

## **Leadership Council Budget Meeting – Minutes**

**February 15, 2023 Virtual Meeting, Yellowknife, NT**

### **PRESENT:**

- Mr. Gerry Cheezie, Chairperson
- Ms. Phyllis Mawdsley, Chair, Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Brian Willows, Chair, Hay River Health and Social Services Authority
- Ms. Nancy Trotter, Chair, Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Muaz Hassan, Chair, Dehcho Regional Wellness Council
  
- Ms. Kim Riles, Chief Executive Officer, NTHSSA
- Ms. Marissa Martin, Chief Financial Officer, NTHSSA
- Ms. Gloria Badari, Project Director, System Sustainability, NTHSSA
- Mr. Bob Laramy, Executive Director, System Sustainability Project, NTHSSA
- Ms. Miranda Bass, Territorial Director of Finance, NTHSSA
- Mr. Mathieu Gauthier, Finance Project Director, NTHSSA
- Mr. Allen Stanzell, Senior Advisor, Governance NTHSSA

### **REGRETS:**

- Ms. Gina Dolphus, Chair, Sahtu Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Debbie Gordon-Ruben, Chair, Beaufort Delta Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Ted Blondin, Chair, Tlicho Community Services Agency
- Ms. Jo-Anne Cecchetto, Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Social Services

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

### **2.0 Reflection/Prayer**

Ms. Trotter led the meeting in an opening prayer.

### **3.0 Attendance**

Attendance was noted as above by the Senior Advisor, Governance.

#### **4.0 Approval of Agenda**

The Chairperson asked the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr. Willows, to lead the meeting. The Agenda was approved as presented, with no conflicts of interest declared.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approves the Agenda for the 2023-24 Budget Meeting as presented.

**Motion: Mr. Hassan**

**Second: Ms. Trotter**

**LC23/02-001 – Carried Unanimously**

#### **5.0 Finance Orientation, Budget Approval**

Council received a presentation on the 2023-24 operating Budget, that included a Budget process and annual planning cycle overview. The process reflects the direction for the Department of Health and Social Services, and related agencies including NTHSSA, from the mandate of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, and the resulting health and social services System Strategic Framework.

The NTHSSA Budget is developed following the annual business planning cycle of the GNWT, to carry out programs and services to meet the above mandate and framework priorities.

Preparation for the 2023-24 NTHSSA Budget included extensive engagement with the Executive team, Senior Managers and Program Managers throughout the system. Particular attention was focussed on any additional budgeted expenses having a corresponding actual or potential funding source.

The 2023-24 budgeted deficit of up to \$46 million reflects a 20% increase in revenue and a 21% increase in expenses over the prior year. NTHSSA was successful in 2022-23 in securing funding to cover the true cost of delivering previously underfunded programs and services. While continuing to actively manage expenses and pursue enhance revenue streams, NTHSSA will continue to work with the

Department to identify, analyze and quantify deficit cost drivers and secure ongoing funding solutions as required.

Council was very pleased with the progress in identifying the true cost of operating programs and services, and solutions to address chronic deficit drivers.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approves the 2023-24 NTHSSA Operating Budget with a maximum deficit of \$46 million, as considered on February 15, 2023, for submission to the Department of Health and Social Services.

**Motion: Mr. Willows**

**Second: Ms. Mawdsley**

**LC23/02-002 – Carried Unanimously**

## **6.0 HSS System Sustainability Orientation**

A related orientation presentation on the System Sustainability Project was also reviewed with the Council.

The Project plan was approved in December 2020 to analyze and propose solutions to the NTHSSA deficit, based on 3 tiers of work - Internal controls and cost containment to decrease costs; Quality improvement activities to find efficiencies and savings based on improved data integrity; and Reviews of funding and service levels to meet projected demand.

During 2022-23 results included significant improvements in the quality of financial data and reporting, and several operational efficiencies. Evidence reflects that NTHSSA deficits are primarily due to structural underfunding of clinical and operational programs and services. Council strongly supports accelerating funding and service level reviews to better inform GNWT funding and service level decisions for health and social services.

Council was pleased with the work under this initiative, and clearly sees the potential for valuable outputs to be reflected in future

NTHSSA Budgets. Members look forward to a further update at the next Council meeting.

**7.0 In Camera Session**

No in camera session was required.

**8.0 Reflection/Prayer**

Ms. Trotter led the meeting in a closing prayer.

**9.0 Motion to Adjourn**

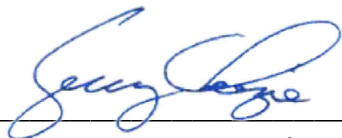
The Budget Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority closes its February 15, 2023 Budget Meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Hassan**

**Second: Ms. Trotter**

**LC23/02-003 – Carried Unanimously**



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Chairperson Approval Signature

June 28, 2023

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Date