

COUNCIL - APRIL 17, 2012

PROCLAMATION REQUEST CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

- 1) That May 6 – 12, 2012 be proclaimed as "Children's Mental Health Week"; and
- 2) That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City's website under "Events – Proclamations" and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from Chairperson of The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families, dated April 10, 2012.

Background - Analysis and Options

The correspondence received from the Chairperson of The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families, dated April 10, 2012, is attached. (Attachment 1) This request was received too late to be placed on the last Committee of the Whole Agenda. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is on April 24, 2012. The report would be ratified at the Council meeting of May 8, 2012. Due to the time-sensitivity of the proclamation request to proclaim May 6 – 12, 2012 as "Children's Mental Health Week", Council is being requested to consider the proclamation as an addendum item.

The proclamation request meets the City's Proclamation Policy, as follows:

"That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

- (i) which are promoted by any organization that is a registered charity pursuant to Section 248 of the Income Tax Act"

The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families, comprised of 3 children's mental health agencies in York Region (Blue Hills Child & Family Centre, Kinark Child & Family Services and The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families) has requested that the City publicize this proclamation. One in 5 children experiences mental health problems and frequently these problems are not diagnosed or treated and may become more serious. The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families have scheduled a variety of activities during Children's Mental Health Week in order to promote awareness of children's mental health issues and dispel the associated stigma, encouraging parents to seek help, and providing contact information for children's mental health services in York Region. Council has previously granted this proclamation request in previous years.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report supports the strategic priorities established by Vaughan Vision 2020, in particular "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness".

Regional Implications

This proclamation will raise awareness of children's mental health issues within the region.

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that May 6 - 12, 2012 be proclaimed as "Children's Mental Health Week", and that the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on the City Page Online.

Attachments

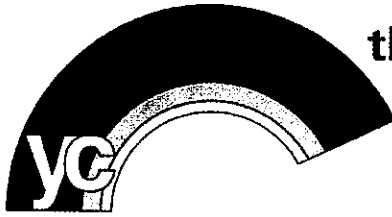
Attachment 1 Correspondence from the Chairperson of The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families, dated April 10, 2012

Report prepared by:

Connie Bonsignore, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams
City Clerk



the york centre for children, youth & families

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April 10, 2012

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua
City of Vaughan
2141 Major MacKenzie Dr.,
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua,

On behalf of the 3 children's mental health agencies which provide services in York Region (Blue Hills Child & Family Centre, Kinark Child & Family Services and The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families), I am writing to request that you proclaim May 6 -12, 2012 as "Children's Mental Health Week" in the City of Vaughan.

One in 5 children experiences mental health problems. Treatment is effective, however, frequently these problems are not diagnosed or treated and they may become more serious. Through a variety of activities which are scheduled for Children's Mental Health Week, we are striving to achieve the following four goals:

- Promoting/maintaining good mental health.
- Increasing public awareness of children's mental health issues and dispelling the associated stigma.
- Encouraging parents to seek help.
- Providing contact information for children's mental health services in York Region.

We ask that you support us in our quest for optimal mental health for all children by making a proclamation and including the following contact information:

- Blue Hills Child & Family Centre: 905-773-4323 or gendeliv@bluehillschildandfamily.ca
- Kinark Child & Family Services: info@kinark.on.ca
- The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families: 905-887-5896 or info@theyorkcentre.ca

"Healthy Minds, Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities"

If you require additional information, please contact me at 905-851-1672.

Yours truly,

Noreen Lee, Chairperson
The York Centre for Children, Youth & Families

