



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 15, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ontario Health Teams (BOH19020) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

INFORMATION

The *People's Health Care Act, 2019* was introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in February and is now undergoing third reading debate. The act will introduce health care system reforms in Ontario. The reforms centre on consolidating health care oversight agencies into a 'super-agency' called Ontario Health, and the development of Ontario Health Teams to integrate health and social service organizations at a regional level for improved delivery of services. The reforms will aim to achieve the 'quadruple aim' set out by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, which includes:

1. Better patient and caregiver experience;
2. Better patient and population health outcomes
3. Better value and efficiency; and,
4. Better provider experience.

The government has indicated that there will be approval of 30 to 50 Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), each with clinical and fiscal accountability for a specific geography and the care of approximately 300,000 patients. The OHTs will have a single accountability

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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.

agreement with Ontario Health. Members of the OHTs could include diverse organizations from hospital and primary care, to social and community service providers. The government has indicated that teams should be developed around the health needs of communities. There is also an emphasis on 24/7 access to navigating the health system and digital tools and choices for patients to access care.

The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) has now presented the process for an open invitation for OHT applications. The first step in the process will be a self-assessment of prospective OHTs on their readiness to work towards the goals of the health system reform. The self-assessment form submission was opened April 3, 2019 and the deadline to submit is May 15, 2019. The second step in the process for OHT applicants selected based on the self-assessment will involve the submission of a full application by July 12, 2019. The government has indicated that approved OHTs will be announced in the fall of 2019.

The OHTs will have important relevance to the work of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department (HSC). HSC has been actively engaged in provincial and local discussions on OHTs, with great interest to the role that the many programs in HSC can play in one or more Ontario Health Teams that will serve Hamilton. HSC already has deep existing partnerships with health and social services community partners. These reforms present an opportunity to deepen our connections to community partners to improve the coordination of care for Hamilton residents.

HSC is a service provider, service system manager and funder of many program areas identified as possible partners for the reforms including primary care clinical activities, recreation, housing, mental health services, long-term care and community support programs. Further, there are roles that have been identified to support OHT work in population health assessment and the evaluation of both individual and population health outcomes. There is an emphasis in the government's framing of OHTs on accountability to local needs of patients served, and HSC sees these reforms as an opportunity to further emphasize the importance of addressing health equity in Hamilton.

Ongoing discussions with health and social services partners, including hospitals, primary care, and a number of other community agencies are expected to lead to HSC participating in one or more OHT applications, beginning with the self-assessment form that is due for submission by May 15, 2019. The process is evolving rapidly, and HSC will keep the Board of Health updated on developments.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report BOH19020: Ontario Health Team Application Process and Deadlines

Appendix "B" to Report BOH19020: Infographic of Health System Reform