

MINUTES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
CHAMPLAIN ROOM  
06 JUNE 1996  
3:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Chair: M. Meilleur

Members: M. Belleamre, R. Cantin, D. Holmes, A. Loney, A. Munter, D. Pratt

Regrets: L. Davis, B. McGarry

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**That the Community Services Committee confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of 16 May 1996.**

CARRIED

REGULAR ITEMS

1. 1996-97 HOME CARE BUDGET  
- Acting Medical Officer of Health report dated 21 May 96

The Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Geoff Dunkley, began his presentation by saying the Home Care budget is for the fiscal year 1996-97 and he highlighted two components of the document before Committee:

- hospitals have received a 6% decrease in funding through the Health Care Services Re-configuration Process and it is anticipated this will result in increased demands being placed on the home care program;

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Notes: 1. Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation.

2. Reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on 26 June 1996 in Community Services Report Number 30.

- because of the changes implemented in the Fall of 1995, the following service improvements have been achieved;
  - increased services for caregiver respite
  - mental health services for seniors and adults
  - shortened waiting periods for Occupational/Physiotherapy assessment
  - increased shift nursing
  - extended hours of operation (Home Care Program)

Councillor A. Loney made reference to re-investments relating to the health care re-configuration process. He emphasized the importance of dealing carefully with this subject, as the only certain fact is that hospitals will lose some of their funding during the next three years. He posited that the increase quoted in the report may help respond in some manner, but it will not be sufficient to address all concerns.

Councillor R. Cantin noted that, at recent meeting of the Association of Local Official Health Agencies (ALOHA), participants were informed by the Deputy Minister of Health that information on the composition of the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Board was forthcoming. It was further noted the implementation date could be as early as January 1997 or as late as June 1997. The Councillor expressed the hope the transition to CCACs would be as seamless as possible for both home care program clients and staff.

Dr. Dunkley said that, based on verbal assurances received from Ministry staff and from political circles, he was confident the transition would be smooth and that there would not be a major impact on the RMOC.

**That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the Home Care Budget in the amount of \$61,524,772 for the fiscal period of April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997.**

CARRIED

2. **ONTARIO REGULATION 567-90 -- IMMUNIZATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS AGAINST RABIES**

- Acting Medical Officer of Health report dated 14 May 96

The Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Geoff Dunkley, noted that raccoon rabies is an emerging issue in public health and the RMOC has been an active participant in developing the Raccoon Rabies Contingency Plan described in the report.

He went on to say this is a real concern, particularly as the raccoon population in urban areas is increasing and there is not a good vaccine against raccoon rabies at the present time. He noted that a large number of human beings will be more directly exposed to this fatal disease, therefore it is important that the Region be prepared to deal with the matter.

The Committee heard from Mr. A. Raven, Director, Environmental Health, Health Department. Mr. Raven acknowledged the contributions made by Mr. Andy Roach, Program Manager, and Ms. Christine Harding, Environmental Health Directorate, Ms. Donna Dubrueil, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and Mr. Mike Power, Rabies Technician, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Mr. Mike Power described his job as co-ordinating the live-trapping and vaccination of animals against rabies in various areas of the Province. He indicated that, because of the success of this program, rabies in foxes and skunks has been virtually eliminated in Ontario. He noted that raccoon rabies is different from fox/skunk rabies and the vaccine developed against the latter is different from the former, as the animals have different immune systems. Mr. Power said the spread of raccoon rabies is well documented and the disease is now approaching southern Ontario along the Niagara and up the eastern part of Lake Ontario to the St. Lawrence; the disease moves at an average of 40 kms. per year (the state of New York is now dealing with thousands of cases which originated in the 1980s). Mr. Power posited that doing nothing against the spread of the disease puts virtually all of southern Ontario at risk by the year 2000.

Mr. Power described the live-trapping program developed through several years of activity in Scarborough area; data obtained from these trappings revealed there were approximately 18 to 20 raccoons per square kilometer in a 60 square kilometer area. Raccoons do well in urban areas as they have smaller home ranges; since the largest concentration of humans is in urban areas, raccoons account for in excess of 70% of all cases. Seventy to eighty percent (70-80%) of domestic animals affected are unvaccinated cats in New York and Connecticut; non-vaccinated dogs are not as common. The speaker noted these numbers may be attributable in part to a decrease in culling to reduce their numbers.

In reply to a question from Councillor R. Cantin, Mr. Power said he did not think the majority of urban populations would accept large-scale culling programs to reduce the number of raccoons present. He said the hope is that a vaccine can be developed to be used as bait to immunize the animals. In addition, Canadian authorities are trying to encourage partnerships with several American States and trapping programs are buying some time. Mr. Power noted there are no cases of raccoon rabies in the Province at this time but should some develop, small-scale euthanasia would be undertaken.

A. Raven, Health Department, noted vaccination is only one of proposed strategies; the program will be accompanied by an education and publicity campaign on raccoon rabies. He said Health Departments have the legislative authority to require animals to be immunized and 30 out of 42 health units require mandatory vaccination. He pointed out that implementation of regulations seems to encourage owners to vaccinate their pets.

Councillor A. Munter made reference to associated costs, and he asked whether other programs were being set aside as a result of the initiative. A. Raven said the original intent was to undertake the program in the Spring and this would have impacted on the 1997 budget; it is now felt the program can be undertaken this Fall. He indicated costs should be minimal given the participation of the MNR and local by-law enforcement personnel. Dr. Dunkley added the Health Department's role will be primarily making people aware that services are available and continuing to monitor the situation through its investigation of animal bites. Councillor A. Loney suggested the message be conveyed that vaccinating domestic animals should not be impeded by cost., where need exists

Ms. Donna Dubreuil, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

Ms. Dubreuil said she thought mandatory vaccination for dogs and cats would be effective in preventing the spread of raccoon rabies. She spoke about the effectiveness of the Wildlife Centre "hot line", calling it a front line communication program. She indicated the centre responds to 30,000 calls per annum from people coming into conflict with wildlife and this puts the need for an effective vaccination program into context. She pointed out that, with continued sub-urban sprawl, humans will have increased contact with wildlife; ensuring growth is done in the most ecologically-correct way will bring about a better understanding and generate a gentler, kinder place environmentally. Ms. Dubreuil commended the MNR for the rabies control program it has established in Ontario

Dr. Michael Bernard, representing the Ottawa Academy of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Bernard spoke in support of the mandatory vaccination program on behalf of the veterinary community. He stressed the importance of getting to those persons who do not understand that domestic animals need to be vaccinated and that vaccination is beneficial for both the community and the animals alike.

After further discussion, the Committee considered the following:

**That the Community Services Committee recommend Council authorize the Health Department to proceed with an application to the Ministry of Health to be included in Ontario Regulation 567/90 which required the mandatory vaccination of cats and dogs against rabies.**

CARRIED

3. REQUEST FOR A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ONE-TIME GRANTS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ALLOCATION COMMITTEE  
- Acting Medical Officer of Health and Social Services Commissioner joint report dated 21 May 96

**That Councillor A. Munter be appointed to serve on the Allocation Committee for the 1997 Health Grants and;**

**That Councillor A. Loney be appointed to serve on the Allocations Committee for the 1997 ( Social Services) One-Time Grants**

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL ITEM

4. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

**That the Committee summer meetings be held on 27 June and on 18 July, 1996.**

CARRIED

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ETHNO-RACIAL COMMUNITIES  
Acting Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 7 May 1996
2. MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CONSENT FORM  
Acting Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 7 May 1996

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Committee Meeting Schedule- June Through August 1996

**That the Committee meetings for the months of June through August, 1996 , be held on 27 June and on 18 July.**

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

27 June 1996

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CO-ORDINATOR

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COMMITTEE CHAIR