

January 17, 2023

Business Case Proposal – Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice Acquisition of Land at 41 South St. West (Rear), Dundas

Issue

To officially move into an exploratory phase by Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice, and with city staff, to examine the viability of the acquisition of land at 41 South St. W, Dundas, to build a “Campus of Care” for a pediatric hospice and centre of excellence for Grief and Bereavement that will serve Southwestern Ontario.

Summary

In May 2022, Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice (DBKH) and McMaster Children’s Hospital (MCH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a pediatric hospice to serve young people with life limiting illnesses, and their families. This joint venture was a natural fit between two organizations who share a mutual goal of collaboration toward improving pediatric palliative care in our region. Both DBKH and MCH are admired regional leaders in their respective areas of care, and will bring expertise and innovation to the proposed centre of excellence. DBKH will be the primary operator of this facility. Partnering in care is the Hamilton way.

Background

What is Being Proposed

The envisioned hospice will be a 10-bed, 24/7 care facility providing end-of-life, respite, symptom management and transitional care to children. In addition, there will be grief and bereavement, outreach, community-based day wellness programs (e.g., music therapy, art therapy) and visiting volunteer programs, with additional opportunity for outpatient clinics. It will be located very close to MCH, adjacent to nature and services - offering plentiful outdoor space and making transitions and care provision as seamless as possible for children and families.

This joint venture is unique in the pediatric palliative care space as both organizations are active and direct participants in the governance and care provision. Other hospice partnerships are less integrated, providing a more decentralized approach to care.

Why is this Facility Needed?

Currently, our region is the only one in Canada which is served by an elite pediatric hospital without a complementary level of hospice care. The only options available at present time are hospital and home, with little in between. A children-specific compassionate care environment which brings together medical and palliative experts is the ideal solution to this gap.

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A children's hospice is a space where kids can be kids, playing and laughing. Envisioned as a home-like setting, the hospice will provide a wide variety of specialized recreation and activity facilities to keep muscles moving as well as minds and senses stimulated. All the while, we will provide coordinated and seamless medical care for the child, and supports for the family.

The home we are proposing would greatly benefit approximately 500 kids and families in our region, covering most of Southcentral Ontario

How Will this Facility Operate?

This joint venture is governed by an Executive Steering Committee, constituted, co-chaired and led by executive and medical leadership from both organizations.

DBKH will be the primary operator. It will provide direct care and programming in the 10-bed home, and be responsible for nursing and personal support staff in the program, with some allied health staff provided by MCH. Medical care will be led by a team of MCH (Hamilton Health Sciences) physicians with pediatric palliative care expertise and other disciplines, managed by a joint physician lead from the hospital.

Additional opportunities to enhance operations will be explored, including outpatient pharmacy between hospital and hospice, clinic space, integrated electronic records systems, laboratory and imaging services as well as potential for joint procurement.

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