



# City of Surrey

## Social Planning Committee

### Minutes

Councillor's Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003**  
Time: 7:03 p.m.

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**Present:**

Chair - Councillor J. Villeneuve  
S. Blown  
R. Day  
J. Grafton  
A. Khanzadeh  
S. Moore

**Absent:**

J. Brown  
S. DeRapp  
P. Joshi

**Staff Present:**

B. Beblo, Planning & Development  
K. Miller, Administrative Assistant

**Also Present:**

L. Vincent, Community Liaison  
Penny Coates, Consultant  
Karen Norman, OPTIONS  
Jan Siwinski, SOS Children's Village of BC

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**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Social Planning Committee Minutes - April 24, 2003

It was Moved by S. Moore  
Seconded by R. Day  
That the minutes of the Social Planning  
Committee meeting held on April 24, 2003, be adopted.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATIONS**

1. Penny Coates, Consultant/Group Facilitator, was in attendance to discuss the provincial "*Make Children First Learning Initiative*" involving the development of an action plan to bring together all sectors of the community to strengthen healthy early childhood development in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Ms. Coates distributed materials relative to the above, and provided the following information:

- Brochure: *First Call: Spotlight on children and youth campaign*. A coalition identifying keys to success for children and youth;
- *Early Childhood Development in BC, First Call's Framework for Action*. The importance of the first six years, First Call's Early Childhood Development Approach, the five key components of the early childhood development (ECD) basket,
- *A World Fit for Children*. United Nations Special Assembly on Children overview;

- *Why has ECD Come to the Forefront Now?* International, national and provincial events and documents, factors that make a significant difference research, learning initiatives and phasing, and emerging common themes;
- Ways municipalities can bring forward urgent issues to senior levels of government;
- Lack of, or risk of losing, a safety network which provides services to children and youth;
- Federal and Provincial funding for early childhood services;
- Opportunities for strategic planning;
- Identification of needs and priorities;
- Timelines for consultations with parent, agencies and school districts;
- Research results from international, national and community studies;
- Fundraising for childcare requires funding from the senior levels of government; and
- Concerns from the childcare industry relative to possibly being excluded from the ECD initiative.
- Ms. Coates noted that the result of the "Make Children First" initiative will be a community plan which will greatly assist community organizations accessing federal and provincial funds in a timely and coordinated manner when such funds become available.

There followed a general discussion relative to the following:

- Conflicting reports regarding funding programs for childcare centres;
  - Funding cuts to child services budgets;
  - Childcare resource and referral programs, provision of family daycare services training;
  - Cultural sensitivity for new immigrants and families whose language may be limited, outreach services;
  - Food for Kids programs - concerns for people who use public transit;
  - ECD's informal links to Fraser Health Region, MCFD, and related issues; and
  - Accounting of funding cuts (Rick Gates, Social Planner, City of Vancouver, John Foster, Social Planner, City of Burnaby);
  - United Way's "Success by Six" program model for community capacity building;
  - Possible priorities of a new Federal government (World Fit for Children); and
  - Possible advocacy roles for the committee through the City.
2. Karen Norman, Deputy Director, OPTIONS: Services to Communities Society, was in attendance to provide an update on the issues affecting children and families in Surrey, including a discussion on childcare referral programs and family resource centres.

Ms. Norman provided the following information:

- Growing together parenting team program;
- Healthiest Babies Possible program;

- Advocacy for families and children due to dismantling of services;
- Complexity and severity of family issues;
- Undervalued, under-resourced, and under appreciated services;
- Funding cuts affecting the eligibility threshold for subsidies;
- Funding for preschool programs;
- Income assistance for families accessing quality childcare;
- Surrey's level of community support for childcare;
- Quality of services provided by non-profit and for-profit societies and organizations;
- Lack of infant and preschool care;
- Care providers experiencing drops in enrolment because the reduction of much needed childcare subsidies for low-income working parents. Children are now placed with family members or other forms of unlicensed care. This is especially critical for children who require extra support;
- Morale of childcare community as impacted by funding cuts;
- "Quality Enhancement Initiative" programs: 5 throughout province;
- Outreach support programs for parents;
- Parenting groups and workshops;
- Waitlists for families awaiting support and services; and
- Language and transportation barriers for immigrant families attempting to assimilate to a new culture.

There followed a general discussion relative to the following:

- Cuts to programs for children with special needs;
- Services available to children with special needs in Surrey;
- Next Step program for youth;
- Accounting of funding cuts;
- Family resource program funded by MCFD, which looks at where families have limited opportunities for support. Identification of priority areas which would serve families in need;
- Partnerships with school districts vis-à-vis ongoing sustainability; and
- Surrey's response to families in need of services; and
- Possible reasons for funding cuts: changes to income assistance through the Ministry of Human Resources.
- Ms Norman noted that the recently introduced mobile childcare service has been so well received that her organization has experienced a long wait list for the many requests by community organizations. The mobile childcare service provides child-minding to support specific programs or events involving parents. Ms. Norman noted that this speaks to the deep need for childcare services in the community.

3. Jan Siwinski, Village Director, SOS Children's Village of BC, was in attendance to present a brief overview the SOS Children's Village located in Surrey, and the long term housing and support provided to individual and sibling groups of children and youths.

Ms. Siwinski distributed materials relative to the above, and provided the following information:

- *SOS Newsletter*, May 2003;
- SOS provides foster homes and support to foster homes in Surrey;
- Support of children in care who are unlikely to be adopted;
- Children in the program are aged 2 to 13, who are raised to adulthood;
- SOS provides homes for children around the world since 1949, consisting of over 400 villages;
- History of SOS;
- Camps for children and families with special needs;
- Caregiver training program;
- Program funding to access more children;
- Partnerships with MCFD, organizations and agencies (literacy and life skills outreach, therapy/anger management, camps and events);
- Teaching social cues and appropriate responses;

Ms. Siwinski requested that the committee provide a recommendation to Council recommending a property tax exemption for the SOS BC. Ms. Siwinski was encouraged to contact the City Clerk with a view to obtaining information relative to a property tax exemption.

There followed a general discussion relative to the following:

- Ways the committee, through the City, may lobby to support funding and find solutions to financial downloading of programs.

The delegations withdrew from the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

### **C. DISCUSSION OF DELEGATION**

The meeting recessed at 8:40 p.m., and reconvened at 8:45 p.m. with the same persons in attendance.

It was

Moved by S. Moore

Seconded by J. Grafton

That the Social Planning Committee

recommends to Council that the SOS Children's Village BC be consider for a property tax exemption, pending receipt of the appropriate documentation and subsequent review by the City Clerk.

Carried

S. Moore withdrew from the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

1. *Fix: The Story of an Addicted City*
2. Update on the Housing and Homelessness Forum: The Senior Planner advised that she and Councillor Villeneuve attended the Homelessness Task Force meeting on May 14, 2003 and distributed *Surrey Homelessness and Housing Forum*: itinerary and workshop information. The committee was encouraged to distribute the materials accordingly.

Councillor Villeneuve informed the committee that any efforts to reach out to community organizations and churches to promote their participation in the upcoming Housing and Homelessness Forum. will help make the event a success

**E. NEW BUSINESS****1. Sanjha Musla, Sanjha Hal: Shared Issues, Shared Solutions**

The Social Planner distributed information, on behalf of the Surrey Public Library, on an information meeting to be held on June 22, 2003 at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel\*, which will focus on the needs of South Asian youth, parents and community. The committee requested that the Social Planner seek more information as to the format and agenda of the event.

\*The venue has subsequently been changed to the Bear Creek Hall at 8580 - 132 Street

**F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****1. Peace Arch Community Services**

At the Monday, May 12, 2003 Regular Council meeting, Council received correspondence of May 6, 2003 from Martin Harris, MA, Executive Director, Peace Arch Community Services, seeking Council's written and verbal support with respect to the retention of the Peninsula Employment Centre operating and servicing residents and businesses of the Semiahmoo Peninsula since April 1998.

At that time, Council resolved to refer this item to the Social Planning Committee.

There followed a general discussion relative other agencies and organizations, which have been or will soon be, discontinued.

It was Moved by J. Grafton  
Seconded by R. Day  
That the Surrey Social Planning Committee  
recommends that the Federal Government continue its practice of providing  
employment assessment centres that are equally distributed throughout the City  
of Surrey's communities.

Carried

## G. UPDATES

### 1. City of Surrey's "Recognition of Volunteer Services" Banquet

### 2. Surrey/White Rock: Child, Youth & Family Network

A. Khanzedehe encouraged members to become more active in advocating for children, youth and families.

### 3. Joint Youth/ Family Court Committee

J. Grafton informed the committee that the JFCC will now be working on specific projects, beginning with a shirtsleeve session at the May 2003 meeting.

### 4. Highland House - Shelter Advisory Committee

The facility will hold its grand opening in September 2003.

## H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Carol Hogan, Member of CRONIC (Concerned Residents of Newton In-Community). The committee reviewed the correspondence and discussed activities in the subject neighbourhood. The Chair will provide a response on behalf of the Committee.

## I. INFORMATION ITEMS

The committee received the following information items:

1. Newsletter, Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, Questions & Answers, SCPI Program and Renewal
2. SPARC BC NEWS, Social Planning Research Council of BC, Spring 2003

**J. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**K. NEXT MEETING**

The Social Planner reminded the committee that the Housing and Homelessness Forum will be held at Kwantlen University College, Surrey Campus, on Thursday, June 12, and Friday, June 13, 2003.

The next regular meeting of the Social Planning Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

The Social Planning Committee adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

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Chair