

Clause No. 11 in Report No. 3 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on October 17, 2013.

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ONTARIO CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONTRACT RENEWAL

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained within the report dated September 19, 2013 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize a sole source Purchase of Service Agreement contract renewal with Mission Systems Development Corporation, for a four-year period, from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017, for approximately \$2 million, for upgrades, enhancements and support to the Ontario Child Care Management System, subject to 100% funding by the Province of Ontario.
2. Council authorize the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to execute all necessary agreements and documents, subject to the prior review of Legal Services, with the Province of Ontario and Mission Systems Development Corporation on the Region's behalf.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Council approval to purchase services from Mission Systems Development Corporation for ongoing system upgrades, enhancements and support services to Ontario Child Care Management System (OCCMS) for a four-year period, fully funded 100%, by the Ministry of Education.

3. BACKGROUND

York Region has managed the development and distribution of the Ontario Child Care Management System since 2000

OCCMS is an Ontario-wide technology database that supports municipalities to plan, implement and manage funding which supports local child care systems. In addition, OCCMS provides an automated approach to the calculation of subsidy for eligible families, manages placement of children in licensed child care, and provides the ability to process payments to child care operators based on the approved level of subsidy and the child's monthly attendance. OCCMS provides municipalities with a variety of expenditure and data reports that support provincial reporting requirements and service system planning at the local level.

In August 1998, Council approved the development of OCCMS, using York Region's Child Care Database to initiate the development of this new technology. OCCMS was intended to provide Province-wide technology support to municipalities in their role as Child Care Service System Managers. It has been and will continue to be 100% funded by the Province of Ontario.

In April 1999, Council authorized the agreement with the Province of Ontario to allow York Region to manage the ongoing development of OCCMS and the distribution of OCCMS to municipalities in Ontario. As part of this agreement, York Region procured the services of Mission Systems Development Corporation through its normal tender process in July 1999, to support the development of OCCMS. This procurement was amended to include enhancements, programming upgrades and technology upgrades as directed by the Province to support municipalities with provincial reporting requirements and service system management responsibilities. York Region, as the project manager, owns the OCCMS source code.

York Region staff in the Social Services Branch assumed the role of Project Manager for OCCMS in early 2000 and this role continues today. The system has been successfully developed, tested and implemented in 46 of 47 municipalities across Ontario. The City of Toronto is the only municipality that currently does not use the OCCMS technology.

The current contract with Mission Systems Development Corporation was authorized by Council with the adoption of Report No. 4, Clause No. 8 of the Community and Health Services Committee on December 16, 2009 for a four-year period ending December 31, 2013.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region continues to be the Project Manager for OCCMS, providing operational leadership for new version development, system enhancements and service support

In 1998, in partnership with the Province of Ontario, York Region developed an Ontario-wide database specifically designed to support municipalities in their roles as child care service system managers.

OCCMS is continually upgraded to meet changing provincial and municipal requirements. This technology continues to provide unique support to municipalities for provincial reporting and Service System Manager responsibilities that is not available in other technology solutions.

New OCCMS versions, enhancements, technological upgrades and system improvements are required on an ongoing basis. This allows OCCMS to respond to changes in provincial legislation, support program delivery and support municipal service system management responsibilities in the areas of service planning, financial management and provincial reporting.

Modifications to OCCMS occur through user change requests from municipalities or provincial direction through changes to legislation and/or guidelines. York Region, the Ministry of Education and a Municipal User Group, review and approve upgrades, enhancements and service supports to OCCMS.

Retention of the services of Mission Systems Development Corporation is required to ensure effective system support and implementation of OCCMS upgrades and enhancements.

As the Province continues to implement changes to the child care system under the modernization of child care initiative, further upgrades and enhancements to OCCMS will be required.

Given the complex, specialized and technical nature of the services provided by Mission Systems Development Corporation, and the provincial reach of OCCMS, it is necessary to continue to retain Mission Systems Development Corporation to support York Region in the development of current and future upgrades, enhancements and support services over the next four years. The Region has the authority to retain a specific provider under the sole sourcing provisions contained in Section 10.1 of the Region's Purchasing By-Law where the "compatibility of a purchase with existing equipment, facilities or service is the paramount consideration, and Council has authorized a sole source purchase pursuant to a report."

Link to key Council-approved plans

Programs in child care services, which are supported by the use of OCCMS, support the Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051 through the provision of human services that strengthen communities and increase access to affordable child care for families.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that approximately \$2 million will be paid to Mission Systems Development Corporation for development, testing and system support services and upgrading of OCCMS over the next four years. The Province also pays for staff positions that perform application testing and Province-wide co-ordination functions. These costs are 100% provincially funded by the Ministry of Education, with no Regional tax levy impact.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Ontario Child Care Management System supports 46 of 47 municipalities across Ontario, including York Region, with their child care program management responsibilities. Child Care Modernization, the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework and other changes in the early learning sector continue to have a positive impact for children and families in all local municipalities. Residents and child care service providers throughout York Region, benefit from a technology system that provides effective service delivery and management of the overall child care system.

7. CONCLUSION

The Ontario Child Care Management System is an established and successful, Province-wide database used by 46 of 47 municipalities. OCCMS requires ongoing modifications and enhancements in order for municipalities, including York Region, to continue to manage their child care systems effectively and support the provincial modernization of child care initiative and the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework. York Region, as the owner of the OCCMS source code, continues to provide operational leadership and project management responsibilities.

For more information on this report, please contact Cordelia Abankwa, General Manager, Social Services at Extension 2150.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.