



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Communicable Disease Control and Wellness

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 15th, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	One-time Funding for Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, Community Partnership Initiatives (BOH17046) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424, Ext. 2888
SUBMITTED BY & SIGNATURE:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, use and report on one-time funding from the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network, of \$14,158 for a 0.5 full time equivalent social work position in the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program, for a 3 month pilot project from January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018 providing on-site support at Towards Recovery and the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre Clinics;
- (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 full time equivalent for the term of the above pilot;
- (c) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, utilize and report on one-time funding from the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network, of \$14,158 for a 0.5 full time equivalent social work position in the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program, for a 3 month pilot project from January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2018 to work with Hamilton Health Sciences to improve care for persons with repeat Emergency Department visits related to substance abuse; and,
- (d) 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 full time equivalent, for the term of the above pilot.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2017, the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) approached organizations to inquire if there was capacity to increase services from mid-December to March 31, 2018 if one-time funding became available. There was potential for one-time funding to support addiction treatments, with a focus on opioid addiction and overdose that would increase access to counselling and case management services.

Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) provides addiction counselling and case management in the Hamilton community and has experience providing specialized opioid case management services. ADGS also has experience working with community partners to improve access to addiction services. This has been accomplished by offering services off-site, from the ADGS main office, and by increasing the ability of front-line staff to work collaboratively together to provide care to individuals seeking supports.

Currently the Hamilton community is working to address significant consequences that individuals are experiencing related to the current opioid crisis, as well as, individuals who have repeat visits to the emergency department (ED) to address their substance use concerns. ADGS has been involved in developing initiatives, with community partners, to address the above issues and saw the one-time funding as an opportunity to pilot direct service projects in these areas.

ADGS had been working with the Towards Recovery Clinic (TRC) site, a local provider of opioid dependence treatment, and the need was identified to increase services to the second clinic site, Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre (OATC). The potential one-time funding call was viewed as an opportunity to expand services, evaluate the outcomes at the second clinic, as well as, provide more focused interventions for overdose prevention.

ADGS had also been involved in discussions with Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation (HHS) to implement a pilot utilizing the Health Links model to improve care for individuals with repeat ED visits related to substance use, including opioids. The one-time funding call was seen as an opportunity to secure funding to implement and evaluate the project model.

The two project initiatives were forwarded to the HNHB LHIN and approval of the one-time funding for the projects was received at the December 13, 2017 HNHB LHIN board meeting.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

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FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: One-time funding of \$28,316, \$14,158 for each initiative, has been approved by the HNHB LHIN, for a period of mid-December to March 31, 2018.

Staffing: Funding will be used to backfill the two 0.5 FTE assignments by increasing existing part-time hours for the term of the agreement.

Legal: The HNHB LHIN has provided notice that the 2017-2018 Multi-Sector Services Accountability Agreement will be amended to reflect the additional one-time funding.

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 has 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.

ADGS has a systems oriented and collaborative care approach to providing services. Addressing issues both at a community and individual level can be enhanced by working collaboratively with community partners. ADGS was previously approached by TRC and HHS to engage in two separate projects, however, both projects were focused on how to improve access to addiction treatment. They also shared the objectives of moving towards a more comprehensive and integrated addiction care model, making case management and counselling services more accessible, patient-centred and timely.

A pilot project, with limited hours, had been started with TRC and early results showed the following: individuals have been able to access services within 1-2 weeks of being referred by their physician, a significantly quicker access to services than through the ADGS main office; physicians in the clinic have indicated having counselling to refer to on-site is helpful; and the ADGS social worker has reported being on-site has been beneficial and increased co-ordinated care.

There has not been the opportunity to start the direct service work with the HHS project, however, work has been completed to develop the collaborative model and decide on outcomes to be measured.

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The one-time funding will be implemented in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined by the HNHB LHIN in the approval letter and the existing terms of the 2017-2018 Multi-Sector Services Accountability Agreement.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance was consulted to determine the cost for salary and benefits of the two ADGS Social Worker 0.5 FTE positions. The liaison contact with TRC and HHS were consulted re bringing forward the projects for the one-time funding opportunity.

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 both HHS and Towards Recovery Clinic 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, and the 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 HHS 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.

Individuals who are involved in opioid dependence treatment may continue to experience use of opioids and are at risk for consequences related to this use, including opioid overdose/poisoning. It will be beneficial to have an ADGS social worker at both TRC and the OATC that physicians can refer to, or, individuals can self-refer to, to receive addiction treatment and information about overdose/poisoning prevention.

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

None