



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Epidemiology, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control
Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 17th, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services and Hamilton Health Sciences Addiction Initiative (BOH18034) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Susan Boyd, (905) 546-2424, Ext. 2888
SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Baird Director, Public Health Services - Epidemiology, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, utilize and report on funding from Hamilton Health Sciences for up to a 1.2 FTE social work position in the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program, and enter into an agreement between the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Health Sciences for an ongoing addiction position, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor; and,
- (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 1.2 FTE, for the term of the agreement and the time of renewal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Misuse of alcohol and drugs is a significant issue that impacts the health and well-being of individuals in our community. The harmful health effects of substance misuse can include acute health issues, involving intoxication and withdrawal symptoms, or potentially longer term impacts such as liver problems, heart problems, or an increased risk for certain cancers.

As a result of health and social impacts from substance misuse, some individuals access hospital services to manage symptoms. Hospital services include the Emergency Department, inpatient units and follow-up from specialized outpatient services to treat complications from substance use.

Hamilton Health Sciences had previously identified that timely and specialized addiction follow-up was needed during or after a hospital intervention and approached the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services program (ADGS) to engage in a pilot initiative. This initiative involved an ADGS staff member working with the Hamilton Health Sciences Outreach team and individuals experiencing addictions issues with repeat hospital visits. The pilot occurred from mid-January 2018 until March 31, 2018 and showed positive outcomes.

Hamilton Health Sciences has approached ADGS to continue with the partnership and have ADGS staff provide addiction services to individuals accessing the Emergency Department, Inpatient units and the Outreach team. Hamilton Health Sciences has requested coverage for Monday through Sunday.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with Report (BOH18043).

Staffing: Hamilton Health Sciences will provide funding for 1.2 FTE and 0.2 FTE will be re-aligned from the ADGS budget.

Legal: There are no legal implications associated with Report (BOH18043).

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 have 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. Hamilton Health Sciences has been working towards enhancing services provided to individuals presenting with addiction issues and approached ADGS to continue the partnership to develop further specialized services. This work is well aligned with the work of ADGS and it is hoped will allow for more timely access to ADGS services.

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

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

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Kelly O'Halloran, Director Community and Population Health Services, Hamilton Health Sciences advised that there is a need for ongoing specialized services targeted towards repeat admissions related to addictions issues.

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 Hamilton Health Sciences 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, 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 Hamilton Health Sciences would provide a continued 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.

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

Not Applicable.