



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members Board of Health	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: December 2, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Healthy Babies Healthy Children Budget BOH13009(a) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department	PREPARED BY: Dorothy Barr (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4888
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program, funded primarily by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), is mandated to provide services to families using a “blended” model including both Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and Family Home Visitors (FHV). In Hamilton, the FHV portion of the HBHC Program is provided by Wesley Urban Ministries (WUM).

At the March 18, 2013 Board of Health meeting, an information report describing a plan to reduce the FHV complement by 1.0 FTE was submitted (BOH13009). FHV salary costs had risen and the staffing reduction was necessary to contain the budget. It was hoped that service levels could be maintained through additional technological support. FHV's did not have texting capability on their cell phones. PHNs, able to text via Blackberry, had a much lower rate of “not found” home visits than did FHV's. Many HBHC clients prefer to communicate via texting. It was anticipated that adding texting capability for FHV's would result in a reduced number of “not found” home visits and thereby increase productivity.

OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork.

The anticipated increase in productivity has been realized, and service levels have been maintained despite the reduction of 1.0 FTE FHV. WUM and all FHVs have been very receptive to the change, and continue to work hard to meet service targets. This successful problem solving demonstrates the advantages of collaborative partnerships.

Working collaboratively, Public Health Services and WUM will continue to seek further improvements to productivity through technology.