





Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 5, 2019
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Consumption and Treatment Services and Wesley Day Centre (BOH19037/HSC19040(a)) (Ward 2) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Wendy Pigott (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4300 Simon Granat (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5917
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Michelle Baird Director, Public Health Services - Epidemiology, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Edward John Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

At its meeting of July 11, 2019, the Emergency and Community Services Committee, received Report HSC19040 and approved the following:

- (a) That staff meet with Wesley Urban Ministries to develop a cost-sharing agreement to fund the Wesley Day Centre to continue service at 195 Ferguson Ave. N. up to March 31, 2020;
- (b) That the agreement be structured such that Wesley Urban Ministries and the City of Hamilton report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in November 2019 with a status update on the progress toward a permanent location and funding requirements post March 31, 2019;

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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.

- (c) To explore any additional potential funding partnerships in the community, and;
- (d) That the funding source is to be determined by Council.

## **INFORMATION**

The Wesley Day Centre located at 195 Ferguson Avenue North operates a low-barrier, integrated drop-in for vulnerable residents. The program offers services such as free meals, a food cupboard, harm reduction groups, therapeutic groups, recreational therapy, laundry, hygienic facilities, mail services, housing supports, addictions counselling, access to needle exchange services, Public Health clinical services, access to primary care services, pre-employment support, internet access, and tax clinics. Due to lack of funding and the landlord's decision to not renew the lease, the Wesley Day Centre was set to close on August 23, 2019.

At this time operations continue at the Wesley Day Centre as the City of Hamilton through the Housing Services Division, entered into a one-time cost sharing agreement with Wesley Urban Ministries Inc. to fund the Day Centre program in September 2019. The contract commits the City to a maximum of \$265 K until March 31, 2020 in one-time funding. Further funds are unavailable beyond March 31, 2020. The Wesley Day Centre's lease ends on March 31, 2020 and the landlord, Wesley Community Homes Inc. has no plan for extension of the lease.

The Housing Services Division will obtain operational and financial reporting from the Day Centre during the funded period. In addition, the one-time agreement provides notice that the City can terminate or amend the agreement when a Consumption Treatment and Services site (CTS) becomes operational. Wesley Urban Ministries and the City were able to acquire additional funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation and the United Way Halton & Hamilton. Some of this funding flowed directly to Wesley Urban Ministries to ensure they could meet their funding commitment. Some of the funding will result in a reduction in the maximum funding from the City by \$25 K.

The Wesley Day Centre offers a variety of services for low-income and vulnerable clients including free meals, housing support, and access to primary health care. The Day Centre is a unique integrated model, however alternative services that offer clients a combination of similar low-barrier services exist in the community. For example, emergency shelters offer clients free meals, referrals to housing support programs, and some access to primary health care. While closure of the Day Centre may increase alternative service demand, City of Hamilton data collected in early 2019 estimates that 90% of identifiable Day Centre clients accessed alternative services such as emergency shelters and housing support programs over the same period.

Public Health Services (PHS) continues to work toward the implementation of a CTS in Hamilton as described in Report BOH19017. A CTS provides integrated, wrap-around services that connect clients who use drugs to primary care, treatment, and other health and social services.

The types of wrap-around services that could be included within a CTS would be services such as housing supports, employment supports, addiction treatment, healthcare and access to harm reduction supplies in addition to other services that might be needed by those struggling with an addiction. Many of these services are very much aligned with those currently offered by the Wesley Day Centre and therefore it makes good sense to include wrap-around services like those offered at the Day Centre within the CTS.

An application for a CTS in Hamilton has not yet been submitted to the Ministry of Health as a location for the service is not yet secured. As noted in Report BOH19017, identifying and securing a suitable site for a CTS has been challenging. Over the past eight months PHS staff have considered 29 different sites as possible CTS locations, however, for varying reasons no appropriate site has been selected. Some of these were inappropriate due to proximal issues with sensitive locations such as schools or existing CTS sites while others had challenges from a leasing perspective. Staff continue to work toward establishment of a CTS and inclusion of the appropriate services including wrap-around services similar to those at the Day Centre is an integral part of this plan. Updates on progress moving forward will be brought to the Board of Health.

While staff continue to seek out a site for a CTS there are services currently housed at Wesley that may have to temporarily locate elsewhere. Since a CTS may not be realized before the end of March 2020, staff and representatives from Wesley Urban Ministries have been working together to establish a potential location to temporarily co-locate services such as housing supports, Ontario Works, addiction services, clinic services and other potential services. The objective being to have these services relocated in advance of Wesley Day Centre closing and having them located within a downtown core location that continues to provide a consolidated service location. Our aim being to minimize disruption of services as much as possible.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None