



City of Hamilton
BOARD OF HEALTH ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 21-009
Date: September 20, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall (CC)

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

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<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Loren Kolar, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2604

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.6. Correspondence from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit respecting Support for Funding

Recommendation: Be Endorsed

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- *6.1. Delegation request from Kojo Damptey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, respecting Item 8.1, Board of Health Governance Education Session (BOH21006(a))

(For today's meeting)

- *6.2. Delegation Request from Tim McClemont, The AIDS Network respecting a second Consumption Treatment Services (CTS) site located in Ward 3

(For a future meeting)

September 16, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier
Minister of Health, Ontario
Hepburn Block 10th Floor 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto,
ON M7A 1E9
Sent via email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Elliot,

I want to begin by thanking you and your government for your leadership and financial support during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the Board of Health for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU), I have appreciated the province's announcements to date which have included a commitment to fund 100% of the costs related to the COVID-19 response as well as the continuation of mitigation funding for the year 2022.

I am writing today to specifically request ongoing government financial support for the following items that have not been captured by previous funding announcements:

1. Allocations to support program "restarts", "catchup", and broader recovery
2. Increased base funding to reflect the following demands on health unit resources:
 - a. Endemicity of COVID-19 response activities
 - b. Increased wage, benefit, and operational costs due to inflation
 - c. Increased demand for health unit services to support population recovery from COVID-19 (e.g. mental wellness, harm reduction)

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, HKPRDHU has responded to greater than 2,300 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 71 COVID-19 related outbreaks, responded to greater than 700 community complaints regarding infection prevention and control and enforcement for COVID-19 public health measures, and 6,930 COVID-19 related inquiries through our COVID-19 call centre. In addition, HKPRDHU has coordinated the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination across our jurisdiction with greater than 270,000 doses of vaccine administered.

Throughout the pandemic, resources at HKPRDHU have been diverted from pre-existing services to ensure a timely response to COVID-19 and prevent further spread of the virus throughout Ontario. Similar to other areas of the health sector, difficult decisions have been made about which programs to scale down (or stop) and which to continue. This has resulted in a backlog of services that includes the following:

- 2400 students that missed the school-based immunization program and an additional 1200 that have not been offered second doses to complete their full immunization series through the school program
- Greater than 70 small drinking water systems that require inspection in addition to the routine annual cohort for 2022
- 5300 children needing Oral health screening

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We are reaching a point locally that if we don't start to catch up on these services the backlog will become too large of a hurdle to overcome. As such, we intend to build in capacity to begin addressing this issue but will require assurance from the Ministry that extraordinary costs associated with this will be covered.

It is now clear that COVID-19 will require dedicated attention for many years to come. Case and contact management, outbreak management, infection prevention and control, immunization, surveillance, communication, and enforcement activities will all see a baseline of increased work for the foreseeable future. To do this work well, we need to expand our public health workforce and provide opportunities for permanent positions.

Prior to COVID-19, local public health agencies had received only one increase to base funding in the past five years. Despite this, several new programs were introduced to the Ontario Public Health Standards, including Vision Screening and requirements to respond to Infection Prevention and Control Complaints and inspection of private swimming pools. Furthermore, due to inflation, wage, benefit, and operating costs continued to increase. This means that we were already under-resourced to respond to an infectious disease emergency as well as implement routine public health priorities prior to the pandemic.

Now, more than ever, our communities need a robust public health system to not only respond to the threat of newly emerging infectious diseases, but also help the population recover from the many collateral harms that have resulted throughout the pandemic response. Harms such as increased opioid overdose deaths and deterioration of children's mental health have been well documented over the last year. These are two key areas that local public health agencies have a clear mandate to address but will require the resources to do so.

For the above reasons, the Board of Health urges the provincial government to commit dedicated funding to support both catch-up and recovery of public health activities as well as the ongoing increased demands for health unit response to COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the instrumental role that local public health agencies play in preventing and mitigating the spread of infectious diseases. As we look to the future, it is imperative that we support the recovery of public health in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

In writing this letter, we also call upon the Association of Local Public Health Agencies of Ontario to endorse/support this request.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
Original signed by Mr. Elmslie

Doug Elmslie, Chair, Board of Health

DE/nb

Cc (via email): The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
The Hon. Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Charles Gardner, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Boards of Health
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Cc: [Mighty, Danielle](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 11:04:50 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: no-reply@hamilton.ca <no-reply@hamilton.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:48 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form

Submitted on Thursday, September 16, 2021 - 10:47am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.69.63.126 Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==
Committee: Board of Health

==Requestor Information==
Name of Individual: Kojo Dampzey
Name of Organization: Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
Contact Number: [REDACTED]
Email Address: kdampzey@hcci.ca
Mailing Address: 423 King Street East, Hamilton, On
Reason(s) for delegation request: Will be speaking to the Board of Health Governance Education presentation.
Will you be requesting funds from the City? No
Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/node/286/submission/542101>

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Cc: [Mighty, Danielle](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:21:19 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: no-reply@hamilton.ca <no-reply@hamilton.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 11:56 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form

Submitted on Thursday, September 16, 2021 - 11:56am Submitted by anonymous user: 172.70.130.95 Submitted values are:

==Committee Requested==
Committee: Board of Health

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Tim McClemon
Name of Organization: The AIDS Network
Contact Number: 9055280854
Email Address: ed@aidsnetwork.ca
Mailing Address:
140 King Street East #101
Hamilton, ON
L8N 1B2
Reason(s) for delegation request: The AIDS Network has secured space for the City of Hamilton's second Consumption Treatment Services (CTS) site located in Ward 3. We are looking to fulfill the Ontario Ministry of Health application requirement of municipal council support.
Will you be requesting funds from the City? No
Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/node/286/submission/542126>