



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Clinical and Preventive Services Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 5th, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Secondment of ADGS staff to Hamilton Health Sciences, Addiction Initiative (BOH16063) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Susan Boyd, Program Manager, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, & Mental Health and Street Outreach Program (905) 546-2424, Ext. 2888
SUBMITTED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, utilize and report on funding from Hamilton Health Sciences for up to a 0.5 FTE Social Work position in the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program, and enter into a secondment agreement between the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Health Sciences for a six month pilot project, with an option to return, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor; and,
- (b) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to increase the complement in Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program by 0.5 FTE, for the term of the secondment pilot agreement and the time of renewal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Misuse of alcohol and drugs is a significant issue that impacts the health and well-being of individuals in our community. The harmful health effects of substance misuse can include acute health issues, involving intoxication and withdrawal symptoms, or potentially longer term impacts such as liver problems, heart problems, or an increased risk for certain cancers.

As a result of health and social impacts from substance misuse, some individuals access hospital services to manage symptoms. Hospital services include the

Emergency Department, which may result in an inpatient admission to treat complications from substance use.

Hamilton Health Sciences has identified that timely and specialized follow-up is needed during or after a hospital intervention. This follow-up provides individuals with support and options to address their substance use concerns. Hamilton Health Sciences has approached Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) to enter into a partnership to provide this follow-up service, and work on building capacity to respond effectively to individuals accessing hospital with addiction issues.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with Report BOH16063.

Staffing: Hamilton Health Sciences will fully fund the position for the duration of the secondment. The funding will be used to backfill 0.5 FTE Social Worker by increasing existing part-time hours for the term of the agreement. If the decision is made to renew the secondment agreement in 2017, an information update will be sent to the Board of Health.

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with Report BOH16063.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Public Health Services, through the ADGS program, provides assessment, referral, case management, and treatment for individuals experiencing concerns with alcohol, drugs and gambling. Many individuals who access services experience acute and ongoing health concerns related to their use of substances. ADGS staff have expertise to assist individuals in working through potential barriers that may prevent them from being able to change their use of substances, as well as, to help people decide what services are right for them. Hamilton Health Sciences has been working towards enhancing services provided to individuals presenting with addiction issues and approached ADGS to enter into a partnership to develop more specialized services.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

This agreement will be implemented in accordance to City of Hamilton Purchasing and Finance & Administration policies.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Kelly O'Halloran, Director Community and Population Health Services, Hamilton Health Sciences advised that there is a need for specialized services targeted towards repeat admissions related to addictions issues.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

ADGS has a longstanding history of providing specialized services to individuals who misuse or abuse substances. The addiction services that Hamilton Health Sciences are seeking for their patients are services currently provided by ADGS, however, the ability to offer these services in a timely manner needed for this initiative is limited. ADGS also has experience in providing off-site programming with current partnerships including; local Children Aids Societies, Hamilton Family Health Team, Addiction Services Initiative with Ontario Works and the Harm Reduction Program, Street Health Clinic.

Many individuals accessing services through the hospital system may have difficulty navigating and accessing services of a community addiction treatment agency following a hospital admission. The collaboration between ADGS and Hamilton Health Sciences would provide an opportunity to increase capacity to work more intensely with individuals to help them navigate care following a hospital contact, helping individuals connect with services that can help with recovery from substance use problems.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.