario**

The Chair reminded Board members that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB has two votes at the Annual General Meeting of NOSDA. Ray, as Chair, will be attending and he asked that any Board member interested in being the DSSAB's second voting member in attendance, advise the CAO of same as soon as possible.

9.2. AFMO AGM –September 14-16, 2006. Hearst, Ontario

Fern Bidal indicated his readiness to attend the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 06-54 Moved by: Dale Van Every

THAT we do now adjourn at 11:40 a.m. until the next meeting to be held at the call of the Chair. **Carried**

 Chair

 Chief Administrative Officer
 (Secretary Treasurer of the Corporation)