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December 23, 2014

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
 Office of the Mayor
 City of Hamilton
 71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
 Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Re: Request for ongoing funding for the Expanded Community Health Educator/Navigator (CHEN) approach to health care for vulnerable groups, including the Aboriginal community in the City of Hamilton

On December 4, 2014, we received the attached letter dated October 23, 2014, from the then Deputy Mayor Robert Morrow requesting that the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) approve \$129,692 base funding to support an expanded Community Health Educator/Navigator (CHEN) approach within the City of Hamilton. The HNHB LHIN has noted that similar letters were sent to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Federal Minister of Health.

Your letter refers to two separate motions approved by Hamilton City Council in July and September, 2014. The HNHB LHIN responded to the July 2014 motion in a letter addressed to the office of the Mayor that was dated October 6, 2014. For your convenience, a copy of that letter is attached.

The September 2014 motion, passed by Hamilton City Council, requested LHIN support for an Aboriginal Community Health Navigator. The HNHB LHIN engages with Aboriginal health and social service providers from across our region, including urban Hamilton, through the Aboriginal Health Network (AHN). The AHN provides a forum for understanding the health needs and issues of many diverse Aboriginal communities and the HNHB LHIN supports its strategic priorities.

Recently, the HNHB LHIN approved an expansion of the Aboriginal Patient Navigator (APN) program, as part of the 2014-15 Community Investment, to include two Aboriginal Child and Youth Navigators. These navigators will improve access to specialized mental health and addictions services for youth in Hamilton, Brant and Six Nations of the Grand River. This builds on the three existing dedicated APNs in Hamilton, Brantford and Niagara, who also work with Aboriginal and mainstream health and social service organizations, the HNHB Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and hospitals across the LHIN to help Aboriginal clients, caregivers and their families navigate the health care system and ensure access to and provision of culturally appropriate health care services.

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Ontario

Local Health Integration
 Network
 Réseau local d'intégration
 des services de santé

Mayor Fred Eisenberger

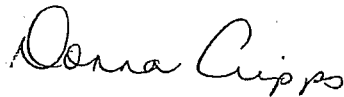
The HNHB LHIN funds three organizations which are members of the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC) in the Hamilton region; the North Hamilton Community Health Centre (CHC), Hamilton Urban Core CHC, and Centre de santé communautaire CHC. Each of these organizations provides comprehensive health services to meet the specific needs of their communities according to principles of health equity and the social determinants of health. Many clients who access services at these three locations could be considered a member of a "vulnerable" population.

Another prominent example of the HNHB LHIN working with community partners and health service providers to improve coordination and navigation of the health system for our entire population is Health Links. This provincial initiative is currently being implemented across the HNHB LHIN and has the primary objective of improving the coordination of care for individuals with high care needs. In October 2014, the ministry approved the HNHB LHIN's request for one-time funding of \$5.8M to facilitate the implementation of the eight Health Links business plans. Each of the 11 Health Links will include dedicated care coordinators to support frequent users of our health system.

As noted above, the HNHB LHIN currently funds and/or coordinates a variety of programs and services in Hamilton that function to increase equitable access and navigability of our health system. As such, the HNHB LHIN is not able to support your request of \$129,692 for the CHEN program. However, recognizing our shared goal of achieving better health outcomes for the populations we serve, the HNHB LHIN is committed to continue to work with the City of Hamilton to improve coordination of existing services.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact me at 905-945-4930 ext. 4210 or by email at, donna.cripps@lhins.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Donna Cripps
Chief Executive Officer

c: Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, House of Commons
Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health, ministry
Dr. David Mowatt, Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health
Brent Feeney, Manager, Funding and Accountability Unit, ministry
Laura Pisko, Director, Health Promotion, Implementation Branch, ministry
Nina Arron, Director, Public Health Policy and Programs Branch, ministry
Joanne Plaxton, Director, System Policy and Strategy Branch, ministry
Liz Walker, Director, Planning and Liaison Branch, ministry
Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Dr. Ralph Meyer, Chief Executive Officer, Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre
Michael Shea, Board Chair, HNHB LHIN
Derek Bodden, Director, Finance, HNHB LHIN
Rosalind Tarrant, Director, Access to Care, HNHB LHIN

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October 6, 2014

Mayor Bob Bratina
Office of the Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

**Re: Request for Ongoing Funding for the Expanded Community Health
Educator/Navigator Approach to Health Care (File #C-14-015)**

Thank you for your letter dated August 15, 2014 informing the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) that the Council of the City of Hamilton approved a recommendation to request funding from the LHIN to support an expanded Community Health Educator/Navigator approach within the City of Hamilton. This request which was originally tabled by the Board of Health has also been addressed to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Federal Minister of Health.

In 2013-14, the City of Hamilton received \$32,800 in one-time funding from the HNHB LHIN to establish a *Community of Practice for Navigation* for clients who need to be connected to health, social and community service providers. The LHIN received and reviewed the year-end report submitted by Hamilton Public Health Services (HPHS) and was pleased that HPHS is committed to sustaining and providing ongoing leadership for this initiative. The LHIN was also pleased to note that many of the partner organizations involved in this initiative currently receive funding from the LHIN.

In planning health care services, it is essential to understand the health care needs of the population, what services are required to meet those needs, and the availability of existing services including the current capacity and projected demand. One of the key themes that emerged during the LHIN's 2013 Community Investment engagement sessions was navigation of the health system, which reported to be a challenge for clients, patients, and professionals.

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Mayor Bratina

As part of the 2013 Community Investment, the LHIN approved funding to support a variety of new navigation roles for specific populations. A total of \$405,504 was allocated in 2013-14 and \$724,292 in base funding will be provided in 2014-15 for these initiatives. This approval included new funding for De dwa dah dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre to support three new Aboriginal Patient Navigator positions that assist local Aboriginal communities in accessing health and social services. This program complements the existing Aboriginal Patient Navigator position at the Juravinski Cancer Centre, who provides support to those with Aboriginal-specific needs in the hospital, such as helping patients and families find community services or access traditional healing.

The HNHB LHIN continues to work with community partners and health service providers across the LHIN to improve coordination and navigation of the health system. One prominent example of an initiative to improve the coordination of care for seniors and others with complex conditions is Health Links, which is currently being implemented across Hamilton and our region.

To advance cancer screening, the LHIN also works closely with the Regional Cancer Program at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) funds a variety of physician lead positions, two of which have a focus on cancer screening. The CCO Physician Lead who has responsibility for cancer screening participates on the LHIN's Primary Care Network. This ensures that all the LHIN health link physician leads are able to participate in identifying strategies to improve uptake of cancer screening. The Aboriginal Physician Lead has a focus on cancer screening and the patient and family experience for First Nation Populations.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact me at 905-945-4930 ext. 4210 or by email at donna.cripps@lhins.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Donna Cripps
Chief Executive Officer

- c: Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, House of Commons
- Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Councillor Brian McHattie, City of Hamilton
- Councillor Sam Merulla, City of Hamilton
- Michael Shea, Chair, HNHB LHIN
- Derek Bodden, Director, Finance, HNHB LHIN
- Rosalind Tarrant, Director, Access to Care, HNHB LHIN