

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

CHAMPLAIN ROOM

20 MARCH 1997

1:30 P.M.

PRESENT

Chair: M. Meilleur

Members: M. Bellemare, R. Cantin, P. Clark, L. Davis, D. Holmes, A. Loney, B. McGarry,
A. Munter, D. Pratt

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**That the Community Services Committee confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of
20 February 1997**

CARRIED

INQUIRIES

Chair Meilleur asked for a report on the post-partum follow-up done by the Health Department, specifically, when are nurses involved, what are their duties and whether the Health Department follow all mothers. She requested the report by the 17 Apr 97 meeting.

REGULAR ITEMS

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- Notes: 1. Underlining indicates new or amended recommendations approved by Committee
2. Reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on 9 April 1997 in
Community Services Report 45.

1. HEALTH DEPARTMENT - INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

- Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee report dated 24 Feb 97
- Regional Internal Auditor memorandum dated 10 Jan 97
- Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 13 Jan 97

The Regional Internal Auditor, Mr. R. Palmer, began by saying his department worked with the Health Department on the report in a period of considerable change, including a change in leadership. Mr. Palmer cited the Corporate Review, the loss of the Home Care Program, the mandated changes to the Teaching Health Unit and the "mega-week" announcements and their concomitant changes as factors impacting on the Health Department. He said the intent is to position the department for the future by having a smaller senior management team, by streamlining the management and coordination responsibilities intra-departmentally and between directorates and by de-layering or flattening the organization. More emphasis will be placed on program focus, with evaluation of results and the ability to prioritize programs and services. The communication capabilities related to the promotion of public health will also be strengthened.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Cushman, said he has taken note of the fact the R.M.O.C.'s Health Department is one of the best in Ontario. He agreed there are opportunities for streamlining management resources while still maintaining the quality and quantity of services provided. He called the Audit Department's report an excellent guide that addresses many of the issues brought forward internally. He spoke of his pleasure in working with the audit team. Dr. Cushman said he was indebted to Dr. Geoff Dunkley for the latter's stewardship during the transition period alluded to by Mr Palmer.

That the Community Services Committee receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

2. WORLD CONFERENCE ON BREAST CANCER

- Committee Co-ordinator report dated 19 Feb 97

That the Community Services Committee recommend Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee approve the attendance of Councillor D. Holmes at the World Conference on Breast Cancer to be held in Kingston, Ontario, July 13 to 17, 1997.

3. ONTARIO WORKS BUSINESS PLAN

- Commissioner, Social Services Department report dated 19 Feb 97
- Ontario Works Business Plan dated March 1997 issued separately

The Social Services Commissioner, Mr. D. Stewart, began by saying the report before Committee describes a high level Business Plan which will be the basis for proceeding with the Ontario Works program for Ottawa-Carleton. The Minister of Community of Social Services, (MCSS), Ms. Janet Ecker, speaking in November 1996, made it clear her Ministry would require that municipal councils have business plans in place by March 1997, otherwise the current funding of municipal employment program would cease. Regional staff have advised MCSS officials the RMOC will comply with this request by 9 April 97.

Mr. B. Crook, Director, Employment Programs Division, spoke about the following three aspects of the Business Plan:

Service targets will be crucial since the payments received will be tied to these. The Ministry's intent was that 50% of the payments be related to employment support, 25% to employment placement and 25% to community participation. The Department has chosen to vary these proportions in the opening years of the program and the targets outlined in Annex B are seen as realistic.

Issue of choice: the Minister has stated that while participation in the program is mandatory, participation in any particular component is not. The Department has developed three principles to ensure client have a choice:

- there must be an agreed-upon service plan;
- every plan will be a negotiated plan;
- once a plan is negotiated, a lack of "reasonable effort" on the part of a client could result in a reduction of benefits.

Ongoing consultation: although much consultation has already taken place, the department intends to continue this activity until the Business Plan is approved; there will be focus groups on specific elements of the plan.

In reply to questions from Councillor A. Munter, Mr. Crook indicated about two-thirds of the agencies that attended the consultation sessions have expressed an interest in participating or have requested further consultation. He explained the mathematics of provincial financing, saying the cost-sharing arrangement is 80/20, with the Ministry offering \$200 per client, per year, (\$250 with the RMOC's contribution). This amount will be multiplied by the number of employable clients participating. With respect to community placements, one hundred dollars (\$100) is paid for a 70-hour placement "month" (or any combination totalling 70 hours). Fifty dollars (50) will be paid when first making a placement.

The employment placement component is the most complex, with agencies being paid \$200 initially and subsequently on a percentage of the savings accrued to the department as a result of a reduced caseload.

Councillor D. Holmes asked for clarification about the amount of funding to be paid to agencies, indicating her belief the program is being run on the backs of these agencies. Commissioner Stewart pointed to the fact the report states vast numbers of persons on social assistance are already volunteering; the Ontario Works guidelines fail to recognize this reality. He said a more formal recognition process would have to be developed in this regard. He added that the department has set its targets in recognition of the cost of support for a placement month and of the space requirements of agencies. Mr. Stewart expressed the view targets should be achievable, otherwise the department is setting itself up for failure.

Councillor M. Bellemare asked whether staff could estimate the financial implications related to the transition fund and the total cost to the RMOC. B. Crook indicated the current request is for \$500,000 but as the Province has been hesitant to set parameters, this number is not firm. Councillor Bellemare wanted to know whether the projected target for 1998 represents full participation. Mr. Crook said the RMOC's targets are slightly lower than those of the first site municipalities. He added that the 16,500 participants projected for 1998 and 1999 represent 100% of those required to participate.

Speakers

Ms. Renee Greenberg, representing the Jewish Family Service, said she applauded Ontario Works' objective to create employment, but she did not see how the program would achieve this. The program does not increase positions in the labour market thereby reducing welfare and if the Province were seriously working towards this goal, it would need to create real jobs.

David Welch, Linda Lalonde, representing the Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton

Mr. Welch and Ms. Lalonde read from a prepared statement from the Community Committee on Workfare, established to meet the community's need to be informed and to reflect on the new program. Mr. Welch said he still believes the program will not respect people's dignity or enhance their self-esteem by forcing them to comply. He noted that, while the department has tried to make the program as humane as possible within the provincial parameters, the proposed Business Plan will be a far cry from the one the Province will accept. He pledged to remain vigilant and ready to create other programs to monitor the implementation of Ontario Works and its impact on social assistance recipients and the community.

Linda Lalonde spoke about the positive results achieved through the Opportunity Planning Project, a voluntary program providing participants with supportive employment services. She noted there had been no consultation with consumers regarding the Business Plan, as the invitation to the consultations specifically stated these were intended for agencies interested in taking placements, nor was there broad community consultation with other social agencies and interested individuals.

Ms. Lalonde pointed out she already does a considerable amount of volunteer work in the community and she will have to agree to work additional hours in a placement. She noted concerns have been expressed about how employment support monies will be made available and whether that amount of money will be sufficient. She posited the Province would require that the targets be raised and this would affect another 4,000 people. She asked that the Committee direct the department to maintain a strong orientation towards positive and supportive programs, as a strong, political commitment will be an asset in negotiations with the Province.

In response to Ms. Lalonde's comments, Commissioner Stewart said the challenge will be to convince the Province that individuals should be permitted to self-monitor their volunteer activities and these should be counted as part of their contribution. He indicated staff will continue to advocate for such an approach.

Aline Akesson, Action Centre for Social Justice, began by saying that, unconditionally, she does not support the provincial policies related to workfare. However, the department has been directed to implement a program, and her job as an anti-poverty activist is to help make that program the best it can be, one that will help the poor get new skills and possibly find new jobs. She cited a study done by the Action Centre locally and a similar study done in North Bay which reveal that many people welcome the chance to have the costs for volunteering and training paid for. Ms. Akesson said it must be recognized the program is not nearly as bad as was expected. She acknowledged the contribution made by local politicians and regional staff in bringing this about.

Sue Clark, Canadian Advocates for Psychiatricized People said the United Nations has stated that workfare is contrary to human rights. She asked what guarantees could be made that disabled persons, or persons with psychiatric illnesses, would not be forced to participate in the future, thereby losing their pensions and their supportive, social housing. She said it is disgraceful to think that poor people will become "profitable" to some agencies.

Diane Chevalier, Director, Employment Sector, La Cité Collégiale began by praising the consultation process adopted by staff, calling it broad and many-faceted. She said participants had been welcomed even when putting forward negative comments. Ms. Chevalier noted the Business Plan talks about the challenge of providing services to the francophone clientele, places emphasis on translating documents and calls for additional efforts to be made to reach these clients. She pointed out that 20% of Ottawa-Carleton residents are francophone and that problems with accessing services in french were identified during the Jobs Ontario Program (at that time, only 8% of 15,000 participants identified themselves as francophones). She suggested marketing techniques be employed to reach this population, as it is likely more than 8% of francophones will “benefit” from Ontario Works. In addition, the RMOC should set quantitative targets for recruiting francophone participants.

Ms. Chevalier said services to francophones should be offered within the context of a francophone culture and organizational environment. She stressed the importance of continually evaluating services to and results obtained by francophone clients engaged in Ontario Works. She expressed a readiness to assist and work with the RMOC and with francophone clients to this end.

Committee Discussion

In reply to a question from Councillor D. Holmes, Commissioner Stewart said staff would continue to raise with the Province concerns expressed by community agencies about the costs associated with community placements and related administrative costs.

Moved by D. Holmes

That the Department work to resolve the following community concerns:

- i) the administrative cost of community placements for agencies**
- ii) the administration of sanctions for recipients and the policing role that may have to be played by agencies**
- iii) the lack of clarity on agency involvement in selecting and screening participants**
- iv) the limited placement choices for francophone clients**
- vi) the redefinition of disability**
- vii) the impact on who will be required to participate in the program;**

CARRIED

Moved by A. Munter

That community agencies that receive regional funding be assured they will not be expected to provide workfare placements as a condition of that funding.

CARRIED

Moved by A. Munter

Should the negotiation process with Queen's Park lead to significant changes to the Business Plan, that such changes be brought back to Committee and Council for approval.

CARRIED

Councillor Munter spoke to the concern, often voiced by Committee members, that workfare not become a substitute for paid employment. To this end, he proposed that an additional statement be put in the Business Plan, i.e., that placements cannot be made in places that have seen downsizing and layoffs in the last 24 months. Councillor Munter pointed out this would be consistent with Point 4.4 of the provincial guidelines regarding community placements.

Councillor B. McGarry said he could not accept that some agencies will use Ontario Works to supplement their workforce at no cost to them. He spoke about his personal involvement in cooperative programs, noting these programs are beneficial to participants, but not always to employers. He said he thought some organizations would willingly allow persons to be exposed to a certain aspects of work. He called Councillor Munter's Motion restrictive, noting that not many firms have not downsized in the past five years.

Commissioner Stewart said the guidelines provide a background and a framework to ensure Ontario Works will not be used to replace paid workers. He acknowledged this is a risk, and staff cannot guarantee it will not happen. He pointed out staff are only permitted, under the guidelines, to make community placements in public and non-profit organizations: the problematic area will be whether downsizing has happened in those organizations.

Councillor Munter pointed out that many agencies have complained they will not be compensated for training, supervising and monitoring participants. He said it must be absolutely certain that Ontario Works does not become what it is not supposed to be, i.e., a way of replacing paid workers with people required by a government program to do work: this must be clearly and prominently stated in the Business Plan.

Councillor McGarry said he hoped Council was not setting itself up so that the program will have no chance of succeeding, by making it difficult to find placements anywhere, anytime.

Moved by A. Munter

That the Business Plan be amended by adding, in Section 7. Community Participation, under the heading Standards

- 8. Placements cannot be made in workplaces that have seen downsizing or layoffs in the previous 24 months.**

CARRIED

YEAS: M. Bellemare, R. Cantin, L. Davis, D. Holmes, A. Loney, A. Munter, M. Meilleur
NAYS: B. McGarry, D. Pratt

Moved by A. Munter

That an independent volunteer panel be struck to evaluate how successful the Region's Ontario Works program has been and report at the one-year and two-year marks to Regional Council. That this panel include representatives of social service agencies, business, academia, labour, the broader community and social assistance recipients.

CARRIED

(B. McGarry dissented)

Councillor Holmes suggested staff consider developing an assessment form to elicit participants' comments on the program. Commissioner Stewart said he thought the voluntary panel proposed by Councillor Munter would be an appropriate vehicle for participants to comment.

1. **That the Community Services Committee recommend Council:**
 - a) **Approve the Business Plan as amended by the foregoing Motions:**
 - b) **Authorize the Department to enter into negotiations for a contract with the Provincial government to begin to implement Ontario Works no later than September, 1997 and;**
2. **That the Department report back on the implications of recent Provincial announcements on the 1998 Ontario Works program as soon as information is available.**

CARRIED as amended

4. REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL FUNDING

- Commissioner, Social Services Department report dated 27 Feb 97

Ms. Gayle Preston, Director, Child Care Services, said staff recommend postponing consideration of the four requests currently before Committee until the Department has reviewed the existing policy and reports back with a new policy that reflects the realities of child care capital funding. She went on to say the RMOC has been involved in capital funding since 1987. Initially the Province provided 50% to 100% of funding for major capital projects; area municipalities and the RMOC both contributed their share and this would be supplemented by provincial funding. In 1995, the policy was changed to remove the area municipalities. Since the policy's inception in 1987, the RMOC has participated in 13 projects, with contributions ranging between \$100,000 and \$300,000.

Ms. Preston noted that, until now, the Province provided funding for start-up cost. The present government has discontinued funding major capital projects but has indicated it will provide 50% cost sharing for minor capital projects undertaken for health and safety reasons.

Ms. Preston said the four requests before Committee total \$2.65 million: the uncommitted balance in the Child Care Contingency Fund is slightly over \$3 million: proceeding with the four requests will seriously deplete the fund. In addition, the current policy requires that to receive capital funding from the Region, a program must have a provincial commitment and the policy limits the regional contribution to 20%. As none of the programs requesting funding meet this criteria, the department cannot recommend funding without modifying the policy. This review should be done in consultation with the child care community. Ms. Preston added it would also be helpful to have some indication from the province about its intentions for child care funding in the future.

Councillor A. Munter asked about the existence of an unspent budget at the Ministry of Community and Social Services for capital projects and when information on provincial policies would be available. Ms. Preston said she thought the unspent provincial funds were to be used for operational as opposed to capital costs, and were earmarked for the expansion of subsidized spaces rather than for new projects. Staff anticipate provincial policies will not be made clear until June 1997. Councillor Munter said June would be too late for the Kanata project, and it would cost approximately 40% more to build the child care center after the school is built.

The Social Services Commissioner, Dick Stewart, added that, assuming the Province's interim position is its final position, staff could develop a new policy. The policy would have to focus on maintaining existing services, as there would be limited capital dollars in the years to come. He expressed the view a better policy could be produced with precise information from the Province. Councillor Munter commented that to freeze the current system would mean existing inequalities would remain.

Councillor R. Cantin asked the Commissioner could establish priorities should the Committee wish to fund some of the requests without exhausting the funds. Mr. Stewart stressed that the funds in the Child Care Contingency Fund intended to cover operating costs. Furthermore, there have been little or no contributions to the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund. Councillor Cantin wondered how many centers have capital replacement as a budget item. Ms. Preston replied the majority of the centers set aside funds for repairs and maintenance but these are relatively small amounts of money.

Councillor D. Holmes asked what the annual contribution had been to the Contingency Fund in recent years. Mr. Stewart noted contributions have been relatively low and episodic. Councillor Holmes wondered if the new policy will look at both the Contingency Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund. Commissioner Stewart confirmed staff will look at both funds and evaluate competing needs between sustaining existing programs versus trying to deal with inequities across the Region. He added the department would also have to consider what a reasonable annual contribution to a capital reserve fund would be.

Councillor A. Cullen said he assumed that a new policy would be for next year's budget. Mr. Stewart confirmed that the only way for the new policy to be effective in this year's budget would be to transfer money into the Capital fund from the Contingency fund.

Councillor A. Loney expressed concern about distributing capital dollars without agencies having the operational budgets to sustain the programs. He said he believed it was important to evaluate operational budgets before proceeding with new projects.

Eleanor Benesch, The Children's Center urged the Committee to endorse a new Capital Funding policy. She thought centers that require construction but no new operational dollars should be put on a priority list. She also thought it important to base the capital funding policy on the current inventory of child care services. Ms. Benesch indicated the Children's Center's need for capital funding is based on the fact the building is rapidly deteriorating. She added the Ottawa Board of Education has made a commitment that the Children's Centre will be built on the Hilson Avenue Public School land. As construction of the new school is scheduled to start this summer, the need for a commitment is of some urgency.

Susan Wheatley, President of the Board of Directors of The Children's Center indicated the Board is doing its utmost to address the current crisis. It has embarked on a fund-raising campaign and is exploring all options. Ms. Wheatley said that, as a parent, she is concerned about the state of the building. The Center is scheduled to be demolished this summer and it is inconceivable to parents that it should cease to exist. The operating budget is in place and all that is needed is the one-time replacement cost for the building.

Lynne Tremblay, Comité de travail sur l'établissement de la garderie à l'école de Bridlewood¹ said there is an urgent need to increase francophone child care services in the west end of the RMOC, where 5% of the population is francophone. Ms. Tremblay explained she has to travel more than 20 km per day with her child in order to access french child care services. She stressed that a commitment is needed by mid-April at the latest in order to integrate the construction of the child care facility with that of the proposed new school. A delay will increase the cost by 40% whereas acting now will save approximately \$300,000. Ms. Tremblay indicated this project has received strong community support and all the spaces would be filled. In reply to a question from Committee Chair M. Meilleur, Ms. Tremblay said the center would offer a program for 15 toddlers and 24 preschoolers as well as a school-age program, for a total of 50 children.

Councillor R. Cantin stated that, in the past, the RMOC has not contributed funds for installations on school board properties and wondered if the board had considered all the options. Mr. M. Trépanier indicated it is the first time a school board has come to the Region for funding because until now, the province has provided funds for construction. Councillor Cantin said he thought some members of Council might object to paying for a building for the school board since this has never been done. He asked that the Regional Legal Department examine this issue with a view to identifying potential entanglements and report back to Council on the matter.

Councillor D. Holmes had concerns about where the subsidized spaces would be coming from to fill the center. Ms. Tremblay indicated a center in Ottawa is willing to relocate and provide subsidized spaces. There is also an "unauthorized" center in Kanata with 40 full-fee spaces and these would be included. Councillor Holmes wondered if there could be an agreement with the operator specifying that the Region will not subsidize additional spaces in the future. Ms. Preston indicated discussions have not yet reached this level with the center. Commissioner Stewart added that before capital funding is provided to a new program, the department will need to be assured that center is viable.

Councillor Loney wanted assurance the center would be able to operate well with a high rate of full-fee paying spaces. Ms. Chantal Bédard indicated the Regroupement des garderies de langue française has given its full support to the project: the child care community will work together to ensure its viability. In reply to a question from Councillor M. Bellemare, Mr. Trepanier indicated a short delay pending Council approval of the funding would not cause a problem.

¹ Le Comité des parents sur l'établissement de l'école élémentaire catholique de Bridlewood presented a 330-name petition in support of its request. The Petition is on file with the Committee Co-ordinator.

Sister Maco Cassetta, representing the Youville Centre indicated the center has been lobbying since 1993 for funds to relocate its two inadequate facilities. The Center is in its tenth year of operation and so far, 128 mothers have graduated from the program: eighty-six percent are either in the workforce or pursuing higher education. There are presently 45 young mothers on-site and the Center is operating an infant/toddler program of 25 children and a pre-school program of 48. The program helps young mothers to grow in confidence and make positive choices for themselves and their children. The Center has recently added a new dimension to its support to young mothers and children by providing a program for young fathers.

Sister Cassetta explained that, although the Youville Centre Board has been successful in identifying and meeting needs, the center finds itself challenged by the inadequacies of two buildings. The rent for the property on Melrose Avenue will triple in May to \$76,000 per year. The building is small and old and the rent is already too high. The Center has purchased some land and would like to build on it. The federal government is willing to contribute one third of the funding under an infrastructure project, subject to the province and the region contributing the other two thirds. As a result of this commitment, the Center is reducing its request from \$750,000 to \$550,000.

John Roydon, Youville Center indicated one of the things that has made the Center so successful is the community support it receives. The budget is supplemented 40% per year through donations and volunteer work. Mr. Roydon expressed confidence in the ability to raise the funds required for the balance of the project. Councillor Davis questioned whether the Center had looked at other locations and considered various partnerships. Sister Cassetta indicated the center will consider all available options.

Thérèse Labonté and Danièle Galipeau, Regroupement des services de garde de langue française d'Ottawa-Carleton explained the regroupement represents francophone and bilingual child care centres, francophone resource centers and affiliated organizations. Its mandate is to enable communication and collaboration between these organizations and to identify the needs and resources within the francophone community to facilitate the planning and development of future services. Ms. Labonté indicated the group supports the need to review the Capital funding policy. She pointed out that, in 1989, the group prepared a strategic plan to identify priorities for the francophone community. Two of the requests currently before Committee were identified as priorities at that time.

Ms. Labonté expressed her belief it is important to consider the Bridlewood project in order to meet the needs of the francophone population in the west end of the region. The Cumberland project is a modest one and represents the start-up cost for the first francophone toddler program within a school in that area. She re-iterated there are inequities in terms of francophone child care services and services to the anglophone community and she stressed these projects are and will remain priorities for the francophone community.

Ginette Perron, Centre préscolaire La coccinelle indicated this is a not-for-profit program offering services to the francophone community in Orléans for the past fourteen years.. The project for which they are seeking funding is in fact complete. The center is scheduled to open in September 1997 and needs only the start-up cost for equipment. Everything is in place and it would be a shame to abandon the project at this stage. Councillor Cantin asked how many spaces were available at the Center. Ms. Perron replied there will be 39, full-fee spaces. Councillor Cantin asked whether the Center would be able to manage with a smaller contribution. Ms. Perron replied this may put the project at risk

Joanne Hunter, Child Care Council spoke in support of the staff recommendation to postpone the funding of capital projects except in emergency situations. She stated the Council could not support the depletion of the Contingency Fund at a time when there is no other source of funding for programs at risk. Ms. Hunter said she supported the development of a policy for Capital funding. She expressed the view the requests before the Committee are just "the tip of the iceberg". She indicated the Child Care Council would like to assist in developing the policy. Ms. Hunter spoke about the separation of existing ties between child care and education and about her fear there will be a discontinuity of services to the families that use both. She urged the Region to look for new partners in funding and to pressure the province to add funding for child care capital projects to those services being downloaded to the RMOC.

Committee Discussion

Councillor A. Munter presented a Motion calling for funding to be allocated to the Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française (Kanata), subject to a number of conditions. He noted several speakers have addressed the issue of gaps in french-language services in the western half of Ottawa-Carleton. In addition, the Conseil des écoles catholiques is prepared to cover all infrastructure costs. Councillor Munter remarked it is regrettable that the current government has not understood that incorporating a child care center into a new school makes financial good sense, as the program operators can benefit from all the existing infrastructure.

Councillor A. Loney expressed the view that dealing with individual requests on an ad hoc basis would not be prudent. He asked that staff bring back an interim policy in one month, subject to revision upon clarification of the Province's intention regarding child care. In addition, staff should further evaluate the capital funding requests received. The Finance Department should be asked to look at alternate ways of financing in the future, either through restoring the Capital Levy or through short-term debenturing.

The Regional Chair, Mr. P. Clark, pointed out there may be additional pressures facing existing centers in January 1998, as a result of provincial announcements. He noted many centers are already under pressure and the Contingency Fund may be needed to cover inflation costs or to stabilize some centers until it is clear what services the Region will be providing.

Chair Clark reminded Committee members that the Region's share of capital funding at the outset was only 10% of the costs; in the context of the current discussion, a 50% contribution is being suggested. He indicated that the ongoing operating costs of centers have to be considered and new centers will mean additional operating costs. Chair Clark also pointed out that the RMOC is one of the only jurisdictions that retained all its subsidized spaces after these were converted from 100% to 80% provincial funding.

In reply to a question from Councillor R. Cantin, Chair Clark said the Province has yet to signify its acceptance for its share of the federal/provincial infrastructure program. In addition, the total amount of funding available is not huge, and the definitions of what projects are to be funded is still unclear. Chair Clark said it will be important to have this information if the intent is for municipalities to use the funding between April 1, 1997 and April 1, 1998.

Councillor D. Holmes said she was prepared to advance funds to the two centers that have timing problems. She put forth the view it would be timely to use money from the federal/provincial infrastructure program and apply it to permanent job creation projects such as child care centers, tourism and high-tech infrastructure as opposed to sewer and road infrastructure. She expressed the hope that the proposed policy would recommend increasing capital deposits into a levy and debenturing for child care services

Moved by A. Munter

That Council approve:

1. **Up to 50% of the total capital cost of the proposed child care center at the new Kanata school of the Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française, subject to the following:**
 - a) **This amount not exceed \$225,000;**
 - b) **This amount be matched by other sources;**
 - c) **Regional staff be satisfied that this center will not face operational difficulties in delivering a program.**

CARRIED

YEAS: M. Bellemare, R. Cantin, L. Davis, D. Holmes, A. Munter, M. Meilleur

NAYS: P. Clark, A. Loney

Moved by D. Holmes

Before capital funding is provided to a child care agency, the Department satisfy itself that the proposal for operating revenue is viable and is not dependent on new subsidized spaces or on a substantial involuntary reallocation of existing spaces.

CARRIED

Moved by D. Holmes

That in the allocation of capital requests for new programs, the Department have regard for the economic viability of existing programs if any reallocation of subsidized spaces is considered.

CARRIED

Moved by R. Cantin

That a one-time grant of \$50,000 be approved to assist in providing equipment for the start-up of the new facility incorporated within the eastern francophone high school in Cumberland (La coccinelle);

CARRIED

Speaking to her Motion, Councillor L. Davis reminded Committee members that the situation faced by the Children's Center has been identified as urgent. Although there is a possibility the entire matter will be put on hold because of the restructuring of the education system in Ontario, the community must be ready to respond, if needed. Councillors Cantin and Holmes suggested this project be a candidate for the federal/provincial infrastructure program, should it qualify.

Moved by L. Davis

WHEREAS the Children's Center will be required to relocate this summer;

AND WHEREAS the construction of Hilson School will include a children's center in its design, without cost for land;

BE IT RESOLVED that \$1.5 million be allocated from the Child Care Contingency Fund to allow for the replacement of the current child care facility, and that this be a candidate for the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Program, should it qualify.

LOST

YEAS: L. Davis, D. Holmes, A. Munter, M. Meilleur

NAYS: M. Bellemare, R. Cantin, P. Clark, A. Loney,

That a draft new policy on capital funding be brought back to Committee and Council later in the year.

CARRIED

ADDITIONAL ITEM

5. RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH SERVICES RESTRUCTURING COMMISSION'S OTTAWA-CARLETON PLANS

- Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner, Homes for the Aged joint report dated 18 Mar 97

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Cushman, presented the report, saying it reiterates the position of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) with respect to the recommendations put forward by the Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC). Dr. Cushman added that the report continues to emphasize the importance of prevention, promotion and the establishment of sufficient community services to meet people's health care requirements. In addition, the report calls for a reassessment of community needs in the face of hospital closures. Dr. Cushman put forward the view that the HSRC's recommendations have the potential to create even greater gaps in service than existed before

The Regional Chair, Mr. Peter Clark, emphasized the importance of dealing with the health care issue in terms of the total system and patients' needs, as opposed to dealing with hospital closures in isolation. He went on to say hospitals are only one component of the system and they should fit into the overall plan. He presented a Motion for the Community Services Committee's consideration, calling for the HSRC to reconsider its report and revise its recommendations for Ottawa-Carleton to include:

- an increase to the number of beds allocated;
- that community health services be in place prior to making changes to the hospital sector;
- that there be components for the governance, management and the delivery of a full range of health services in French;
- that there be an environment for the teaching of health sciences in French

Chair Clark also called for the Commission to consider the opinions of all those who have commented on its report, including the hospitals.

Speaking to the issue of the quality and quantity of services in French, Chair Clark noted the francophone population in Ottawa-Carleton numbers 120,000, with an additional 60,000 in adjoining municipalities. He pointed out that the recommended level of bed-days per patient gives Ottawa-Carleton one of the lowest ratios of beds- per-thousand in Ontario.

At this point, the Committee considered the following Motion:

Moved by P. Clark

WHEREAS the Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) released the “Ottawa Health Services Restructuring Report” (report) on February 24, 1997, after which a 43 day consultation period began;

WHEREAS the report deals mostly with hospital services and recommends that all acute services be provided at the Ottawa General, Ottawa Civic, Queensway-Carleton and Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario sites;

WHEREAS the report recommends the decommissioning of the Montfort Hospital site, the Riverside Hospital site and the closure of the Salvation Army Grace Hospital;

WHEREAS although the HSRC’s plan seeks to ensure access to French-language health services, strong reservations have been expressed regarding the likelihood of this being achieved if the report’s recommendations are implemented;

WHEREAS the report is virtually silent on the areas of disease prevention, health promotion and community health services;

WHEREAS the recommended 421 patient days/1000 population that have been allocated to Ottawa-Carleton (among the lowest in the province) will have a significant detrimental impact on residents seeking access to health services;

WHEREAS the impacts on the RMOC of the Province's "Mega Week" announcements along with the directions and recommendations of the HSRC's report will have a significant effect on the residents and taxpayers of Ottawa-Carleton;

AND WHEREAS the HSRC's "A Vision of Ontario's Health Services System" (January 1997) proposed a health care system characterized by shared goals, a focus on population health, a balance between health care and population health and an integrated organizational structure;

BE IT RESOLVED that the HSRC reconsider its report with a view to revising the recommendations for Ottawa-Carleton;

BE IT RESOLVED that the revised recommendations include an increase in the number of beds being allocated to Ottawa-Carleton;

BE IT RESOLVED that the revised recommendations include, among others, that the required community health services be in place prior to any changes being made to the hospital sector;

BE IT RESOLVED that Regional Council shares the reservations that have been expressed over the issue of French language services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the revised recommendations of the HSRC include all the components required for the governance, management and delivery of a full range of health services in French, as well as for an environment allowing for the teaching of health sciences in French;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the HSRC be encouraged to consider, during its deliberations, the opinions and comments expressed by all those who have commented on the recommendations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Clerk be directed to forward this Motion, along with the staff report, as the Community Services Committee's response to the "Ottawa Health Services Restructuring Report" and inform the HSRC that this item is subject to the approval of Regional Council at its meeting of 9 April 1997.

CARRIED

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

1. COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
- Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 11 Feb 97
2. HOMES FOR THE AGED - INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT
- Regional Internal Auditor memorandum dated 14 Jan 97
- Commissioner, Homes for the Aged memorandum dated 17 Jan 97
3. DENTAL SERVICES FOR INSTITUTIONAL ELDERLY: A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN ISLAND LODGE AND THE DENTAL TREATMENT SECTION
- Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 11 Feb 97
4. HEPATITIS B AND STREET OUTREACH
- Associate Medical Officer of Health memorandum dated 24 Feb 97

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m, as there was no longer a quorum present.

NEXT MEETING

3 April 1997

CHAIR

CO-ORDINATOR