



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

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 17, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Provincial Opioid Response Initiative Funding(BOH17028) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Michelle Baird (905)546-2424, Ext. 3529 Jessica Hopkins (905) 546-2424,Ext. 3055
SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE:	Michelle Baird Director, Planning and Business Improvement Division Public Health Services Department

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to receive, utilize and report on the use of funds provided to the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton to support local initiatives aimed at local opioid response; and,
- (b) That the permanent staffing complement be increased by 0.35 FTE Public Health Nurses, 1.0 Health Promotion Specialist and 1.0 FTE Senior Project Manager – Drug Strategy Coordinator for the duration of the funding and that any residual funds be used to cover operational costs related to these positions in addition to enhancing opioid harm reduction initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is providing the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Services up to \$250,000 in additional base funding for staff positions to support local opioid response initiatives.

This report requests that the Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health to take necessary steps to receive, utilize and report on the use of these funds, and that permanent staffing complement be increased for the duration of the funding.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The base Public Health Services budget will be increased by \$250,000 per annum (100% Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care). There is no impact on the net levy.

Staffing: The complement will be increased by 0.35 FTE Public Health Nurses, 1.0 Health Promotion Specialist and 1.0 FTE Senior Project Manager – Drug Strategy Coordinator.

Legal: The Medical Officer of Health will enter into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to receive, utilize and report on the funding. The agreement will be in form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Following the Opioid Response Summit in January 2017, Public Health Services (PHS) coordinated the development of a funding request to support a community-wide opioid response (BOH17013). The funding request was informed and reviewed by partner organizations to ensure a collaborative approach and alignment of services to address opioid issues in Hamilton. The funding request was aligned with the four pillars of a comprehensive public health approach to drug and substance misuse: 1) prevention, 2) harm reduction (BOH16036), 3) treatment, and 4) enforcement (BOH16035); Underpinned by an opioid information system, and the need for stable, safe and supportive housing. The group has identified a drug strategy coordinator and development of a made-in-Hamilton drug strategy as the highest priority collective response item to support not only the opioid response, but to prepare the city to respond to any future drug and substance misuse threat. The Board of Health supported the funding request by writing letters to the federal and provincial Ministers of Health.

On June 12, 2017, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced funding to Ontario's local public health units for local opioid response initiatives. Use of funding is intended for staff positions to support naloxone distribution to community-based organizations, outreach, education, information systems (early warning and surveillance), and planning.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Hamilton is one of the few large cities in Canada without a comprehensive, coordinated drug strategy. While the new Standards for Public health Programs and Services are still in draft form, development of a drug strategy and implementation of strategies to address mental health and addictions are in scope.

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.

Finance and Administration was consulted with respect to the budget.

The AIDS Network was consulted to ensure they are willing and able to support an increase in Van relief drivers and/or intravenous drug use Outreach Workers through our existing contract.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

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 (see BOH17013 for further details).

The 0.35 FTE Public Health Nurses at a cost of \$30,352 per annum salary and benefits will be used to support naloxone distribution to community-based organizations. This will allow for more rapid scale-up and reach of naloxone through multiple service providers. A train-the-trainer model will be used where feasible to build capacity amongst multiple providers to dispense naloxone and allow staff more time to build relationships with more organizations and increase the network of naloxone distribution.

The 1.0 FTE Senior Project Manager – Drug Strategy Coordinator position at a cost of \$118,367 per annum salary and benefits will be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a drug strategy for the City of Hamilton. This will build on work started through the Mayor's Opioid Response Summit. While the current drugs of significant concern are opioids, the City has long-standing challenges related to other drugs, including alcohol. The City must also be prepared for new challenges, such as the legalization of cannabis or the appearance of new drugs of misuse. A comprehensive city strategy involving multiple partners will best prepare the City for current and future challenges.

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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.

The 1.0 Health Promotion Specialist position at a cost of \$90,566per annum salary and benefits will support the planning of a drug strategy including development and monitoring of health promotion initiatives. This position will provide additional capacity for thoughtful community engagementwith individuals and groups impacted by drug misuse, monitoring and implementing best practices, evaluating the drug strategy, and developing communications and awareness materials that expand the reach of the drug strategy.

The remaining funding of \$10,715will be used for operational costs associated with the positions (e.g., information technology, mileage), health promotion, and/or,to leverage increased Van relief drivers, and/or, intravenous drug use outreach workers via Public Health Services' contract with The AIDS Network. This will increase naloxone distribution and linkages to mental health, addiction and primary care services to highly vulnerable individuals. The salary and benefit represent the costs for these positions on the current salary grid.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Board of Health could choose not to accept the funding from the province.

Pros: A funding agreement for this funding would not need to be signed.

Cons: Loss of resources needed to support a drug strategy for Hamilton; no ability to increase naloxone distribution resulting in limited ability to progress on the strategy to prevent opioid overdoses and deaths in Hamilton.

Financial: Loss of additional financial resources needed to support a drug strategy for Hamilton.

Staffing: None

Legal: None

Policy: None

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 BOH17028– Funding letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

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**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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JUN 20 2017

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Chair, Board of Health
City of Hamilton Public Health Services
110 King St. W., 2nd floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Services up to \$250,000 in additional base funding for staff positions to support local opioid response initiatives, including naloxone distribution to community-based organizations and work on early warning and surveillance of opioid overdoses.

The Assistant Deputy Minister of the Population and Public Health Division will write to City of Hamilton Public Health Services shortly concerning the terms and conditions governing this funding.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to harm reduction and public health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Hoskins".

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

c: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division