



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Families Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 21, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Dental Program Update (BOH19026(b)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Pat Armstrong (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7158
SUBMITTED BY:	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin, CNO Director, Healthy Families Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to increase the Ontario Senior's Dental Care Program complement by 0.5 FTE.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Health on the implementation of the new 100% funded Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) in the City of Hamilton, launched in November 2019 by the Ministry of Health (Ministry) for eligible low-income seniors.

In December 2019 the Ministry approved two capital projects (BOH19026(a)). The capital funding approval left service gaps at the downtown dental clinic and the Public Health Services (PHS) mountain clinic at 891 Upper James Street. Further planning has occurred to address these service gaps and improve access to rural and surrounding communities. The original plan was estimated to serve 4,300 unique clients per year. Similarly, the new service delivery plan is estimated to provide service to 4,315 unique clients.

The revised plan maximizes our provincial funding and is responsive to the comprehensive health promotion plan that was implemented in consultation with the

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community groups to identify barriers and needs of seniors in Hamilton and surrounding area including Flamborough, Dundas, Glanbrook and Waterdown. The plan provides a new senior's dental health bus to provide service three days per week to eligible seniors in the City of Hamilton, on the mountain, in long-term care and in rural areas. For the remaining two days per week, in accordance with the amended accountability agreement from the Ministry, PHS will make best efforts to enter into service level agreements (SLA's) with adjacent Boards of Health to provide dental service to eligible seniors and address access issues. Initial discussions have taken place with an adjacent public health unit. It is suggested that costs be fully recovered and opportunities for reinvestment into the OSDCP be considered.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Table 1: Proposed Budget

Service Delivery Site	Original Budget	Revised Annual Budget
Public Health Services	\$1,389,830	\$1,299,800
Centre de Santé Communautaire	\$255,460	\$346,520
Urban Core	\$109,780	\$109,780
Contracted Denturist and dental lab services	\$200,000	\$200,000
Contracted Oral Surgeon, Endodontist, Periodontist	\$293,030	\$222,000
Community outreach worker all CHC's		\$70,000
Reimbursement from neighbouring PHUs under Ministry direction		TBD
TOTAL	\$2,248,100	\$2,248,100
Total Ministry Funding	\$2,248,100	\$2,248,100

Staffing: The initial budget was approved in October 2019 (BOH19026 (a)). With the changes to the plan, an increase PHS Dental staffing levels by 0.5 FTE is required. The additional \$28,100 cost will be managed through reducing contractual services and is better aligned with need.

Legal: The partnerships between the Board of Health and Community Health Centres (CHCs) will be governed by a service level agreement, which outlines performance expectations, funding, reporting requirements and accountability mechanisms. Specialty dental services including oral surgery, dentures, endodontic and periodontal services will be provided

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through a service level agreement, and partnerships with neighbouring Boards of Health will also be governed by a service level agreement.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton currently provides dental services to low-income adults at the Public Health dental clinic and the dental health bus for those who are residents of Hamilton, do not have dental insurance coverage and cannot afford dental care in the community. These services are 100% funded by the municipality.

In April 2019 the Provincial government announced the creation of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

In June 2019, the Board of Health received a letter from the Ministry announcing Hamilton's annual base funding increase of \$2,248,100 to support the new dental program. This is a 100% provincially funded program.

In August 2019, Public Health Services submitted a capital funds application to the Ministry for one-time funding that supports implementation of the locally developed seniors dental care service delivery plan.

In October 2019, the Board of Health received the plan (BOH19026(a)) for a Seniors Oral Health program in Hamilton including the prioritized capital investments submitted to the province. At that time, Board of Health also submitted a letter to the Ministry recommending no denture co-payment for low-income seniors.

On November 21, 2019, the OSDCP officially launched, with services initially delivered by maximizing the existing infrastructure on the dental health bus and extending hours at the Public Health dental clinic until capital builds are complete.

In December 2019, Public Health received approval from the Board of Health for \$687,700 in one-time Ministry funding to support two out of four of Hamilton's capital investment recommendations including a new senior's dental health bus and a dental clinic at Centre de Santé Communautaire. The Ministry sent new Schedules and Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreements that outline the terms and conditions governing the one-time capital funding. In the amended agreement the Ministry specified requirements of the one-time funding. Of note are the requirements that no additional operating funding beyond the approved operating annual budget of \$2,248,100.00 will be made available.

On March 17, 2020 all dental programs were reduced to emergency services only as required by the Royal College of Dental Surgeons (RCDSO) due to COVID-19. Regular dental services are now resuming as safety measures are put in place for aerosol generating procedures including doors and air purifiers.

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Amendments to the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and related protocols were released August 1, 2019 that outline public health unit requirements and operational roles and responsibilities. The Ministry has released the final service schedules, including the requirement for a denture co-pay.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

A comprehensive health promotion plan has been implemented in consultation with the following groups to identify barriers and needs of seniors in Hamilton and surrounding area including Flamborough, Dundas, Glanbrook and Waterdown. This work was achieved prior to COVID-19.

- Seniors Advisory committee presentations in summer and fall 2019;
- Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative;
- Provided resources to libraries, recreation centers, CHCs community partners including the Salvation Army Family Services, Catholic Family Services, Flamborough Connects and Glanbrook Community Services;
- We have connected with DARTS, VON, and United Way, Seniors Helping Seniors;
- Focus group testing of about 75 people through various organizations who serve low income seniors; and,
- We have reached out to Dundas Seniors Centre and collaborated with City Housing to provide information and help seniors complete applications.

PHS continues to work with Centre de Santé Communautaire, Compass Community Health Centre, Hamilton Urban Core and De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre.

PHS continues to consult with Ontario Works Special Support program and Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) to discuss impacts of planning.

PHS continues to work with Macassa Lodge and Wentworth lodge on a plan to address the needs of eligible seniors in Long term care. This work has been on hold during COVID-19 but plans to resume in September are in progress.

PHS has surveyed and received interest from specialists and denturists in the community.

To satisfy requirements for the service level agreement with all service providers, CHCs and Long-Term Care, a comprehensive Privacy Impact Assessment is in progress. PHS continues to work with Legal and Procurement services to develop service level agreements and purchase the new dental health bus.

The revised budget has been reviewed and approved by Finance and Administration.

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ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Oral health is linked to overall health and well-being and is an important matter for many seniors in the community. As people age, their oral health may become worse due to medication, medical conditions as well as mobility limitations that make good oral hygiene difficult to maintain. In addition, seniors may face barriers to accessing dental care due to cost, limited physical and cognitive abilities and transportation.

The goal of the OSDCP is to reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital emergency room, prevent chronic disease and improve quality of life for seniors. The Ministry estimates a 40% uptake in provincial programs and has allocated funding based on an estimate of 3,986 eligible seniors applying for the OSDCP in Hamilton. This is not a fee-for-service model, and the OSDCP program services are to be delivered through Public Health Units and Community Health Centres. Specialty dental services including oral surgery, endodontics and periodontics are to be arranged through a service level agreement with local dental providers.

In Hamilton, local data reveals that while low income seniors are dispersed across the city there are three main clusters of seniors, in the lower east city, the lower west city and the central mountain. In the new plan the existing bus will continue current service, offering emergency and treatment services to all ages at various sites across the city five days per week. The downtown dental clinic will also continue with current services to clients of all ages. To accommodate the large cluster of low-income seniors in the east end of the city, preventive service at the East End PHS clinic will be available to senior’s one day per week, with restorative and preventive services provided at Centre de Santé Communautaire or the downtown dental clinic. The mountain clinic will provide preventive services to seniors one day per week, with restorative services being available on the new senior’s dental health bus.

Table 2: Summary of Capital Funding Approvals and Service Delivery Plan

Capital Project	Service Delivery Plan
Build a dental operatory at Centre de Santé Communautaire Hamilton/Niagara	Will provide preventive and restorative dental services five days per week.
Purchase new Seniors dental health bus	Operate five days/week and provide preventive and restorative services to eligible seniors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One day/week at long-term care homes • One day/week at rural and surrounding areas (locations TBD) • One day/week at a Mountain location (location TBD) • Two days/week at adjacent health unit areas

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Denturist services will be contracted out to providers in the community. The Ministry is firm on the requirement that the final OSDCP plan will include a co-payment for dentures and eligible clients requiring dentures will be expected to pay up to \$80 for denture services. PHS is exploring options to support those to who this would present a barrier.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.

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.