

Delegation request to provide E & CS Committee with additional information regarding the collaborative work of Special Supports Program staff and our group per pages 7 – 8 of the “Update on Efforts to Mitigate Funding Pressure to Discretionary Benefits” Report Agenda **Item #8.3**

Overview

- Detailed information on Hamilton Adult Day Programs and services are outlined in the “**Guide to Hamilton’s Adult Day Services**” included in the handouts
- City of Hamilton funds up to \$15.00 per day of Adult Day Program user fees for low-income seniors and ODSP recipients who qualify through the Special Supports Program
- Halton Region also currently subsidizes Adult Day Program fees, however we understand the demographics of Halton communities differ from Hamilton
- Last November, Hamilton Council recognized the negative effects on many Hamilton Adult Day Service participants, caregivers and programs if the city’s subsidy of adult day program user fees was discontinued due to provincial cutbacks
- It was initially thought Hamilton Adult Day Programs could access additional MOHLTC funding through our LHIN as a means to support users unable to pay user fees
- This was not the case as there was a 0% HNHB LHIN funding increase for community support service agencies like Adult Day Programs for the 2013 -2014 fiscal year
- This **0%** HNHB LHIN funding increase remains in effect for **2014 -2017**
- This year, our LHIN was allocated an **additional \$29.3 million** as part of the Ministry of Health’s **\$260 million investment** in the community sector based on Dr. Sinha’s “**Living Longer, Living Well**” report
- This money has been allocated to home care support services to alleviate waiting lists and enhanced or expanded community support services
- As Special Support Program staff report, we **met with HNHB LHIN** staff who confirmed **no additional funding** was available for Adult Day Program user fees
- A subsequent written summary of the HNHB LHIN’s Community Investment priorities identified **client fees were “outside of the LHIN’s mandate”**
- Consequently, Special Support and Hamilton Adult Day Programs worked together in relation to the new ADS fee subsidy benefit cap of 2 days a week per city staff’s report

- It has been proposed the 2 day cap could have the following negative impacts upon some clients and caregivers;
 - i. Some vulnerable adults with an acquired brain injury, mental health challenges or a developmental disability **will lose days of health monitoring, social support and meaningful activity** which are important determinants of health

This could mean **time spent on the street** for some individuals or in some cases more frequent use of **EMS services** and **emergency department use** adding to system pressures
 - ii. **Caregivers** of individuals requiring 24 hour care due to cognitive or physical limitations **could lose valuable days of respite care** which could mean premature admission to an Alternative Level of Care (ALC) bed in hospital or Long Term Care
 - iii. Some **working caregivers** would lose some days of care which could impact their ability to work and could again mean premature admission to an ALC or LTC bed
- Hence Hamilton Adult Day Programs have been working with **CCAC** and other service providers in an attempt to secure alternative services for affected individuals who qualify for service
- For **existing participants** whose user fee subsidy will be reduced to 2 days per week on January 1st, 2014, Hamilton Adult Day Programs will be collecting the **following data**:
 - # of Personal Support Worker and Nursing hours & costs to replace lost ADP service
 - # of clients added to Long Term Care waitlist or put on crisis LTC waitlist
 - # of Emergency room visits or hospital admissions and related costs
 - Alternative means of covering ADP user fees
- The above data analysis is to be compiled as an **Outcome and Cost Analysis report** by Adult Day Service Providers in **April, 2014**
- A copy of this report will be submitted to the HNHB LHIN, Special Supports Program and other groups as appropriate

Respectfully-submitted.

Trish Balardo, Executive Director, SAM Program
Co-Chair, Hamilton Adult Day Program Network