



INFORMATION REPORT

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| TO: | Mayor and Members Board of Health |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | September 26, 2022 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Follow-up: Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services and Mental Health Outreach Program Budget 2022-2023 (BOH22012(a)) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2888 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Jordan Walker Acting Director, Epidemiology, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control Division Public Health Services |
| SIGNATURE: | |

COUNCIL DIRECTION

At its meeting on June 13, 2022 in reviewing the Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services and Mental Health Outreach Program budget report for 2022-2023 (Report BOH22012), the Board of Health directed Public Health Services to consult with Ontario Health West and to explore other potential funding opportunities to address 2022-2023 budget pressures. This included the proposed 0.6 FTE reduction for Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services and the 0.65 FTE reduction for the Community Mental Health Promotion program budget, which was deferred to a future meeting of the Board of Health.

INFORMATION

Public Health Services consulted a number of organizations including Ontario Health West, Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Programs grants and funding, the Hamilton Community Foundation, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The results of these consultations are outlined below.

Ontario Health West was consulted in order to outline the current budget situation and advocate for opportunities to mitigate current pressures. They indicated that at this time there are no funding packages available that can be accessed to provide additional funding. Additionally, information was provided that in the late fall the Community

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Accountability Planning Submission (CAPS) process will be reengaged for 2023-2024 budget planning. There may be opportunities through this process to re-align existing funding to meet service delivery needs.

In September 2021, an application for additional outreach staff for the Mental Health Street Outreach Program was submitted through a call for proposals for Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Programs grants and funding. The proposal was not accepted, however feedback received indicated the application had merit and would be kept on file for future consideration. Initial follow-up with Health Canada resulted in feedback that there was no current plan for a 2022 call for proposals, however, a recent email indicated that the proposal could be resubmitted for consideration by September 23, 2022. The resubmission will be pursued and if accepted could partially offset service shortfalls by increasing outreach staff to accept referrals and engage in targeted outreach interventions.

Potential grant funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation was explored. Currently there are no grant applications open that would address the targeted services impacted or would meet the current budget pressure. This would be a potential funding source to continue to monitor and potentially approach when further funding applications open for time limited funding.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation was also approached regarding their Community Investments Funding, Seed Grants and Grow Grants. This funding stream is not available as eligible municipalities must have a population of 20,000 or less to apply for Ontario Trillium Funding.

In conclusion, there is currently no opportunity for increased funding from Ontario Health West. There is an opportunity to resubmit to Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Programs funding, however, this does not secure funding as the proposal will need to be reconsidered. At this time there is no guaranteed funding source available and the impact discussed in Board of Health Report BOH22012 of decreased direct service capacity continues to be a possibility. In the Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services Substance Use Program this will decrease the number of appointments for new clients as well as follow up visits. This will result in increased waiting times for first appointments, up to potentially five months, and lengthen time in between follow-up visits. In the Community Mental Health Promotion Program the loss of the outreach social work FTE will decrease access to specialized mental health and addiction services for individuals referred who are experiencing homelessness and complex health issues.

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The Board of Health will have a further opportunity to review the related recommendation below, deferred at its meeting on June 13, 2022, as it will be revisited with a recommendation report at the November 28, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

Sub-section (a) of Report BOH22012, respecting the Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services and Mental Health Outreach Program Budget 2022-2023, was DEFERRED to the August 10th meeting:

- (a) That the 2022-2023 Alcohol, Drug, & Gambling Services and Community Mental Health Promotion program budgets, funded by Ontario Health, be approved, including:
 - (i) The net 0.6 FTE reduction for Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services; and,
 - (ii) The 0.65 FTE reduction for the Community Mental Health Promotion program budgets;

There will be a small impact from delayed implementation with potential budget pressures. This will continue to be monitored, and gapping in the current fiscal year may be able to offset these pressures.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.