



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Communicable Disease Control & Wellness Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 20, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request (BOH17013) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Jennifer Hohol (905) 546-2424, Ext. 6004
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SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Appendix A attached to Report BOH17013 respecting the Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request be endorsed by the Board of Health; and
- (b) That the Board of Health send a letter to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the federal Minister of Health in support of the Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 26, 2017, Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Public Health Services (PHS) convened an Opioid Response Summit in response to growing concerns about opioid misuse, rising overdose deaths and the presence of high potency opioids, like carfentanil, in Hamilton (BOH17006). Following the summit, participants committed to ongoing meetings to further support a collective opioid response.

Recently, funding announcements have been made at both the provincial and federal level to support communities in their work to address the impacts of opioid misuse. On behalf of the Mayor and the City of Hamilton, PHS has coordinated the development of

a funding request in the amount of \$2,726,000 to support a community-wide opioid response.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for recommendation(s) only)

Financial: Should a request for funding be successful, a report will be brought to the Board of Health for approval to receive the funds.

Staffing: Should a request for funding be successful, a report will be brought to the Board of Health for approval to increase complement based on the funding proposal and for the duration of funding.

Legal: Should a request for funding be successful, a funding agreement will be established with the funding agency in consultation with Legal Services.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

On January 26, 2017, Mayor Fred Eisenberger and PHS convened an Opioid Response Summit in response to growing concerns about opioid misuse, rising overdose deaths and the presence of high potency opioids, like carfentanil, in Hamilton. Participants included a broad representation of community partner organizations from acute care, primary care, first responders, community mental health, addictions treatment, harm reduction services, housing and those with lived experience. Refer to Appendix B for a list of participating partner organizations. A summary of the Summit outcomes and next steps is described in BOH17006. Summit participants committed to ongoing meetings to further support a collective opioid response.

On March 6, 2017, it was announced following a meeting between Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson that \$2.5 million would be provided to Ottawa to support a local plan to address opioid addiction and overdoses¹. Premier Wynne also encouraged a call for a meeting of mayors across the province to discuss the opioid crisis.

On behalf of the Mayor and the City of Hamilton, PHS has coordinated the development of a funding request to support a community-wide opioid response. Through continued collaboration between Opioid Response Summit participants, the funding request was informed and reviewed by community partner organizations to ensure a collaborative approach and alignment of services to address opioid issues in Hamilton. The funding request is aligned with the four pillars of a comprehensive public health approach to drug and substance misuse: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement (BOH16035).

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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request was informed by community partner organizations to ensure a collaborative approach and alignment of services to address the opioid issues in Hamilton.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(Include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data if applicable)

Hamilton faces significant rates of adverse outcomes related to opioid misuse. Among the ten most populous health units in Ontario, Hamilton has the highest rates of opioid-related deaths, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions (Table 1).

Table 1: Opioid-Related Adverse Outcomes: How Does Hamilton Compare?

Rank (among 10 health units)	Deaths (2013)	Emergency Department Visits (2014)	Hospital Admissions (2014)	Opioid Users (Ontario Drug Benefit, 2015)	Opioid Maintenance Therapy Users (Ontario Drug Benefit, 2015)	High Strength Opioid Users (Ontario Drug Benefit, 2015)
1	Hamilton	Hamilton	Hamilton	Hamilton	Middlesex-London	Middlesex-London
2	Middlesex-London	Durham	Simcoe-Muskoka	Durham	Hamilton	Durham
3	Simcoe-Muskoka	Simcoe-Muskoka	Middlesex-London	Waterloo	Durham	Hamilton

Note: To compare Hamilton to other health units, data from the 10 most populous health units were extracted and ranked for each indicator, based on rate or proportion. A rank of 1 represents the highest rate among these 10 health units. In most cases, the geographical unit used in the original report, “county”, corresponded with public health unit boundaries; numbers from Simcoe County and Muskoka District Municipality were combined to correspond with the Simcoe-Muskoka health unit geography.

Source: Analysis of data extracted from the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network’s report, *Opioid Use and Related Adverse Events in Ontario*, published November 2016.

Within current funding envelopes, the ability to make additional significant progress in addressing opioid misuse in Hamilton is limited. Additional funding is required to make progress in concert with community partners to deliver effective and comprehensive opioid response services across the pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement. Opioid response action that could take place with the support of

additional \$2,726,000 in funding is outlined in further detail in the Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request (Appendix A).

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

(Include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and Pros and Cons for each alternative)

The Board of Health could choose not to endorse or write letters of support for the Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request. This would have no financial, staffing, legal or policy implications. A request for funding to the provincial and federal governments would be strengthened through the support of the Board of Health.

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.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to Report BOH17013 - Hamilton Opioid Response Provincial and Federal Funding Request

Appendix B to Report BOH17013 – Hamilton Opioid Response Summit Participation List

REFERENCES

(1) Porter, K. (2017, March 6). Wynne agrees to Watson request for \$2.5M for Ottawa opioid strategy. *CBC News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/watson-wynne-ottawa-opioid-strategy-1.4011502>