



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

A meeting of the Community Services Committee was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 1:51 p.m. at the County of Renfrew Administration Building, Pembroke, Ontario.

Present were: Chair Anne Giardini
Warden Peter Emon
Vice-Chair Debbi Grills
Councillor David Mayville
Councillor Neil Nicholson
Councillor Gary Serviss
Councillor Ed Jacyno (City of Pembroke Rep)

Staff Present: Craig Kelley, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Andrea Patrick, Acting Director of Community Services/Manager of Ontario Works
Jennifer Dombroskie, Manager of Housing and Homelessness
Margo Smith, Manager of Child Care & Early Years Services
Tina Peplinskie, Media Relations and Social Media Coordinator
Gwen Dombroski, Deputy Clerk

Chair Giardini called the meeting to order at 1:51 p.m. The roll was called and no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-02-06

Moved by Councillor Serviss

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT the minutes of the January 17, 2024, Community Services Committee meeting be adopted. CARRIED.

The Acting Director of Community Services overviewed the Community Services Department Report which is attached as Appendix A. Discussion ensued on the letter from the Township of Whitewater Region regarding water/wastewater costs and the eligibility for financial assistance for residents with utility arrears. This program can be applied for through the Homelessness Prevention Plan. The Acting Director of Community Services added that the website is being updated to be more accessible for applicants.

The CAO/Clerk and Acting Director of Community Services introduced mesa which is the new name of the Health and Housing Crisis Engagement Team. This collaborative initiative will be led by the Paramedic Services, Community Services, and Development and Property Department, to address the homelessness, and endeavor to provide a healthier community for residents of the County of Renfrew.

The Manager of Child Care and Early Years Services overviewed the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, which is part of the Community Services Department Report.

Committee and staff lead a fulsome discussion on the childcare needs and the lack of available childcare spaces in Renfrew County.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-02-07

Moved by Councillor Serviss

Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

THAT direction is given to staff to draft a resolution for County Council to advocate to the Province to address the Child Care and Early Years Services of rural communities such as the County of Renfrew. CARRIED.

The Acting Director of Community Services overviewed the Ontario Works Division Report, which is part of the Community Services Department Report.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-02-08

Moved by Councillor Nicholson

Seconded by Warden Emon

THAT the Community Services Committee Report, which is attached as Appendix A be approved. CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. CS-C-24-02-09

Moved by Councillor Jacyno

Seconded by Councillor Grills

THAT this meeting adjourn and the next regular meeting be held on March 6, 2024. Time 3:03 p.m. CARRIED.

COUNTY OF RENFREW COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Andrea Patrick, Acting Director of Community Services

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

1. Letters from Township of Whitewater Region

Attached as Appendix I and Appendix II are letters from the Township of Whitewater Region Council, highlighting needs seen in their region regarding child care and water and wastewater system affordability in rural Ontario. This item was included in the January 2024 report and deferred for discussion to the February meeting.

2. Health and Housing Crisis Engagement Team

The new MESA Team, the new proposed name for the Health and Housing Crisis Engagement Team (formerly referred to as the “Hub” model), marks a pivotal initiative within the County of Renfrew to address the critical intersection of health and homelessness. This collaborative initiative will be led by the Paramedic Service, Community Services, and Development and Property departments. Recognizing the urgent need for a unified and multi-sectoral approach, MESA establishes an evidence-to-action model that not only acknowledges the complex challenges at the nexus of health and homelessness but also delineates a roadmap for coordinated, integrated solutions. This report underscores the commitment of the County of Renfrew's administration, community services, development and property, and emergency services departments to work synergistically in executing a transformative strategy that goes beyond individual silos and leverages the collective expertise and resources of the community. MESA embodies a bold and compassionate endeavor to address the root causes of homelessness while fostering a resilient and healthier community for all residents of the County of Renfrew. The name is derived from the term used for a flat-topped hill; a formation that has steep sides all around, resembling a table (Mesa comes from the Latin mensa meaning "table"). Tables represent a sturdy and helpful resources, and have the means to stand up on their own feet without any assistance; traits that we are sure we'd want our clients to have at the end of our engagement.

This initiative enhances Strategic Goal #3, Community Wellness and Healthcare

3. **Child Care and Early Years Division Report**

Attached as Appendix III is the Child Care and Early Years Division Report, prepared by Ms. Margo Smith, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Services, providing an update on activities.

4. **Ontario Works Division Report**

Attached as Appendix IV is the Ontario Works Division Report prepared by Ms. Andrea Patrick, Manager of Ontario Works, providing an update on activities.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS REPORT

Prepared by: Margo Smith, Manager of Child Care and Early Years Division

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

February 14, 2024

INFORMATION

1. Inclusion Services Statistics

The following chart indicates Inclusion Services monthly statistics from January 2023 to December 2023.

Month	Children Served
January	176
February	173
March	177
April	180
May	179
June	175
July	184
August	177
September	181
October	180
November	180
December	189

2. Licensed Home Child Care Statistics

The following chart indicates the County of Renfrew Licensed Home Child Care program monthly statistics from January 2023 to December 2023.

Month	Children Served	Open Homes	Children on Waitlist
January	38	7	131
February	37	7	120
March	36	7	135
April	39	7	138
May	44	7	148
June	45	7	155
July	43	7	168
August	44	7	153
September	47	8	171
October	48	8	190
November	50	8	196
December	42	7	204

3. **Licensed Child Care Statistics**

The following chart indicates monthly statistics for Licensed Child Care in Renfrew County from January 2023 to December 2023.

Month	Licensed Capacity	Operating Capacity	Children Served	Children Served, receiving Fee Subsidy
January	2275	1593	1584	343
February	2275	1598	1612	343
March	2275	1595	1625	353
April	2363	1633	1680	343

Month	Licensed Capacity	Operating Capacity	Children Served	Children Served, receiving Fee Subsidy
May	2363	1659	1727	343
June	2363	1682	1767	341
July	2363	1503	1422	322
August	2363	1528	1471	321
September	2503	1768	1753	309
October	2503	1789	1752	325
November	2503	1785	1802	344
December	2503	1785	1771	303

4. Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Update

On March 28, 2022, the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement was signed by the federal and provincial governments with the vision that more families in Ontario will have access to high quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive early learning and child care. CWELCC is a five-year plan (2022-2026) to reduce the cost of licensed child care for children under six to an average of \$10/day by 2026.

As the designated Service System Manager, the County of Renfrew Child Care and Early Years division is responsible for planning, directing, and managing growth at the local level under the CWELCC system. Since 2022, there have been a number of actions taken to help implement the CWELCC system in the County of Renfrew, including:

- Enrollment of 30 out of 32 licensed child care programs into the CWELCC system
- Reduction of parent fees for eligible children up to 52.75% from March 2022 rates
- Reduction of child care contributions for eligible families receiving fee subsidy by 50%
- Funding issued to licensed child care providers to increase wages for eligible Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE's)

As part of the CWELCC agreement, Ontario has made the commitment to increase access to high-quality, affordable child care by allocating funding to support the creation

of 86,000 new spaces by the end of 2026. This includes 33,000 new spaces that have already been created between 2019 and August 2022. The Ministry of Education allocated CWELCC expansion targets to all municipalities in May 2023 as part of the Directed Growth Strategy and identified specific population criteria to be considered for the new spaces, including:

- Low-income families
- Children with special needs
- Children from diverse communities
- Indigenous families
- Francophone families

The Ministry of Education approved a total of 427 new CWELCC spaces to be created in the County of Renfrew between 2022 and 2026 as part of the Directed Growth Strategy. The following chart indicates the space allocation from May 2023.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total Spaces
School-based Spaces	127	122	42	0	0	291
Community-based Spaces	26	48	62	0	0	136
Total Spaces	153	170	104	0	0	427

Out of the 427 spaces, 291 are designated as school-based spaces that were pre-approved projects by the Ministry of Education prior to the CWELCC agreement in 2022. All of these spaces are required to be counted in the total allocation for the County of Renfrew. The remaining 136 spaces are designated as community-based spaces. All spaces that have been allocated have already been created or are accounted for with existing projects in 2024 within the County of Renfrew. As per the chart, all space creation has been assigned to the years 2022-2024 and there has been zero growth allocated for the County of Renfrew in 2025 and 2026.

The Ministry of Education has formally provided opportunities for Service System Managers to request adjustments to their CWELCC space allocations in 2023. Every opportunity has been taken to request additional spaces for growth in the County of Renfrew and there have been no increases approved for the County of Renfrew to date.

ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Prepared by: Andrea Patrick, Manager of Ontario Works

Prepared for: Community Services Committee

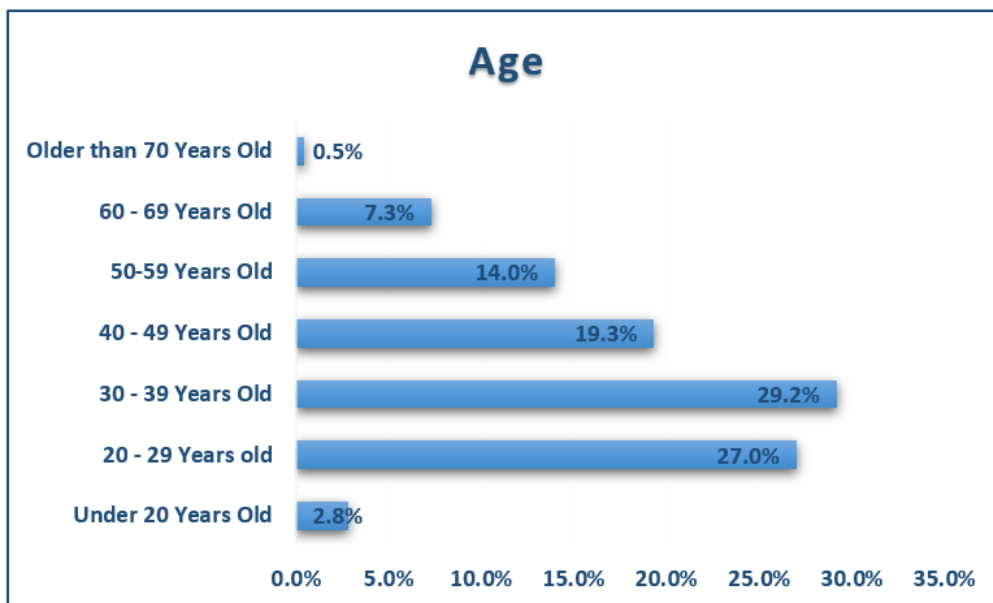
February 14, 2024

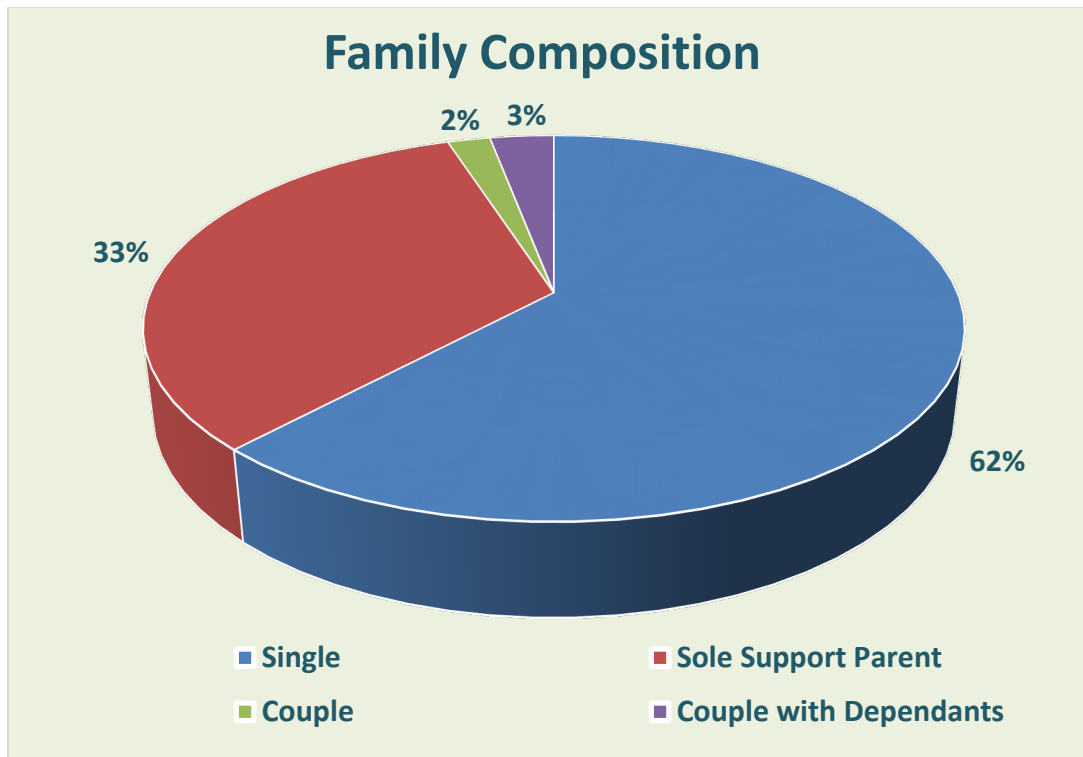
INFORMATION

1. Ontario Works Caseload Statistics

Month	2023 Total Caseload	2022 Total Caseload
January	1,161	1,052
February	1,167	1,083
March	1,182	1,118
April	1,185	1,127
May	1,189	1,147
June	1,182	1,143
July	1,168	1,120
August	1,167	1,132
September	1,161	1,149
October	1,187	1,131
November	1,209	1,143
December	1,204	1,124

Ontario Works Caseload Demographics





Employment Services Transformation Statistics

October 2023 OW Clients with Earnings			Clients Referred to Employment Ontario to date (Oct. 1/23 - Jan. 28/24)	
Number of Earners	Reported Earnings	Average Monthly Earnings Per Earner	Number of Files Referred	Monthly File Referral Average
187	\$ 210,964.81	\$ 1,128.15	174	44