



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 13, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Secondment Extension of Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services Staff to the Towards Recovery Clinic (BOH17023) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424, Ext. 2888
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Hopkins, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health & Director, Communicable Disease Control and Wellness Division Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

That the Board of Health authorize the renewal of the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) and Towards Recovery pilot project and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, utilize and report on funding from the Towards Recovery Clinic for a 0.1 full-time equivalent social work position in the ADGS program; and execute a renewal secondment agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Towards Recovery Clinic for a one year extension, with a renewal option, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor.

Information:

In 2016, the Board of Health (BOH) approved the secondment of ADGS staff to the Towards Recovery Clinic (TRC) (BOH16043). This partnership increased access to on-site addiction case management and counselling services at the TRC beginning in January 2017 and continuing to the present. Case management and counselling services are focused on individuals who are receiving opioid dependence treatment, Suboxone® or methadone, through TRC. The objective of this pilot was to move towards a more comprehensive and integrated addiction care model, making case management and counselling services more accessible, patient-centered and timely. ADGS and TRC have reviewed the initial outcomes of the pilot project and have agreed to extend the pilot for another year.

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.

During the current pilot evaluation phase of 15 weeks, with ADGS staff spending half a day per week at the clinic, the ADGS social worker saw nine unique individuals and provided 30 sessions. Referrals have increased in the second half of the pilot phase and this will be monitored as the program continues. Individuals have been able to access services within 1-2 weeks of being referred by their physician. This provides significantly quicker access to services than if individuals were referred to the ADGS main office. Also, individuals who have been seen at TRC have been able to access programming through ADGS (i.e. groups) which has enhanced their treatment options. Physicians in the clinic have indicated that they find it beneficial to have counselling services available on-site. A theme noted in individuals who have received counselling is that individuals find it beneficial to have a counsellor with whom to discuss life issues.

Although the evaluation period was brief, the initial outcomes are indicating that there is merit in continuing the project and focusing on gathering further outcome measures. Continued outcomes will be gathered over the next year focusing on the following: perception of care measures; progress on goals; wait times; referrals; and co-ordinated care opportunities. ADGS will monitor outcomes quarterly and will meet with TRC twice during the year to discuss data gathered.