



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Paramedic Service

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 25, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ministry of Long-Term Care Community Paramedic Funding (HSC21012) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Michael Sanderson (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7741
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Chief of the Hamilton Paramedic Service be authorized to sign on reports, amendments, and changes to the Agreement originally signed by the City Manager, Hamilton Community Paramedicine Long-Term Care Program (CPLTC) Transfer Payment Agreement (attached as Appendix "A" to Report HSC21012) for the period January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2024;
- (b) That subject to available funding the Hamilton Paramedic Service be authorized to increase their staffing complement by 12 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) to provide the staffing and activities as outlined in the CPLTC Proposal Hamilton (attached as Appendix "B" to Report HSC21012) and the Hamilton CPLTC Transfer Payment Agreement; and
- (c) That the Hamilton Paramedic Service be authorized to expend capital from existing vehicle and equipment reserves to acquire the vehicles and equipment necessary to fulfil the activities as outlined in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" to Report HSC21012, such capital costs to be fully recovered over the period of the Agreement.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) solicited an expression of interest to participate in a Community Paramedicine Long-Term Care (CPLTC) program. This program provides trained paramedic staff to better support seniors on the Provincial long-term care waitlist, or soon to be eligible for long-term care, with community paramedicine services in the comfort of their own homes.

Following submission of a proposal, the City of Hamilton has received approval to proceed with the program from the Minister of Long-Term Care. The City has also received funding approval and a Transfer Payment Agreement from the MLTC Assistant Deputy Minister. The Transfer Payment Agreement has been signed and returned to the MLTC.

This recommendation report is intended to provide authority for the Hamilton Paramedic Service to fill the required staffing positions, acquire the required equipment, and to authorize submission of required reports, amendments, or changes to the agreement.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not applicable.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

The CPLTC program is fully funded by the MLTC including all budgeted staff, equipment, and operating costs. The operating budget was developed with the support of, and approved by the Finance and Administration Section, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division, Corporate Services Department. Available MLTC funding, subject to normal and customary Ministry review, is identified as:

- \$498,600 for Year 1 (period ending March 31, 2021)
- \$1,994,400 for Year 2 (Period April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022)
- \$1,994,400 for Year 3 (Period April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023)
- \$1,994,400 for Year 4 (Period April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024)

Staffing:

A total of 12 full time equivalent (FTE) positions are included in the operating budget.

This funding provides for:

- 1 full time Program Manager
- 1 full time Operational Supervisor
- 8 designated full time Community Paramedics

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- 2 FTE notional allocations to provide for vacation, statutory holiday relief, approved absences, and training

These positions will be discontinued in the event Provincial funding for the program ends.

Legal:
N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hamilton Paramedic Service has been progressively involved in the development of Community Paramedic programs for more than eight years beginning with the Community Health Assessment by Paramedic (CHAP) program where paramedics provided assessment and assistance to seniors in various CityHousing Hamilton buildings. The CHAP program was developed in partnership with McMaster University Department of Family Medicine.

The CHAP program has since transitioned from clinic settings in CityHousing Hamilton buildings (CP@Clinic) to other activities including Community Paramedic home visit program (CP@Home) and Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) activities. McMaster reports the program initially developed in Hamilton is now running in 17 Ontario paramedic services with a total of 117 sites. For the last four years in Hamilton, our CP program has had two full time staff allocated to the activities with 100% funding from the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN).

The evaluation of community paramedic programs by McMaster has concluded it provides economic and operational efficiency while improving the quality of life for participants.

Since the onset of COVID, the Paramedic Service has worked with other agencies and the Province to establish better ways to support higher risk individuals and seniors at home thereby reducing the potential for both 9-1-1 calls for assistance and low acuity patient transport arrivals to hospital. Key expansion activities have included:

- Temporary Provincial grant funding through Home and Community Care to temporarily provide four additional Community Paramedics. These additional Community Paramedics are working in an integrated fashion with Home and Community Care to support high needs patients in the community who are awaiting Long Term Care placement. Funding for this program expires on March 31, 2021.
- Temporary Ontario Health (West) grant funding received in partnership with Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Josephs Health Care to expand and better integrate the Remote Patient Monitoring program. This grant funding provides for

equipment and two temporarily assigned Community Paramedics. Funding for this program expires March 31, 2021.

The MLTC Assistant Deputy Minister wrote Hamilton's City Manager in late November inviting expression of interest from the City of Hamilton to participate in a new 100% provincially funded Community Paramedic Long-Term Care (CPLTC) program which would build on existing Community Paramedic programs with a focus on supporting individuals safely in their homes.

An affirmative response expressing the City's interest to participate in the CPLTC program was submitted on November 30, 2020. The MLTC then provided a draft Proposal Framework, CPLTC Program Framework for Planning, Evaluation and Implementation (attached as Appendix "C" to Report HSC21012) and budget template for completion and submission.

An initial meeting with MLTC staff was attended on December 20, 2020 and the City's finalized program submission and budget were submitted to the MLTC on January 7, 2021.

On February 10, 2021, the MLTC approved the program submission and budget (attached as Appendix "D" to Report HSC21012), identifying a total of \$6,481,800 in one-time funding over four years to support seniors on the provincial long-term care waitlist, or soon to be eligible for long-term care, with community paramedicine services in the comfort of their own homes.

Hamilton's City Manager has now signed and returned the funding agreement allowing us to finalize implementation of the proposed CPLTC program.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Community Paramedic performance of delegated medical acts required in the CPLTC program is authorized by the Medical Director of the Hamilton Health Sciences Centre for Paramedic Education and Research Outreach Program (HHS CPER Outreach).

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance and Administration Section, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division, Corporate Services Department staff were fully engaged in the development of the operating budget and the vehicle and equipment capital purchasing plans.

OPSEU 256 has been, and will continue to be, engaged in discussions regarding job posting and staffing implications. They have indicated support for the initiative.

Hamilton Paramedic Service has engaged key partners for this program including:

- Hamilton Health Team
- Public Health
- Primary Care Physicians Lead
- Home and Community Care
- Hamilton Health Sciences CPER Outreach Medical Director
- Long Term Care Physicians

As this program is developmental over a longitudinal time frame, we will be continuing discussion and integration with these and other relevant areas.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposed CPLTC program will provide 24 hour a day, 7 day a week, community paramedicine support for seniors awaiting long term care placement. This support will be complementary and coordinated with the support already provided through Home and Community Care including the ability for remote patient monitoring, patient diagnostic testing, and integration with established physician led virtual care consultation programs.

The intent of the program is to reduce patient transportation to, and admission in, hospital emergency departments. The economic evaluation provided by McMaster for similar programs suggests that for every dollar expended in the program there will be a global health care system cost reduction of two dollars.

The CPLTC program is 100% funded by the MLTC including all staffing, equipment, and operational costs.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report HSC21012 – Hamilton CPLTC Transfer Payment Agreement

Appendix “B” to Report HSC21012 – CPLTC Proposal Hamilton

Appendix “C” to Report HSC21012 – CPLTC Program Framework for Planning,
Evaluation and Implementation

Appendix “D” to Report HSC21012 – Hamilton CPLTC Funding Letter – Signed