

REPORT NO. 218 of the
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
of its meeting held March 5, 2014

Present: **Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair**
 Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
 Councillor Alan Halberstadt
 Councillor Al Maghnieh
 Councillor Fulvio Valentinis

That the following recommendation of the Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee **BE APPROVED** as follows:


Moved by Councillor Maghnieh, seconded by Councillor Halberstadt,
THAT City Council **AUTHORIZE** the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to serve as the Municipal *Alternate* Member for the South West Region on the Ontario Works Director – Administrator Reference Group (DARG) for a period of two (2) years ending December 31, 2015; and further

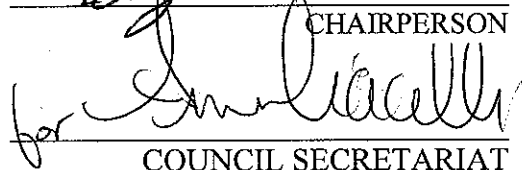
THAT City Council **ALLOW** the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to serve as the *Municipal Member* for the South West Region on the Ontario Works Director – Administrator Reference Group (DARG) for a period of an additional two (2) years ending December 31, 2017.

Carried.

Livelihood 17018, AS2014

Clerk's Note: The report authored by the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services dated January 24, 2014 entitled "*Permission to Allow the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to Participate on the Ontario Works Director-Administrator Reference Group (DARG)*" is **attached** as background information.



CHAIRPERSON


COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION :				
Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee-
Administrative Report



MISSION STATEMENT:

"Our City is built on relationships – between citizens and their government, businesses and public institutions, city and region – all interconnected, mutually supportive, and focused on the brightest future we can create together."

LiveLink REPORT #: 17018 AS2014	Report Date: January 24, 2014
Author's Name: Bruno Ierullo	Date to Standing Committee: March 5, 2014
Author's Phone: 519 255-5200 ext. 5257	Classification #:
Author's E-mail: bierullo@city.windsor.on.ca	

To: Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee

Subject: Permission to Allow the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to Participate on the Ontario Works Director-Administrator Reference Group (DARG)

1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: Ward(s): _____

THAT City Council **AUTHORIZE** the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to serve as the Municipal *Alternate* Member for the South West Region on the Ontario Works Director – Administrator Reference Group (DARG) for a period of two (2) years ending December 31, 2015; and further

THAT City Council **ALLOW** the Executive Director of Employment & Social Services to Serve as the *Municipal Member* for the South West Region on the Ontario Works Director – Administrator Reference Group (DARG) for a period of an additional two (2) years ending December 31, 2017.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

Around 2009, the Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS) – Ontario Works (OW) Branch established a Director – Administrator Reference Group (also known as DARG). The purpose of DARG is for members to provide input on the design and delivery of the Ontario Works program. The mandate of DARG is to: *"...exchange ideas, solicit advice and feedback, and participate in confidential strategic discussions about Ontario Works, and the broader social assistance system."*

Within its scope, DARG will:

1. *Identify and consider the nature of emerging issues;*
2. *Consider legislation, regulation and best practices in Ontario; and*
3. *Consider the work and recommendations of other reference groups, as it pertains to the issue.*

However, DARG is **not** a decision-making body.

The membership of DARG comprises of representatives from the Ontario Works Branch, Ontario Disability Support Program Branch (ODSPB), Policy and Research Analysis Branch (PRAB), Social Assistance and Municipal Operations Branch (SAMOB), Ministry Regional Office representatives including a Regional Director and a Municipal/First Nations Service Manager. There is also one (1) Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) Ontario Works Administrator from each region in Ontario. In addition, Municipal Alternate Members (i.e. Administrators) are designated from each region to participate in the DARG meetings when Municipal Members are unable to attend.

The membership term as a Municipal Alternate Member is 2 years, after which the alternate rotates into the Municipal Member role for an additional 2 years.

Some of the primary responsibilities of DARG members and alternates include, but not limited to:

- presenting their respective views and interests at the strategic level;
- presenting the views and interests of the region and/or communities they are representing.

DARG meetings are held bi-monthly in Toronto for one day, and additional meetings may be required depending on the specific topics and priorities.

3. DISCUSSION:

The City's Executive Director of Employment & Social Services (Executive Director) was asked by both MCSS Regional Office Representatives and OW Administrators in the South West Region to participate in DARG as a Municipal "Alternate" Member. The commitment as an "Alternate" is for 2 years ending December 31, 2015, at which time the Executive Director would rotate into the Municipal Member role for 2 more years ending December 31, 2017.

There are 6 scheduled meetings for 2014, held in Toronto, as follows:

- Thursday, January 23, 2014
- Thursday, March 20, 2014
- Thursday, May 15, 2014
- Thursday, July 17, 2014
- Thursday, September 18, 2014
- Thursday, November 20, 2014 (tentative) (Annual General Meeting).

As an Alternate Member, the Executive Director would only be required to attend the Annual General Meeting and any of the meetings where the Municipal Member is unable to attend. Of course, upon assuming the Municipal Member role in 2 years, the Executive Director will be expected to attend the anticipated 6 meetings annually.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

Participating in DARG presents no apparent risk. In fact, it is an opportunity for the Executive Director to sit at the table with other OW Administrators and senior Ministry staff to discuss important issues, trends, and potential or up and coming changes in Ontario Works and other financial and employment programs. It also presents an opportunity for the Executive Director to express concerns, needs and recommendations for the City of Windsor and County of Essex, as well as the South West Region. In effect, it would place us at the forefront of what's happening in the area of social assistance in Ontario.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

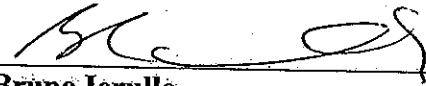
Associated costs with being the Municipal Alternate Member and, subsequently, the Municipal Member are essentially the travel expenses for the Executive Director. As an Alternate Member, these costs should be infrequent. However, as the Municipal Member, it is estimated that the annual travel expenses will be approximately \$3,000 in each of the 2 years (based on an estimated average of \$500 per trip or meeting). This is cost-shared with the Province at 50 percent. As well it is cost shared with the County based on the arbitrated weighted assessment calculation. The City's share of the annual cost, approximately \$1,020, will be funded from the Ontario Works Program Delivery budget. No additional municipal contribution will be required.

6. CONSULTATIONS:

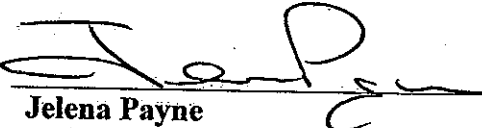
Ministry of Community & Social Services Representatives

7. CONCLUSION:

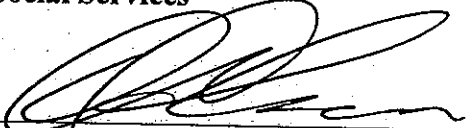
The Delegation of Authority By-law authorizes the CAO to approve staff requests to participate on external Committees, Executives and Boards of Directors. However, such approvals must meet specific criteria. This request does not meet all the stipulations, specifically: "*Any expenses incurred are borne by the organization benefiting from City staff participation*". In this case, the City will have to pay the travel expenses of the Executive Director less provincial subsidy and the County portion. Hence, Administration is seeking Council's approval for this request, based on the rationale provided in this report.



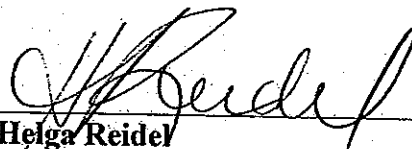
Bruno Ierullo
Executive Director of Employment &
Social Services



Jelena Payne
Community Development and Health
Commissioner



Onorio Colucci
Chief Financial Officer & City
Treasurer/Corporate Leader Finance and
Technology



Helga Reidel
Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDICES:

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:
Name:
Phone #: 519 **ext.**

NOTIFICATION :

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX