



City of Hamilton
SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Meeting #: 21-10
Date: October 1, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall
All electronic meetings can be viewed at:
City's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Lisa Maychak, Senior Manager, Age-Friendly City (905) 546-2424 ext. 1721

Pages

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

1.1. Land Acknowledgement

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1. September 10, 2021

5. COMMUNICATIONS

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

7. CONSENT ITEMS

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS

9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 9.1. "Complete, Livable, Better Streets Design", Trevor Jenkins, Project Manager, Peter Topalovic, Program Manger & Brian Hollingworth, Director, Sustainable Mobility Planning and Economic Development Department, Transportation & Planning, City of Hamilton

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1. Working Groups

10.1.a. Getting Around Hamilton Working Group

10.1.b. Elder Adult Abuse Working Group

10.1.c. Housing Working Group

10.1.d. Communication Working Group

10.2. Working Committees

10.2.a. Age-Friendly Plan Governance Committee

10.2.b. Older Adult Network

10.2.c. International Day of Older Persons Committee

10.2.d. McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

10.2.e. Ontario Health Coalition

10.2.f. Our Future Hamilton Update

10.2.g. Senior of the Year Award

11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

13.1. Light Rail Transit - Letter of Support

13.2. Feedback Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19

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13.3. All Advisory Committee Meeting

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13.4. Proposed Resolution

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14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

15. ADJOURNMENT



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 19, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19 (BOH20015) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Hilary Wren-Atiola (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3724 Sue Connell (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3798
SUBMITTED BY:	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

INFORMATION

Purpose

This report (BOH20015) and the accompanying presentation provide the Board of Health (BOH) with an overview of the profile of the social determinants of health (SDOH) among Hamilton's COVID-19 cases, and outlines actions staff are taking to address health inequities among vulnerable populations.

Background

The SDOH are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age. The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) emphasizes that collecting and analyzing data that identifies individuals by their race, ethnicity, or similar factors can assist institutions to promote human rights and to improve equitable service delivery¹.

¹ Ontario Human Rights Commission. (2009). Count Me In, Collecting Human Rights Based Data. Toronto, from: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/count-me-collecting-humanrights-based-data>

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19 (BOH20015) (City Wide) -
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On May 26, 2020 Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) began collecting SDOH data on COVID-19 cases using a tool adapted from Middlesex London, Toronto and Peel Health Units. On June 26, 2020 the Ministry of Health made changes to Regulation 568 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to include the collection of data on race, income, household size, and language from individuals whom test positive for COVID-19.

Between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020 just under 1,000 residents in Hamilton were infected with COVID-19. PHS collected the required SDOH data, along with data on employment status and Indigenous status, from 630 of those individuals. The findings should be interpreted with caution due to the level of response achieved.

Findings

Our data suggests that racialized populations, health care workers and people living with low-income are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in Hamilton. We also found that males and seniors are more likely to be hospitalized and die from COVID-19.

These findings are not unique to Hamilton. Toronto Public Health also found that people in the lowest income group have the highest rate of COVID-19 and that there is a higher case and hospitalization rate for racialized communities². Similar trends have been shown in Waterloo Region³ and in the City of Ottawa⁴.

The COVID-19 pandemic is magnifying the impact of the SDOH and the inequities that have long existed in communities. For example, we know that people living with low incomes have difficulty affording basic resources (e.g. food, paying bills). During a pandemic, difficult choices between needed supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer, masks) and basic resources is exacerbated.

Actions Taken

The Hamilton EOC, PHS and the health system partnership of the Hamilton COVID Response Table (HCRT) continue to work in close alignment to support vulnerable populations throughout the pandemic. Actions taken include:

- Collect and analyze data on social determinants;
- Support shelters to follow public health measures;
- Delivery of essential supplies (e.g. medicine to people without social supports);

² Toronto Public Health. (2020). COVID-19 and the Social Determinants of Health: What do we know? Updated May 14th, 2020 from: https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/96e0-SDOHandCOVID19_Summary_2020May14.pdf

³ CBC Kitchener-Waterloo. (2020). New immigrants, low-income earners in Waterloo region seeing higher rates of COVID-19. Updated July 15th, 2020 from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/immigrants-low-income-waterloo-region-covid-19-1.5649453>

⁴ Ottawa Matters. (2020). Early race-based COVID-19 data showing Ottawa minority groups affected at high rate. Updated June 24th, 2020 from: <https://www.ottawamatters.com/local-news/early-race-based-covid-19-data-showing-ottawa-minority-groups-affected-at-high-rate-2515515>

**SUBJECT: Social Determinants of Health in COVID-19 (BOH20015) (City Wide) -
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- Consultation and support to Indigenous organizations (e.g. COVID call centre);
- Enhanced infection control support in congregate settings (e.g. residential care facilities, temporary farm worker housing);
- COVID-19 testing for persons living in shelters;
- Mobile testing for isolated individuals unable to get to assessment centres; and,
- Help people to access mental health and addictions supports

Next Steps

The EOC, PHS and the HCRT will continue to support vulnerable populations to achieve greater health equity throughout the COVID response, including:

Continue to...

- Work on previous Actions Taken;
- Work with Mental Health partners;
- Ensure social service providers who work with vulnerable populations know when and how to access testing;
- Support congregate settings as they undertake IPAC reviews.
- Advocate for basic income principles;
- Work to mitigate the unintended consequences of COVID-19 control measures (e.g. deferred immunizations, dental and vision health care, as well as adverse impacts on mental health and loss of income).

Advocate for...

- Public policy to protect seniors and low-wage frontline workers;
- Adequate human resources to support vulnerable populations.

Collaborate with...

- Communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including racialized and low-income communities;
- Community service provider agencies serving populations impacted by COVID-19 or public health measures.

Exploration of...

- Voluntary isolation centres to minimize household transmission.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

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ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Presentation by the
Senior Advisory Committee
September 27, 2021

Goal and Membership

- Provides a forum for consumers and deliverers of seniors' services and facilities to identify issues, explore possible remedies, and work to implement them
- Up to 19 members (currently 17, not all of whom are older adults or seniors)
- 7 men and 10 women with a variety of backgrounds and interests

Age-Friendly Hamilton

- SAC is a full partner with the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Council on Aging in the development, governance and implementation of *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community (2021-2026)* and *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (2014-2019)*

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Working Groups and Committees

- SAC has 4 active working groups, aligned with the objectives of the Age-Friendly Plan:
 - ✓ Communications
 - ✓ Elder Abuse
 - ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Getting Around Hamilton
- SAC also has membership in several external committees/groups, including Vision Zero, Our Future Hamilton, McMaster Institute for Research on Aging, Senior of the Year Awards, International Day of Older Persons and the Seniors' month kick-off

Achievements

- **Addition of “and to age successfully” to the City of Hamilton vision**
- **Presentation to Council on “Transportation Options in Underserved Areas of Hamilton”**
- **Safety information placemats for residents of City Housing seniors buildings in collaboration with Hamilton Police Services**
- **Revision of the seniors resources landing page on the City of Hamilton website**
- **Collaboration with 211 for dissemination of information of value to older adults**
- **Pedestrian Safety and “Let’s Take a Bus” workshops in collaboration with the Hamilton Council on Aging**
- **“Housing Options for Older Adults” guide**
- **“Resources for Older Adults” guide in collaboration with the Hamilton Public Library and Red Book**
- **“Golden Age Pass” for residents age 80+**

Current Projects

- Heat mitigation strategies for older adults
- Developing workshops on housing options and financial literacy for older adults in collaboration with the Hamilton Council on Aging
- Developing safety videos for the CCTV networks in City Housing seniors' buildings in collaboration with Hamilton Police Services
- Working with the Hamilton Public Library and 211 to ensure optimal dissemination of information relevant to older adults
- Working on “Let’s Get Moving Workshops” in collaboration with the Hamilton Council on Aging
 - ✓ Let’s Take a Bus
 - ✓ Let’s Take a Walk
 - ✓ Let’s Drive a Car
 - ✓ Let’s Ride a Bike

Contacts

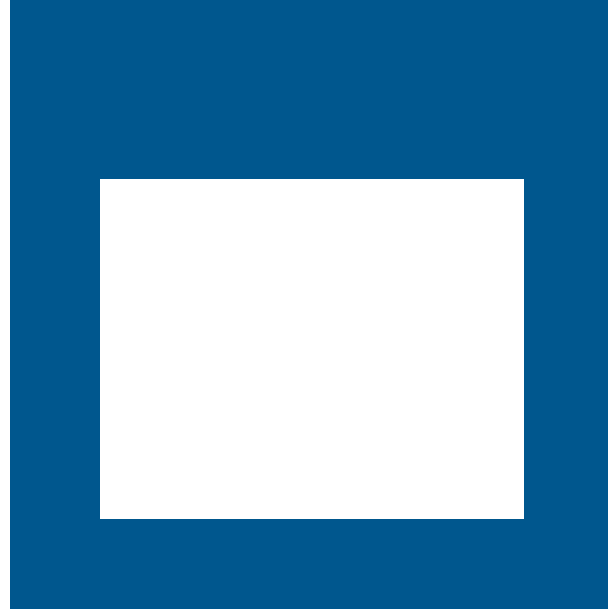
Penelope Petrie

Chair, Senior Advisory Committee

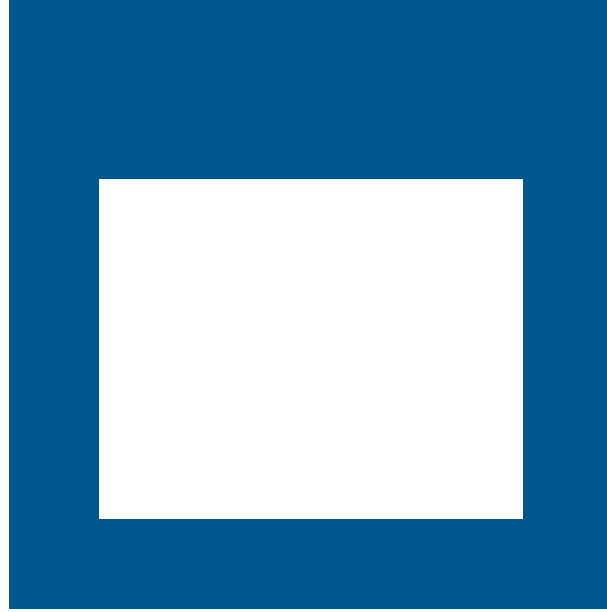
Lisa Maychak

Staff Liaison, Senior Advisory Committee

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QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

Proposed Resolution to be presented
to Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting, October 1, 2021

Mandatory COVID vaccinations at Macassa and Wentworth Lodges

Whereas all the residents who live at Macassa and Wentworth Lodges are seniors who have compromised health problems;

Whereas seniors who have compromised health problems are the most vulnerable population to acquire COVID and are the most likely to die from it;

Whereas those who have been vaccinated against COVID are very unlikely to acquire COVID nor to pass on the virus to others;

Whereas the Health Protection and Promotion Act mandates that the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario to direct that all covered organizations must establish, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 vaccination policy that requires its employees, staff, contractors, volunteers and students to provide a proof of full vaccination or a written medical reason for exemption;

Whereas not all the staff at Macassa and Wentworth Lodges have been vaccinated against COVID and yet continue to work there;

Whereas several deaths from COVID have been reported amongst the residents of the Lodges;

Whereas the Seniors Advisory Committee's mandate is be a credible communication vehicle regarding the quality of life for all seniors in the City;

The Seniors Advisory Committee urges the City to immediately impose an immediate requirement for all staff to be vaccinated and to forbid anyone from entering the buildings who has not been vaccinated;

And furthermore, because the situation is dire and potentially life-threatening for all residents, that Councillors Tom Jackson and Nirinder Nann be informed of this resolution immediately and communicate it to the Mayor and all other Councillors.

Proposed by Jeanne Mayo
Seconded by David Broom