

Community Partner Consultation Summary

PHS staff reached out to 18 community partners to explore practices related to providing menstrual products to clients. Interviews were completed with staff at 9 agencies. Interviews were not completed at the remaining 9 agencies due to challenges with reaching staff or lack of availability to meet. Below are the results from the 9 completed interviews.

Agency	Current State	Other Comments
<b>Eva Rothwell Centre</b>	Menstrual products are provided to clients when they are available. Products are received only through donation.	Suggestion made to have more educational resources particularly for young clients.
<b>Good Shephard</b> (includes Martha House, Mary’s Place, Good Shepherd Family Centre, and Notre Dame Youth Shelter)	<p>Menstrual products are provided to clients through multiple programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shelters consistently have products</li> <li>• The Venture Centre (Emergency Food and Clothing) and the other youth and family resource centres provide products when they are available and may help connect clients with other partners.</li> </ul> <p>The agency relies heavily on donations to provide this service. Staff recognize the importance of this issue and purchase products for shelters when no donated products are available. They frequently rely on donated funds for these purchases.</p> <p>Food banks are not able to consistently meet needs requested by clients. Most other services can provide some products to clients however they can not consistently provide preferred type of product or enough product for client to complete their cycle.</p>	Interest was expressed in sustainable menstrual products for some clients. At this time, it would only be able to provide these products if they were donated; they recognize this is not the most appropriate choice for clients who do not have consistent access to clean water.
<b>Hamilton Urban</b>	Menstrual products are provided to clients	One suggestion made was to treat menstrual

<p><b>Core</b></p>	<p>when they are available.</p> <p>Products are received only through donation. If clients request products when none are available, staff would help to connect clients with another community resource.</p> <p>Staff highlighted a need to lower stigma for people who are menstruating to discuss their needs and expressed concerns about clients who cannot afford products and are not comfortable asking for help.</p>	<p>products in a similar way to condoms and offer them to anyone who might need them to increase likelihood that clients will be able to have products when they need them.</p>
<p><b>Mission Services</b> (includes Willow’s Place, Community Food Bank and Inasmuch House)</p>	<p>Menstrual products are provided to clients through multiple programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop-in centres and women’s shelters consistently have products</li> <li>• The foodbank does not routinely have products.</li> </ul> <p>Some services, like Willow’s Place, rely on donations and have had success with media blasts when low on supplies. The shelters have needed to purchase products to meet needs. Services are not able to consistently provide preferred type of product or enough product for client to complete their cycle.</p> <p>Access to menstrual products is a need that clients ask for and staff recognize that there are health risks as well as barriers to engaging in society when women do not have access to products.</p>	<p>One suggestion is a more coordinated approach to address issue at a systems level, for example by doing mass purchasing for cost savings.</p>

<b>Native Women's Centre</b>	<p>Menstrual products are provided to clients at the shelter and to clients in the community.</p> <p>They use donated products, purchase products when needed and connect with other community partners as needed to help maintain a consistent supply. When clients express a preference for a type of product, staff do their best to meet this request.</p>	<p>When asked about sustainable products, staff replied this is not something currently offered and said she would discuss this further with clients to see if they are interested.</p>
<b>Neighbour to Neighbour Centre</b>	<p>Menstrual products are provided to clients when they are available.</p> <p>Products are received only through donation and agency is not able to consistently meet needs.</p>	
<b>United Way</b>	<p>Supports community partners including Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton Urban Core, SASHA, YWCA, Living Rock, St Matthews House Food Bank and Eva Rothwell Centre to provide products by hosting product drives such as Tampon Tuesdays.</p>	<p>Suggestions made to consider more corporate partnerships and to advocate for increased Ontario Works allotment to clients.</p>
<b>Wesley Urban Ministries</b>	<p>Menstrual products are provided to clients through multiple programs.</p> <p>All products are received through donation.</p> <p>The agency is mostly able to meet the needs of those requesting products however are frequently unable to provide preferred products. When supplies get low, usually in summer months, staff reach out to the team</p>	

	who oversee donations and are often able to receive enough product to meet needs of clients.	
<b>Womankind</b> (St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton)	<p>Menstrual products (pads only) are provided to clients in both treatment centre and shelter.</p> <p>Pads are purchased through St Joseph's at a cost of \$3/package and are also received through donations. When clients express a preference for tampons, site does not provide as the budget is for pads only.</p> <p>Staff recognize that this is an important issue across the city.</p>	