



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 16, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Ministry of Health Funding and Accountability Report: 2021 Annual Report and Attestation (BOH23001) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Nancy Sullivan (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5756
SUBMITTED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to submit the 2021 Annual Report and Attestation to the Ministry of Health in keeping with the information outlined in Board of Health Report BOH23001.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of Board of Health Report BOH23001 is to provide an overview of Public Health Services program and financial performance in 2021.

Public Health Services has defined program objectives, performance measures, and targets for the full scope of programs and services within a Performance Management and Monitoring System. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health Services was making significant progress in achieving the targets that had been set as outlined in Board of Health Report BOH20009. Throughout 2020 and 2021, the focus of Public Health Services resources shifted to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response, including the prevention and control of COVID-19 in our community and implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine program. While significant resources were directed to COVID-19 throughout this time period, Public Health Services also continued to provide essential public health services, particularly those that support our most vulnerable populations. In 2022, Public Health Services began re-opening the programs and services that were on-hold or partially operational during the pandemic in a prioritized way. This includes the re-establishment of performance management and monitoring processes across all programs and services.

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In 2021, the Ministry of Health granted the City of Hamilton Board of Health \$62,713,900 to support the delivery of programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards (“the Standards”), as well as one-time funding to support the COVID-19 general and vaccine programs and various projects/initiatives. As of December 31, 2021, a total of \$53,738,491 was spent, with a positive variance of \$6,759,609. The City of Hamilton contributed \$11,363,720 in support of these same initiatives.

Boards of Health are required to report on program and financial performance to the Ministry of Health for Ministry funded programs under the Standards. Program performance reporting requirements were deferred in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health is now resuming these requirements and has recently requested that boards of health submit a 2021 Annual Report and Attestation (the ‘Annual Report’). The program and financial performance information summarized in Report BOH23001 will be reported to the Ministry of Health through the 2021 Annual Report.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: No new financial implications.

Staffing: No new staffing implications.

Legal: No new legal implications.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Health Services staff worked to maximize the efficiency, transparency and usefulness of the Public Health Services Performance Management and Monitoring System. This was done by streamlining and integrating the System with the annual planning and budget cycles, and by better defining program objectives, performance measures and strengthening targets for the full scope of Public Health Services programs & services. The information generated by the System is used by staff and management to inform program planning and drive continuous quality improvement. Semi-annual performance reports were provided to the Board of Health. Overall, Public Health Services was making significant progress in achieving set targets (see the 2019 Year-End Public Health Services Performance Report (BOH20009) from the June 2020 Board of Health meeting). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementation of the performance management system was put on-hold

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throughout 2020 and 2021; focus shifted to monitoring and reporting on performance related to COVID-19 only. In June 2022, Public Health Services restarted a regular performance management and monitoring cycle for all programs and continues to expand the system as program and services return to full capacity.

Boards of health are also required to report to the Ministry of Health on program and financial performance for Ministry funded programs under the Standards. Due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Health deferred program performance reporting requirements in 2020 and 2021. Financial reporting continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Health is now resuming and catching up on their program performance reporting requirements. Recently, boards of health were asked to complete a 2021 Annual Report and to include program outcome data for 2019 and 2020. The due date to submit the 2021 Annual Report to the Ministry of Health is January 13, 2023. Public Health Services has requested an extension until January 28, 2023 to allow for Board of Health review of performance information prior to submission. A template for the 2021 Annual Report was provided by the Ministry of Health. The template is comprised of the following sections:

1. Narrative descriptions and key achievements for specific programs as well as one-time projects/initiatives;
2. Financial year-end actuals for mandatory programs as well as one-time projects/initiatives;
3. Program outcome indicator results for 2019, 2020 and 2021; and,
4. Attestation on each of the organizational requirements.

This Board of Health Report BOH23001 summarizes available information on financial actuals and key program activities and achievements for 2021, as well as program outcome indicator results for 2019, 2020 and 2021, for Ministry funded programs and services under the Standards. This information will be reported to the Ministry through the 2021 Annual Report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The Standards include a Public Health Accountability Framework and Organizational Requirements to ensure that boards of health have the necessary foundations within the four domains of program and service delivery, financial management, governance and public health practice to successfully implement the Standards. These include monitoring and reporting requirements for boards of health to demonstrate accountability to the Ministry of Health. The Annual Report is one of several funding and accountability reporting tools that boards of health are required to submit to the Ministry.

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RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Not Applicable.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Program Performance

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Public Health Services was focused on the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response. This included actions to prevent and control COVID-19 transmission in our community, such as: monitoring the status of COVID-19; communicating information to the public, board of health and partners; and, managing cases and outbreaks. Public Health Services also provided leadership in our community for the planning and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, one of the most complex vaccination campaigns in Ontario's history. Performance related to COVID-19 was reported throughout the pandemic in monthly COVID-19 updates to the Board of Health. Supporting this level of response required the redeployment of a significant proportion of the Public Health Services workforce. As a result, several Public Health Services programs and services were on-hold or partially operational for over 2 years.

While much of Public Health Services' resources were focused on the COVID-19 emergency response, Public Health Services continued to provide essential public health programs and services, with a focus on supporting our most vulnerable populations. Some key program achievements included:

- Continuing to provide emergency dental treatments to children and low-income adults and seniors;
- Receiving a new dental care bus and preparing it to provide dental services to low-income seniors as part of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program;
- Continuing to inspect high and moderate risk food premises, as well as providing timely response to food recall notifications, suspect or confirmed reported foodborne outbreaks and food-related complaints;
- Responding to complaints/inquiries about health hazards in the environment and assessing/inspecting facilities where there is an elevated risk of illness associated with exposures to health hazards;
- Implementing actions to reduce the risk of heat-related illness and mitigate health impacts due to cold weather;
- Continuing to provide breastfeeding, childhood nutrition, parenting, healthy pregnancies, early childhood development, and mental well-being services by shifting to virtual provision of services and prioritizing face-to-face services for those at greatest risk;
- Providing service delivery to high needs schools in the City to support the creation of healthy school communities with a focus on COVID-19 recovery and promoting positive mental health; and,

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- Continuing the local opioid response and providing weekly data reporting and information sharing, mental health services, Mobile Van service and expanded naloxone and harm reduction supply distribution.

Appendix “A” to Board of Health Report BOH23001 provides program outcome indicator results for 2019, 2020, and 2021 for Ministry funded programs under the Standards.

2021 Financial Actuals for Ministry Funded Programs under the Standards

In 2021, the Ministry of Health continued to provide funding based on a 70%/30% Provincial/Municipal funding formula to support the delivery of public health programs and services under the Standards (Mandatory Programs), except the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program which remained 100% provincially funded. Overall, the City of Hamilton Board of Health received \$28,973,500 for Mandatory Programs and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, spent \$28,434,731, and \$538,769 will be recovered by the ministry. The Ministry of Health also provided one-time mitigation funding to offset the increased costs for municipalities as a result of the cost-sharing change from a mixed 75%/25% and 100% funding model prior to 2020. A total of \$2,215,800 was granted, which was fully claimed. The City of Hamilton contributed \$11,363,720 to support the delivery of Mandatory Programs.

The Ministry of Health also reimbursed extraordinary costs above the Mandatory Program subsidized expenditures associated with COVID-19 at 100%. In addition, the Ministry of Health provided one-time 100% funding to support the implementation of specific projects/initiatives. Overall, the City of Hamilton Board of Health received \$31,524,600 in one-time funding and spent \$25,303,760 as of December 31, 2021. For the period of January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022, an additional \$690,800 was spent; the remaining \$6,068,809 will be recovered by the Ministry of Health.

Appendix ‘B’ to Board of Health Report BOH23001 provides a detailed overview of the provincial portion of the 2021 financial actuals for Ministry funded programs and services under the Standards.

2021 Attestation of Compliance

As part of the Ministry of Health Annual Report, boards of health are required to complete a certificate of attestation to demonstrate compliance with the Organizational Requirements as outlined in the Standards. In 2021, Public Health Services achieved full compliance with 55 out of the 64 organizational requirements. Of the nine requirements that were not fully met, most (eight out of nine) were related to the inability to deliver the full scope of public health programs & services as required by the Standards due to capacity constraints related to the COVID-19 emergency response, as described above. As Public Health Services programs and services re-open, return to full capacity and resume full-service levels, compliance with these requirements will be restored. The remaining requirement that was not fully met is: “board of health has a self-evaluation process of its governance practices and outcomes that is completed at

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least every other year”. The last Board of Health self-evaluation was completed in November 2020. Due to the municipal election in October 2022, the next board of health self-evaluation was delayed until Q4 2023 to allow for orientation of the new Board of Health.

Next Steps

In 2022, a primary focus for Public Health Services was to transition from the COVID-19 emergency response to sustained monitoring, prevention and response. This involved integrating COVID-19 work into existing Public Health Services programs (Infectious Disease and Vaccine). As part of this transition, staff who were deployed to support the COVID-19 emergency response returned to their home programs at the end of April 2022. Since that time, Public Health Services has re-opened programs and services in a prioritized way and enhanced some service levels to address the deficits of care and backlog of services due to COVID-19.

In parallel, the Public Health Services Performance Monitoring and Measurement System continues to be improved to provide the breadth and depth of information needed to ensure performance on the full scope of Public Health Services priorities and program objectives. In Q2 2023 staff will bring forward to the Board of Health a 2022 year-end Public Health Services performance report, including an annual financial and performance report for the general public.

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.

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 BOH23001

Program Outcome Indicator Results for
2019 – 2021

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Appendix "B" to Report BOH23001

2021 Financial Actuals for Ministry of Health Funded Programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards