

Leadership Council Public Meeting

March 25, 2020

Teleconference

Yellowknife, NT

Minutes

PRESENT:

- Mr. Jim Antoine, Chairperson
- Ms. Gina Dolphus, Sahtu Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Brian Willows, Hay River Health and Social Services Authority
- Mr. Ted Blondin, Tlicho Community Services Agency
- Ms. Patricia Schaefer, Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Ruby Simba, Dehcho Regional Wellness Council

- Ms. Sue Cullen, NTHSSA CEO
- Mr. Kevin Whitehead, Senior Advisor – CEO
- Ms. Erin Griffiths, HRHSSA CEO

REGRETS:

- Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben, Vice Chairperson
- Ms. Nancy Trotter, Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Bruce Cooper, Deputy Minister Health and Social Services

GUEST PRESENTERS:

- Ms. Sheila Silva, Chief Financial Officer

1.0 Call to Order

- This meeting called to order at 11:08am
- Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Jim Antoine was unable to initially connect. Mr. Brian Willows and Mr. Ted Blondin initiated the meeting.
- The Leadership Council agreed to proceed with the meeting as outlined.

2.0 Attendance

Due to the current worldwide Pandemic, this meeting was via Teleconference in order to maintain social distancing.

3.0 NTHSSA 2020-2021 Operating Budget

Council received an overview of the Finance Committee meeting that occurred on March 19, 2020. The Committee Chair discussed the role of the Finance Branch and indicated that last year NTHSSA was unable to operationalize the proposed deficit reduction plan. This year there is commitment to bring the 19M overspend down. Compensation and Benefits, based on step 4, is 60% of the budget – a fixed cost we have no control over. It is a large part of the basis for the funding we receive, but is not based on actuals.

The CFO indicated this was a common approach across Departments. When budgeting at higher it doesn't show any evidence that the funding model doesn't work. The Budget includes a 6% vacancy factor.

The CEO outlined the importance of illustrating where the differences between the funding model and spending are this year.

Discussions occurred related to the COVID 19 pandemic and how this will impact costs. It was identified that the Prime Minister has indicated funding will be available and the NTHSSA has developed coding that will allow tracking of the costs associated.

Council suggested costs be tracked and recovered quarterly, subject to federal program parameters, to maximize efficiency. Council thanked front line staff and CFO for their budget development work, but also expressed concern the Budget was not achievable, and therefore difficult to hold Senior Management accountable. Council suggested the budget should reflect reality.

The CEO indicated the Budget was developed based on Quarter 3 information, 60% is specific to Compensation and Benefits and that the Department of Health and Social Services has endorsed the final information. Over the course of the next three months efforts will be committed to adding detail into the deficit reduction plan. One component of the deficit reduction

plan will be to ensure we are right funded. If we can demonstrate the variance we are in a better position to explain. The goal is to balance the budget in the next 4 years.

The CFO indicated the details of the Budget would be entered into the new SAM system which will allow allocations to occur and Managers will be able to see their budget and can determine if over spending is occurring. All allocations would be entered prior to April 1, subject to Ministerial approval of the Budget. SAM should now enable decisions and course corrections to be made based on monthly reports.

Council suggested the CEO and CFO be vigilant on watching the budget and advise the Council of any significant items that come up.

The 2020-2021 Operating Budget was reviewed and accepted by the Leadership Council.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Leadership Council approve the NTHSSA 2020-2021 Operating Budget with a deficit of \$19,242,000 for submission to the Department of Health and Social Services.

Motion: Ted Blondin

Second: Brian Willows

LC20/21-001 – Carried Unanimously

Council noted their belief that right funding is what it costs and the culprit is that we are not right funded and that we have the goal of identifying what is the cost to run the NTHSSA, and this message needs to be clear to the Minister.

The CEO provided an update on the current COVID 19 Pandemic situation. Currently 1 confirmed case and remains at this number due to deliberate and intentional actions. GNWT and NTHSSA employees have been directed to work from home if possible. Active testing is occurring every day. NTHSSA is looking at a variety of initiatives including virtual care to ensure social distancing. The CEO echoed appreciation for the hard work of staff.

Council discussed the risk of travellers that may be infected with the virus coming into the communities. Some school districts have cancelled school for the remainder of the year, expectation is all remaining regions will also cancel. Daily COVID updates are appreciated in these early days, the CEO committed to continuing with them.

4.0 Adjournment

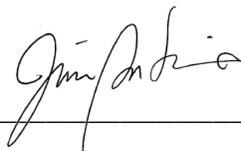
- The Leadership Council made a motion to formally end its business and close its meeting at 11:45AM.
- The Leadership Council did not hold an in camera session during this meeting.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services closed its March 25, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Gina Dolphus

Second: Ruby Simba

LC20/21-002 – Carried Unanimously



Chairperson Approval Signature

September 03, 2020

Date