

**Date: July 5, 2011**



## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk**

**Re: Fabric of Diversity Conference**

### **Recommendation:**

Discussion only

### **Background:**

Council received an email from Anita Webb, Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Kenora Branch regarding an upcoming Fabric of Diversity Conference to be held in mid September.

The District Of Kenora Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee is holding this Conference here in Kenora. The Kenora HSJCC is one of two local committees reporting to a Regional Committee and further to the Provincial HSJCC on issues affecting the justice system and the linkages to local human services. The work of the Committees can be seen at [www.hsjcc.on.ca](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca)

The Kenora Committee is comprised of representation from approximately 30 local service providers, the criminal justice system, police, and school boards. Under the direction of the current Chair, Katherine Kinger, and the sponsorship of Canadian Mental Health Association Kenora Branch and the NW LHIN, the Committee has undertaken a significant work plan. They have, in partnership with the local judiciary, established a Mental Health Court in Kenora which operates monthly. They have established pathways for service for transition aged youth, and finally have planned a District wide Conference entitled The Fabric of Diversity which will be hosted in September 2011.

The speakers at the upcoming conference have a national and international presence. It is anticipated that Stan Wesley will act in the role of Master of Ceremonies for the Conference and will participate in an evening community event.

The committee is requesting that the City of Kenora assist them in this evening event by allowing free use of the large tent on the Harbourfront. They are also requesting the City provide promotional materials to Conference Delegates that highlight the City of Kenora and the attractions of the community and area; highlighting our Common Ground initiatives and history.

**Budget:**

No direct budget impact.

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

None