



BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT 15-008

9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 12, 2015
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall

Present: Councillor B. Johnson (Chair)
Councillors A. Johnson, S. Merulla, C. Collins, T. Jackson, D. Conley, M. Pearson, L. Ferguson, A. VanderBeek, R. Pasuta, J. Partridge

Absent with
regrets: Mayor F. Eisenberger – Personal, Councillors M. Green, S. Duvall, T. Whitehead - Personal

THE BOARD OF HEALTH PRESENTS REPORT 15-008 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Stock Epinephrine (BOH13040(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

- (a) That the Stock Epinephrine Auto-injector Pilot Project be extended to September 30, 2016,
- (b) *That the Medical Officer of Health, Brent Browett, Director, Public Health Services, and Councillor L. Ferguson meet with the Senior Executives of the ownership groups of Eastgate Mall and Lime Ridge Mall, to encourage their participation in the Pilot Project and re-inforce the Board of Health's support for this initiative,*
- (c) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute all agreements and any necessary consequent or ancillary documents in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and with content acceptable to the Medical Officer of Health, and
- (d) That Hamilton Public Health Services report back following conclusion of the Pilot Project.

2. Child and Adolescent Services Budget (BOH15016) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

- (a) That the Board of Health approve the 2015-16 Child and Adolescent Services budget, which is 100% funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Youth Justice Sector and the Ministry of the Attorney General, as outlined in the report BOH15016;
- (b) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to receive, utilize and report on the use of these funds.
- (c) ***That a letter be written to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, requesting additional funding in the amount of \$57, 992.00 to the City Of Hamilton Board of Health, Child and Adolescent Services Budget (BOH15016) in order to maintain this 100% provincially funded program at the 2014 staffing level and that copy of Report BOH15016 be attached to the letter***

3. National Pharmacare Strategy (Item 9.1)

- (a) That Hamilton City Council express its continued support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such as policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers;
- (b) That Hamilton City Council call on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to urge the Province of Ontario to work with other Provinces and the Federal Government to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program;
- (c) That Hamilton City Council and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution respecting the Federal government; and,
- (d) That Hamilton City Council convey their decision on this resolution to the local MPPs, the Ontario Minister of Health, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Health and the Prime Minister.

4. Food Centre Pilot Project (Item 9.2)

- (a) That a Pilot Project be established for the operation of a Food Centre (Food Bank) in the East Hamilton area in co-operation and consultation with the East End Food Bank Committee, St. Matthew's House Hamilton, members of both Ward 5 Community Hubs, and Hamilton's Public Health Department; and
- (b) That one-time seed funding of \$210,000 (representing 3 years) in operating funds & \$185,000 in capital funding be provided to assist with the opening of the new Centre and the construction of a commercial kitchen; and
- (c) That the Ward 5 Area Rating fund be utilized as a funding source instead of the Unallocated Reserve; and
- (d) That the partners identified above provide an annual update to the Board of Health with a summary of the Food Centre's operation; and
- (e) That Public Health Staff prepare a final report to the Board of Health at the conclusion of the project summarizing the results of the three years of operation.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Chair suggested that Item 9.1, a Motion respecting a National Pharmacare Strategy be discussed immediately following the Delegation from Dr. Brian Hutchison, Canadian Doctors for Medicare.

The agenda of the August 12, 2015 Board of Health was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) July 9, 2015 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting of the Board of Health were approved, as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

(i) Brian Hutchison, Canadian Doctors for Medicare respecting a National Pharmacare Strategy (For Today's Meeting) (Item 4.1)

The delegation request from Brian Hutchison, Canadian Doctors for Medicare respecting a National Pharmacare Strategy was approved for today's meeting.

(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS/DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Delegation from Dr. Brian Hutchison, Canadian Doctors for Medicare respecting a National Pharmacare Strategy (Item 6.1)

Dr. Brian Hutchison, Member at Large, Canadian Doctors for Medicare, addressed the Board regarding a National Pharmacare Strategy with the aid of a visual presentation. A copy of the presentation has been retained for the public record. The presentation included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Canada is the only country with universal health insurance that does not include pharmacare
- Canada has the second lowest percentage of the population covered by public drug insurance and the second highest per capita expenditures on pharmaceuticals of 33 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries
- 81% of Canadians rate prescription drug access and affordability as a priority for Canada
- Universal public drug coverage would save Canadians an estimated \$7.3 billion per year
- Costs to government would increase by about \$1 billion
- Municipalities would save about \$500 million

The Delegation from Dr. Brian Hutchison, Canadian Doctors for Medicare respecting a National Pharmacare Strategy, was received.

(f) MOTIONS (Item 9)

(i) National Pharmacare Strategy (Item 9.1)

Councillor A. Johnson introduced the following motion:

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years, its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community;

WHEREAS over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;

WHEREAS Canada is currently the only country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program;

WHEREAS the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers, like many in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS studies show that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade;

WHEREAS recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;

WHEREAS municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program;

WHEREAS a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors;

WHEREAS a National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially; and

WHEREAS, the previous City Council of the City of Hamilton provided unanimous support for a similar motion brought forward on September 24, 2014 by Councillor Merulla for a Universal Drug Program based on a detail description informed by the Canadian Medical Association 2013 Health Care Reform, Change that Works document calling for a "universal access to comprehensive prescription drug coverage" with the matter

being brought forward to the appropriate provincial and federal government officials.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council express its continued support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such as policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers;
- (b) That Hamilton City Council call on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to urge the Province of Ontario to work with other Provinces and the Federal Government to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program;
- (c) That Hamilton City Council and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution respecting the Federal government; and,
- (d) That Hamilton City Council convey their decision on this resolution to the local MPPs, the Ontario Minister of Health, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Health and the Prime Minister.

That Subsection (a) be amended to read as follows:

That Hamilton City Council express its continued support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program ***to focus on the requirements of those living below the poverty line, and the uninsured,*** as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such as policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers

The above motion was DEFEATED on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

Yeas:	L. Ferguson, J. Partridge, A. Johnson
Total:	3
Nays:	B. Johnson, J. Farr, S. Merulla, C. Collins, T. Jackson, D. Conley, M. Pearson, A. VanderBeek, R. Pasuta
Total:	9
Absent:	F. Eisenberger, M. Green, S. Duvall, T. Whitehead
Total:	4

The Main Motion was CARRIED on the following Standing Recorded Vote:

Yeas: A. Johnson, J. Farr, S. Merulla, C. Collins, T. Jackson, D. Conley,
M. Pearson L. Ferguson, A. VanderBeek, R. Pasuta, J. Partridge,
B. Johnson
Total: 12
Nays: None
Total: 0
Absent: F. Eisenberger, M. Green, S. Duvall, T. Whitehead
Total: 4

For disposition on this matter, refer to Item 3.

(ii) Food Centre Pilot Project (Item 9.2)

Councillor Collins introduced the following motion:

WHEREAS a lack of food skills in the general population has been identified as an obstacle to healthy eating, as it prompts reliance on eating out and on convenience foods that are high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar as well as reduce the buying power of limited food budgets;

WHEREAS the lack of opportunities to develop food skills and prepare healthy food has put some population groups at higher risks of developing chronic disease such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes;

WHEREAS the Riverdale and Davis Creek Neighbourhood Action Plans include objectives to develop food security programs, collective kitchens and educational programs for residents around gardening, cooking, and nutrition;

WHEREAS a food bank with a teaching space and kitchen would be an ideal place for these programs;

WHEREAS there is currently limited access to emergency food in the East End and both Riverdale and Davis Creek neighbourhoods as well as Emergency Food providers have articulated a need for this service;

WHEREAS these communities are adjacent, connected by good bus service and a central location near a transit hub (Eastgate) could be selected that would be familiar and accessible to the seniors living on Queenston and the Riverdale community and a strategically located East End Food Bank could serve these two neighbourhoods and would allow pooling of resources;

WHEREAS an East End Food Bank with kitchen and teaching facilities would create opportunities for youth and adults living in the Riverdale and Davis Creek neighbourhoods to acquire food skills;

WHEREAS the East End Community Food Centre (with a kitchen) would offer food access, food skills, food education, and community engagement programs in a dignified and welcoming space where food builds health, hope, skills, and community;

WHEREAS the development of food skills and food handler certification may lead to job opportunities for the youth as well the adults in the food service industry;

WHEREAS the additional cost of a kitchen and teaching space would be in the order of \$60,000-\$150,000 depending on the site selected and the amount of retrofitting/exhaust ventilation required; and

WHEREAS Public Health Services Department is ready to support this initiative by providing the services of a registered dietitian to help train peer leaders to teach culturally appropriate cooking classes, help peer leaders obtain food handlers' certificates, and to help integrate the diverse intergenerational population to teach and learn from each other.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a Pilot Project be established for the operation of a Food Centre (Food Bank) in the East Hamilton area in co-operation and consultation with the East End Food Bank Committee, St. Matthew's House Hamilton, members of both Ward 5 Community Hubs, and Hamilton's Public Health Department; and
- (b) That one-time seed funding of \$210,000 (representing 3 years) in operating funds & \$185,000 in capital funding be provided to assist with the opening of the new Centre and the construction of a commercial kitchen; and
- (c) That the Ward 5 Area Rating fund be utilized as a funding source instead of the Unallocated Reserve; and
- (d) That the partners identified above provide an annual update to the Board of Health with a summary of the Food Centre's operation; and
- (e) That Public Health Staff prepare a final report to the Board of Health at the conclusion of the project summarizing the results of the three years of operation.

For disposition on this matter, refer to Item 4.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

There being no further business, the Board of Health was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor B. Johnson
Chair, Board of Health

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk