

It is noted carefully that the "AWARENESS" of this program needs much attention that is highlighted in the report/power-point presented.

The Public Health Services - Hamilton should give due consideration to include/adopt practical applications to bring about "real" awareness of this program to the targeted beneficiaries, especially the Senior women of the diverse communities and vulnerable groups that will be left behind because of language barriers and the lack of English knowledge. The vulnerable groups such as the "HOMELESS SENIORS" and "ISOLATED SENIORS" are examples of even been left out under the present facilities and services available to the low income/vulnerable and needed Seniors provided by the Hamilton City Hall Dental Health care program are not known to the targeted recipients/citizens because of the weakness of the "AWARENESS REACH-OUT PROGRAMS" and the lack of the communication languages used to reach-out the "MESSAGE" to the targeted recipients. In the new program provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) which includes Eligibility and Enrolment - (p.4) and Client Journey - (p.5), Special attention should be given to the application form been suggested because this is a new program and has to be include the "TERM" *Fully funded at 100% provincial funding - (p.6 info)*. All informative and awareness print and electronic material should include in the native languages of the diverse community low-income citizens. Dr. Ninh Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Services - Hamilton to a questions raised regarding how much of funds will be used for awareness and administrative costs - stated that 10% (nearly \$. 250,000) of the funds will be utilized for promotional and awareness (Public Communication) and about 10% (nearly \$. 250,000) will be utilized for administrative expenditure. It is proposed that the awareness program should use the Family Doctors/Physicians clinics, Pharmacies and Community activity facilities to spread the "message" of this wonderful Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

Services to be delivered by salaried dental providers in PHUs, CHCs, and AHACs has to be revised because recruiting such staff and specialists will post-phone the immediate implementation of the demand that will arise once the program is fully published and decimated among the targeted community. **Therefore it is suggested to include Dentists and Endodontists practicing in the main cities/rural cities in Hamilton who can volunteer to be included in the program, who will be remunerated under this program for the services that they will provide to their patients/clients.** This will be a temporary arrangement until discussions with all CHCs and AHACS in their local jurisdiction to ascertain the feasibility of a service partnership is concluded. This will fall within the Ministry advised program to include leveraging existing infrastructure with the inclusion of the Dentists and Endodontists mentioned above, to provide dental care to the newly included eligible low-income Seniors at PHUs, CHCs, and AHACs under the first phase of the program and to enable the **first phase to begin late summer 2019.**

(p.01)

Estimated number of Seniors eligible for low income dental coverage in the City of Hamilton is **10,230** as indicated in the Ontario Seniors Dental Program submitted to the Seniors Advisory Committee (p.7). **In the same report it is stated that in 2018 there were 102,500 Seniors living in Hamilton, and 60% of the Seniors do not have dental coverage.** The report also indicates that in **2018** the **dental clinic** and the **dental health bus provided 1014 appointments for 490 Seniors** under the services/facilities provided by the City of Hamilton. In another document (Appendix "B" to BOH 19026) **681 Seniors** have obtained Dental Care Services from the City of Hamilton's dental services in **2018**. The report also says that **333 Seniors** have been provided Seniors Oral dental service under the Dental Health **Bus** facility in **2018**. If 60% of the 102,500 Seniors living in Hamilton do not have dental coverage, that means **nearly 60,000 Seniors** should be eligible and **"NOT"** 10,230 Seniors as stated in the both reports (Seniors Oral Health (BOH 190260 (City Wide) report - p.5 and Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program - p.7). * Note: There is no indication of how many Seniors fall under the new MOHLTC "LOW-INCOME" Dental Care program and the analysis cannot be made clearer. But if you deduct the 10,230 low-income Seniors from the 60,000 Seniors, the figure of **50,000** shows the number of Seniors in need of Dental disease prevention, complications and hospitalizations and to reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital, prevent chronic disease and increase quality of life for Seniors.

Again the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program - (p.7). report, it is stated that MOHLTC is estimating **40% of target 10,230** will access the program which means nearly **3986** "Low-income Seniors" in Hamilton will access the new Ontario's Seniors Dental Care program from late Summer 2019. Considering the facts presented in the para above, **if we consider/assume * 25,000 (which is 50% of the 50,000) as the figure, then 40 % of 25,000 will indicate the numbers of Low-income Seniors that will need/seek/should be targeted to benefit from this/ MOLTC - Ontario's Seniors Dental Care Program.** It is not clear in the report/documents provided whether the sum of **\$.2.248,100 million funding is for 2019 "ONLY"** or for a period of 12 months from the date the letter addressed by Ms. Christine Elliott - Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to Mayor Fred Eisenberger - Chair, Board of Health, City of Hamilton, Public Health Services, dated June the 7th., 2019.

In the Report - Ontario Seniors Dental care Program handed to all the Seniors Advisory Committee members at the meeting held on Friday August 2nd., in page 7 it is stated that the BOH (Board of Health) approved/acknowledged receipt of up to 2.24 M in operating funds for 2019. Scrutinizing this document with the letter received by the Mayor, says very clearly the \$. 2.248.100 million has been given/granted for use for years 2019 - 2020. Thus it can be assumed **that this** funding is for "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" of this new Seniors Dental care Program.

MORE CLARITY AND A WELL PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM/SCHEDULE IS KINDLY SUGGESTED TO BE PRESENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN Page.17 WITH CLEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT PROPOSED EXPENDITURE DETAILS OF THE ONTARIO SENIORS DENTAL CARE PROGRAM, PHASE 1 & PHASE 2. BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH COULD SUPPORT/APPROVE OR AGREE TO CONSIDER THIS REPORT ACCEPTABLE.

Under Phase 1 (Stage One), facilities to extend the Dental Health Bus facility is suggested to be extended to also include service schedules in Dundas, Flambrough and Greenville, if such facilities/services are not in the City Dental Service program.

Under Phase 2 (Stage 2), it is suggested/proposed to set-up at least 3 more dental clinics in the areas where the need is high, after appropriate studies are done by the experts. Consideration to set-up one such Dental clinic in Dundas is strongly suggested.

Submitted by Noor Nizam.