

7

YORK REGION HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, June 8, 2004, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on current human services planning initiatives and the activities of the Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC).

3. BACKGROUND

York Region's rapid and sustained growth is good for prosperity, but it also requires new and additional human services. Human services are the services and programs that support a safe, healthy community and maintain and promote its quality of life. In the next five years 160,000 additional people are expected to move into York Region. Table 1 illustrates a selection of additional human services that will be needed for those new residents. It is important to note these are additional services to those currently provided and, for the most part, currently unfunded.

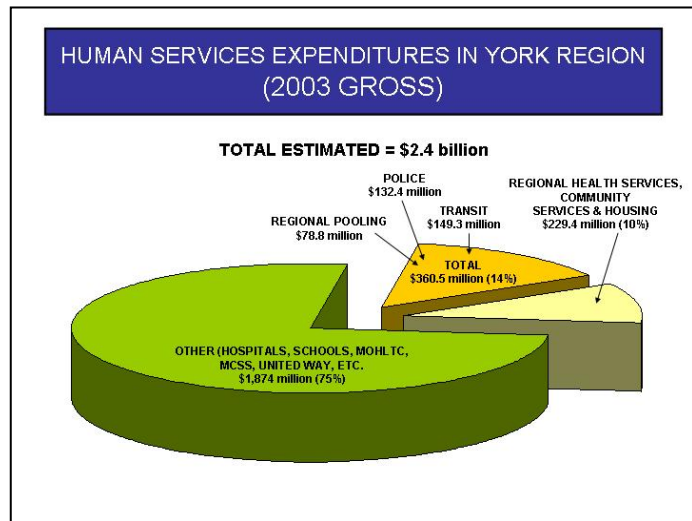
Table 1
Additional Human Services Required in Next 5 years

# of people	Human Services
3,360	will need in-home CCAC
33,600	will attend and YRDSB or Catholic school
All	will need a family doctor (116 doctors)
8,307	will need an acute care hospital bed
53,333	will use a service funded by the United Way
12,480	will use a local foodbank
40,000	will be in a family requiring affordable housing*
162	will be an autistic child with special needs
42	will require hospitalization for adult mental health

*based on 25% of households spending 30% or more of their income on shelter

The human services sector in York Region is a major contributor to the economy of the region.

Expenditures on human services is estimated to be \$2.4 billion annually. Education accounts for 43% of the total expenditure and healthcare about 25%. Regional spending in health and social services is about 10%, and of those expenditures, approximately 50% is funded by provincial subsidies or federal grants.



Regional Council has always recognized the importance of the human services sector in contributing to a healthy and vibrant region. In 1995, the Regional Official Plan contained a policy committing to the completion of a human services plan. Local services realignment and rapid growth accelerated the need to complete the plan and, following an 18-month consultation, Regional Council approved a Human Services Strategy in October 2000.

When it was approved, York Region was the first – and is still the only municipality in the province – with a comprehensive human services strategy. The strategy had three key thrusts:

- To establish a planning/advisory body, which has been achieved by the HSPC
- To broker joint efforts in planning and service delivery
- To broker joint efforts to redress historical under-funding of human services in York Region

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Human Services Planning Coalition

The HSPC was established in 2001. It has broad representation from senior management of key human service agencies, from front-line workers and York Region residents. It is Co-chaired by Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio and Bill Hogarth Director of Education for York Region District School Board. Regional staff in the departments of Community Services and Housing, Health Services, and Planning and Development Services are important contributors to both the HSPC and its task and action groups. The HSPC released a report called *From Plan to Action: 2001-2003* describing its accomplishments in the first three years of operation. 2004 goals include:

- Evaluation of the purpose and organization structure of HSPC (Oct/04)
- Review of linkages with Community Services and Housing Department and Health Services Department (July-Sept/04)
- Increased communication between the HSPC and the broader community

(on-going)

4.2 Joint Efforts in Planning and Service Delivery

As one of five branches of the Planning and Development Services Department, the Human Services Planning branch has 4 FTE's providing project management expertise to facilitate joint planning between both regional and community service providers. Recent projects have included *Fair is Fair: Healthcare Funding in York Region* (Sep/02), *Towards a New Model for Social Services Funding in York Region* (Dec/03), *It's All Here!* employment project, *Inforum York* cable TV series, and a range of other support tools such as a faith sector survey, web-site development, data inventory, backgrounders, facts sheets, etc.

2004 goals include:

- Submission of an application to Community University Research Alliance (CURA) to partner with York University to study immigrant settlement and patterns of utilization of human services in York Region (Aug/04)
- Preparation of an diversity plan for human service providers to be called *The Road to Inclusivity: An Action Plan for York Region* (Oct/04)
- Co-ordination of planning and service delivery efforts with Community Services and Housing Department and Health Services Department (on-going)

4.3 Joint Efforts to Redress Historical Under-funding

Shortly after it was established, the HSPC recognized the value of speaking with a united voice on the matter of historical under-funding of human services in York Region. It embarked on a joint public affairs and government relations strategy by establishing an action group with representation from the 3 hospitals, 2 school boards, United Way and York Region. Currently in the second of a two-year project, the 2004 budget to support the strategy is \$112,000 – with partner contributions making up about 75% of the revenue source.

Once the strategy was agreed to by the partners and HSPC, a framework and principles for a new funding model was established. Borrowing from the Rozanski principles used for education funding, the HSPC declared it needed funding models that were:

- Adequate
- Affordable
- Equitable
- Stable
- Flexible
- Accountable

In short, funding models that are sustainable.

With this message and the reports on healthcare (*Fair is Fair*) and social services funding (*Towards a New Model for Social Services Funding*), the HSPC met with all York

Region MPPs. Two series of presentations have been made to area municipalities with resolutions of support passed by each local council.

Since January 2004, meetings have been held with the Honourable Greg Sorbara and senior staff in Minister Papatello (Ministry of Community and Social Services) and Minister Bountrogianni (Ministry of Children and Youth Services) offices. In each of those meetings a presentation on the HSPC planning model, the impacts of under-funding and proposed solutions has been made.

Peel Region has expressed interest and support for York Region's strategy. Regular meetings are held between the Peel Fair Share Task Force and the HSPC Social Services Funding Action Group. In addition, the Regional Chairs and CAO's of York and Peel Region have met to discuss opportunities to make joint statements about the need for human services in both Regions.

To date, the government relations strategy has secured support from all York Region MPPs and has received expressions of support from the Premier's Office, the Ministry of Finance, Management Board of Cabinet, and the Ministries of Children's and Youth Services, Community and Social Services and Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The Government Relations Action Group met on June 8 to discuss the contents of a "Go Forward" paper. It is proposed that this paper be a brief, impactful, MB-20 style paper outlining the issues, options and outcomes for new funding models for human services.

2004 goals for the government relations strategy include:

- Presentation of 'Go Forward' paper to Cabinet Committee on Health and Social Services (Aug/04)
- Enter into negotiations with provincial government on new funding models (fall/04)

4.4 Challenges

An integrated planning approach recognizes the interdependence of the human services sector. Prevention programs, gaps in service or a change in funding have consequences that often reach beyond the direct delivery of a single program. The most effective measurable outcome would be new dollars received, but any new funding that comes into the Region does not necessarily link back to the HSPC nor is it possible to measure the indirect contribution of the Human Services Planning branch.

Another challenge is to maintain the linkage between under-funding of human services and the Region's fiscal strategy to advocate for a new deal for municipalities. It is important these initiatives run parallel and complementary.

Similarly, it is important the corporate management framework is aligned with the corporate policy framework. Again it is important they are complementary – and even better when they leverage each other.

Lastly, is the challenge of managing community expectations when the collaborative planning model has proven to be successful and yet, is not completely within the Region's legislative mandate.

4.5 Relationship to Vision 2026

Human services planning and the HSPC meet a number of goals in Vision 2026. The most compelling is goal 6 which states "York Region will grow at a pace that supports healthy communities, economic vitality, sustainable natural environments and effective human services".

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications at this time.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Local municipalities are important partners in the provision of human services in York Region. Programs and services provided by the Human Services Planning Branch continually and consistently include representation of the interests of area municipalities.

Wherever feasible, representation from area municipal councillors or staff is included on committees and focus groups. Communications from the HSPC and the Human Services Planning branch are routinely circulated to area municipal councillors and staff.

7. CONCLUSION

Regional Council's investment in human services planning is bringing added value to the Region. The public affairs/government relations strategy is raising the profile of York Region in Queens Park and generating an awareness of the need to address historical under-funding.

It is recommended that this report be received for information and updates on the government relations strategy, the Inclusivity Action Plan, the immigrant settlement research, and the HSPC evaluation be brought back to Planning Committee as the projects proceed.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.