



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 6, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centre Funding (CES16029) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not applicable

Information:

On February 22, 2016, the Ministry of Education (EDU) announced the provincial plan for moving forward with the integration and transformation of child and family programs. This aligns with the commitment outlined in the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework to develop an approach for integrating EDU-funded child and family support programs.

The City of Hamilton, in its role as Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM), will play a significant role in the integration process as service system manager. By 2018, all EDU-funded child and family programs (Ontario Early Years Centres; Parenting and Family Literacy Centres; Better Beginning, Better Futures; Child Care Resource Centres) will be part of an increasingly integrated, cohesive system of services and supports for children ages 0 to 6 years referred to as Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFCs). The City will be responsible for the local management of the OEYCFCs as part of its existing responsibility for the service system management of child care and other human services.

The system as it currently stands consists of geographically based Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs) operated by six community partners: Today's Family; Wesley Urban Ministries; Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club; Hamilton Wentworth Catholic Child Care Inc.; Niwasa; and, Centre de Santé. These programs provide free universal opportunities for all children to participate in play and inquiry-based programs, and support all parents and caregivers in their roles. Parents and caregivers also have access to information about child development and specialized supports as needed.

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.

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres are located in schools and operated by the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board. These programs build essential skills through music, play, and family literacy.

The Children's and Home Management Services (CHMS) Division will lead the planning and implementation of the OEYCFCs for the City of Hamilton. The planning for implementation will include:

- Conducting a local needs assessment and inventory of existing child and family programs and services;
- Engaging parents and caregivers to inform the planning and delivery of OEYCFC programs and services;
- Facilitating engagement with early years partners (school boards, child and family program agencies, parents/caregivers, community partners and others) to inform service system planning;
- Integrating OEYCFCs into local service system plans for early years programs and services;
- Managing provincial funds and any third party contracts associated with the delivery of OEYCFC programs and services; and,
- Measuring and reporting on the impact of OEYCFC programs and services on children, parents and caregivers.

The Ministry of Education currently provides almost \$4 million to support child and family support programs in Hamilton. The Ministry has indicated a new funding formula will be created and allocations will be determined based on the new formula. CMSMs will be notified of their allocations in 2017.

CHMS Division has begun the planning process and is working closely with early years partners to prepare for implementation in 2018.