

CITY OF HAMILTON

***PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Clinical and Preventive Services***

TO: Mayor and Members Board of Health	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: June 17, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Extension of the Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Methadone Case Manager to the Hamilton Family Health Team BOH11002(a) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department	PREPARED BY: Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2888
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City continues to deliver substance use services addressing the issue of opiate misuse on-site at the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., one day per week;
- (b) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to execute an extension of the current agreement between the City and the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, to implement the above recommendation;
- (c) That the 0.2 FTE for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services, funded by the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., to deliver the above program, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., operating as the Hamilton Family Health Team (HFHT), provides primary care to patients in 114 medical sites throughout Hamilton. The physicians and mental health counsellors identified pain and misuse of opiates as an issue for patients. They also identified providing education and supportive counselling concerning the risks and effects of continued misuse of opiates as beneficial. Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services (ADGS) was approached to provide on-site services at the HFHT, as the ADGS program has specialized knowledge and experience providing services through the Methadone Case Management Program. ADGS and the HFHT implemented a pilot project in February 2011, and have been continuing to maintain the successful delivery of this project. The partnership and project was recently reviewed. It was mutually agreed that the continuation of this service is beneficial to both programs and the individuals accessing services within this project.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)

Financial: Funding for the ADGS 0.2 FTE will continue to be funded by the HFHT.

Staffing: There will be no change to the current 0.2 FTE staffing arrangement.

Legal: Legal Services will prepare an extension of the existing service contract between the City and the HFHT.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

Public Health Services provides a Methadone Case Management Program for individuals who are concerned about their use of opiates, or receiving methadone maintenance therapy in Hamilton. Case management services are considered an important component of a comprehensive methadone program. Individuals who misuse opiates or receive methadone maintenance treatment often experience issues in other areas of their life that need to be addressed such as, housing, health, employment and finances. Services provided within the case management program include: education, assistance to identify strategies and supports to improve daily functioning, referrals, and monitoring of changes made to the use of opiates.

The HFHT identified the misuse of opiates as a concern and recognized the need to design services specifically to address this issue within their organization. ADGS and HFHT developed a partnership in 2011 to address these issues. The two programs recently reviewed the partnership and project and mutually agreed that the continuation of this service would be beneficial to both programs and the individuals accessing services within this project. Delivering services on site while engaging individuals in early intervention strategies to prevent further development of negative health and social consequences, has been well received by HFHT staff and patients. This service delivery model would continue as originally implemented.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

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

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Eleonora Filippone, from Legal Services, was consulted and will work on an extended contract with HFHT, if approved by Board of Health.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

ADGS has a longstanding history of providing services to individuals who misuse or abuse opiates. Provincial funding was received to provide a specific case management program to address the needs of individuals receiving methadone maintenance treatment or who are using opiates and looking for alternative treatment. ADGS is recognized in the community for having knowledge and skills in the area of opiates and providing support to this population.

Many individuals may not access the services of an addiction treatment agency. However, individuals may be identified within primary care as having early issues related to opiate use. During the current project, referrals have been steady and reflective of the above population. Individuals are comfortable receiving care within their family doctor's office. Providing services on-site, has allowed for effective consultation between the individual, their HFHT primary care team, and the ADGS staff member. This has ensured effective communication to help address issues the

individual is experiencing. There continues to be a need for this service, and it has led to capacity building around the issue of pain and opioid misuse within HFHT and ADGS.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

The collaboration between the HFHT and Public Health Services (PHS) would discontinue and service provision would return to only be offered at the ADGS site. This would not allow for continued capacity building between PHS and the HFHT, as well as, individuals would not receive the same service level provision. The ADGS program would lose 0.2 FTE, resulting in a loss of staffing hours.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

2.3 Enhance customer service satisfaction.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Not Applicable