

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 5, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Patients First (Bill 41) Update (BOH16061) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
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## Council Direction:

Not applicable

## Information:

On December 17, 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) released *Patients First: a proposal to strengthen patient-centred health care in Ontario*. The proposal contained four components:

- 1) More effective integration of services and greater equity;
- 2) Timely access to primary care, and seamless links between primary care and other services;
- 3) More consistent and accessible home and community care; and,
- 4) Stronger links between population and public health and other services.

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*OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.*

*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.*

At the February 18, 2016 Board of Health meeting, Board of Health members provided feedback to the MOHLTC on the discussion paper (BOH16005). Subsequently, Bill 210, Patients First Act, 2016 was introduced in the provincial legislature. Following prorogation of the legislature in early September, this was re-introduced as Bill 41, Patients First Act, 2016. There were no substantive changes to the sections of the Patients First Act that pertain to public health. With respect to public health, the proposed legislation will better integrate local population and public health planning with other health services, and formalize linkages between local health integration networks (LHINs) and public health. Boards of Health will continue both in their existing relationship with the Medical Officer of Health and to set budgets for local public health units.

Public Health Services (PHS) recognizes the importance of having an effective partnership with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) LHIN in order to promote population health and health equity. In recognition of mutual goals and in the spirit of the Patients First legislation, PHS and LHIN staff have begun a number of initiatives that support collaboration for community health. Descriptions of various initiatives are summarized below.

### **Initiative 1: Public Health and the HNHB LHIN**

PHS worked with other HNHB public health units, including Niagara, Haldimand-Norfolk, Brant, and Halton to develop objectives for working together, clarify language (definitions for population health, population health assessment, and population health approach), and create a formal structure for public health and the HNHB LHIN to support ongoing collaboration between our organizations. Appendix A contains further information on how our organizations are moving forward together.

To the best of our knowledge, we are the first group to formalize our relationship in this way and this model has been shared provincially.

### **Initiative 2:**

Public Health Services is working collaboratively with partners in the health system to support access to data to better understand our communities and plan for services and priorities. PHS is a member of a workgroup with other Central West health units and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN that is developing a framework for a community profile that can be shared with the community and partner organizations to inform decisions on services and planning. PHS is also working with key partners in the health care system to determine how to best share data across organizations so as to have a more comprehensive understanding of issues relating to priority health issues and access to care.

PHS has also developed a partnership with the Dundas Family Health Team (FHT) to support a population health approach to deliver care and services aimed at improving the overall health of the community. PHS is working with the Dundas FHT providing data and

strategy support to identify community priorities to better plan and deliver health services in support of the Dundas compassionate community vision. In 2016, PHS has supported the development of a community health profile as well as a community engagement strategy to collect input from residents.

## **Summary**

Although still in the legislative process, Bill 41, Patients First Act, 2016 has led to discussions between PHS and the HNHB LHIN about how we can best move forward together to support population health and health equity. PHS is currently engaged in a number of initiatives to support this shared vision.

PHS will bring further information to the Board of Health when the Patients First legislation is passed and potential impacts and opportunities for PHS are better understood.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A to Report BOH16061

Public Health and the HNHB LHIN