



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 5, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Public Health Services Department Operational Work Plan Year-End Update (BOH16049(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Jennifer Hohol Senior Project Manager (905) 546-2424, Ext. 6004
SUBMITTED BY & SIGNATURE:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services

Council Direction:

Not Applicable.

Information:

As a result of the recent Board of Health Self-Evaluation Survey (BOH16033), Public Health Services (PHS) has committed to bring forward an update on the PHS Department Operational Work Plan (DOWP) to the Board of Health (BOH) outside of budget discussions. This report builds on the 2016 DOWP mid-year update (BOH16049) and provides an overview of the progress made within the PHS priorities at year-end.

Health System Integration

PHS continues to focus on establishing and strengthening working relationships with health system partners in anticipation of upcoming changes to the health care landscape in Ontario, particularly the proposed Patients First Act. PHS has worked with other public health units and the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) to develop objectives for working together and to create a formal structure which supports ongoing collaboration between organizations. Additional detail on this initiative is provided in the Patients First (Bill 41) Update (BOH16061).

PHS has entered into a partnership with the Hamilton Family Health Team to support a population health approach to the delivery of care and services aimed at improving the overall health of the Community. The focus of this work is on the Dundas Community where the majority of Family Practices are members of the Hamilton Family Health

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Team. This membership, combined with the unique geography and characteristics of Dundas, presents an opportunity to engage partners and the public in identifying community needs and collaboratively plan service delivery. This work also hopes to build upon the spirit of volunteerism and community service in Dundas to create a broad culture of compassion. In the first phase of the work, PHS has provided data and strategy supports towards the development of a community health profile for Dundas and a community engagement strategy for sharing the profile and collecting input from residents.

Poverty Action Strategy

A Poverty Reduction Steering Committee has been established, made up of members from PHS, Community & Emergency Services, and key community partners. The Steering Committee, along with City staff, have been mapping existing poverty reduction initiatives at all levels of government to identify service gaps and opportunities within the City. This work will inform an investment strategy to be completed in early 2017. This investment strategy will form one piece of a broader poverty action strategy moving forward.

Public Health Services Culture

A focus on workplace culture continues to be embedded into PHS department-wide events. At the PHS Employee Recognition Event held in October, staff were asked to highlight their work or the work of others over the past year that exemplified the cultural pillars. These highlights were then mounted on a team vision board which has been preserved for display within the department. A review to evaluate PHS actions, structures and processes for addressing culture to date and to make recommendations in moving forward to advance positive culture within the department has continued. In support of this review, focus groups have been conducted with the PHS Culture Action Team as well as the Public Health Department Leadership Team. Key informant interviews have taken place with individuals from these groups as well as staff from across PHS. A summary report assessing culture progress and recommended next steps will be completed in early 2017.

Privacy, Records, and Information Management

PHS continues to create department policies and procedures to ensure the safety of client information. Recent high profile privacy breaches at health care institutions in Ontario led to amendments of the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA) including required monitoring of access to electronic personal health information.

As a result, PHS developed a policy on auditing of electronic health record systems. To support PHS staff in their responsibility to ensure client privacy is maintained and confidential information is secured, an internal awareness campaign based on privacy policies has been developed and online privacy training will be rolled out in 2017.

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In addition, PHS has continued to develop an information management framework to support the implementation of an electronic medical records system and conduct a department wide exercise to address file management of electronic records.

Hamilton Food Strategy

Following Board of Health endorsement of the Food Strategy in August 2016, the Interdepartmental Food Strategy Steering Team has focused their efforts on bringing to life the Food Strategy's priority actions. Work has begun to draft funding criteria to guide decisions regarding allocation of resources towards food actions. PHS has worked to facilitate the formation of a Food Literacy Network by hosting a forum bringing together community partners to build capacity and share expertise. The continued work to strengthen existing and new partnerships will support collaboration in the development of the Food Strategy Implementation Plan.

Healthy Kids Community Challenge

The most recent focus of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge has been on activities under the theme *Water Does Wonders*. Throughout this theme, activities supported healthy hydration for children and families with campaigns, policies, programs, and environmental supports. In September, PHS engaged with community members at the City of Hamilton Annual Sport Volunteer Appreciation Banquet to distribute over 700 promotional packages with *Water Does Wonders* reusable water bottles. In addition, through the Fruit and Water Sports Initiative, promotional packages were distributed to sports teams with information on how to adopt a policy of only water consumption to promote water use over sugary drinks. To further promote water consumption, hydration stations have been established in select elementary schools, recreation centres, early years centres and parks throughout Wards 6, 7 and 8 and water promotion kits have been distributed to partnership schools within these communities. In support of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, local collection and evaluation of child height and weight data is scheduled to begin in the spring in select schools, led by McMaster University.

Healthy Birth Weights

Throughout 2016, the Healthy Birth Weights Coalition developed a sustainability plan to maintain initiatives that are contributing to a stronger and more integrated system of pregnancy supports citywide. Strategies developed by the coalition have improved collaboration between health and community partners to better support populations with complex social, physical, and mental health needs. Additional achievements within the Healthy Birth Weights Initiative are outlined in Report BOH14002(b).

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