



## **BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT 23-002**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Monday, February 13, 2023**

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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<b>Present:</b>	Mayor A. Horwath (Chair) Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, B. Clark, J.P. Danko, M. Francis, T. Hwang, T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, N. Nann, T. McMeekin, E. Pauls, M. Tadeson, A. Wilson
<b>Absent with Regrets:</b>	Councillors M. Spadafora, M. Wilson - Personal

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### **THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:**

1. **Consumption and Treatment Services Site Application Process (BOH23007) (City Wide) (Item 9.1)**
  - (a) That Report BOH23007, respecting Consumption and Treatment Services Site Application Process, be received.
  - (b)
    - (i) That the application from The AIDS Network for a second Consumption and Treatment Services site located at 746 Barton Street, be endorsed;
    - (ii) That Hamilton Public Health staff partner with community agencies currently applying to operate Consumption and Treatment Services in Hamilton, specifically to provide active support in the areas of community engagement, site confirmation, an evaluative framework, and develop an open data program that demonstrates the community impact of consumption treatment services in Hamilton; and
    - (iii) That staff be directed to provide an evaluative framework with open data that demonstrates the community impact of Consumption and Treatment Services operations in Hamilton Community Engagement.

**2. Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 23-001 – February 10, 2023 (Item 9.3)**

(i) Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair (Item 1)

(a) Appointment of Chair

That Councillor Tadeson be appointed as Chair of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee for the balance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

(b) Appointment of Vice-Chair

That Councillor Hwang be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee for the balance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

(ii) Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 23-001, February 10, 2023 (Item 10.1)

(a) Summary Report Regarding Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton Health Network (Item 10.1)

That the Summary Report Regarding Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton Health Network, attached hereto as Appendix A, be received.

**3. Substance Use and Addiction Program Funding – Harm Reduction Outreach Project (BOH23006) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)**

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to:

- (i) Receive, utilize and report on funding from Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program to fund a collaborative Harm Reduction Outreach Project between Public Health Services' Mental Health and Street Outreach Program and The AIDS Network;
- (ii) Enter into an agreement between the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services, and Health Canada to receive the funding for the Harm Reduction Outreach Project, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor; and,
- (iii) Enter into a collaborative agreement with The AIDS Network to provide Harm Reduction Outreach staff to implement services in the Harm Reduction Outreach Project, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor.

**4. Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework (Item 11.1)**

WHEREAS, The geographic analysis of opioid-related deaths across Ontario shows that larger urban centres, including Hamilton, exhibited the largest increase in both rates and in the absolute number of cases of opioid-related deaths during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2021, Hamilton had a higher rate of opioid-related deaths than the provincial average;

WHEREAS, Opioid-related deaths continue to rise year-after-year in Hamilton. In 2019, 106 Hamilton deaths are probable or confirmed to be opioid-related. In 2020, those numbers increased to 128 and in 2021, those numbers increased to 170;

WHEREAS, From June 2021 to May 2022, 29 deaths in the Hamilton homeless population were reported. 16 of those deaths were reported to be overdose-related and 30% died while accessing shelter;

WHEREAS, There is a need for sustained funding to maintain harm reduction services including safer use spaces;

WHEREAS, Adequately funded harm reduction services would create cost-savings to other municipal and frontline services;

WHEREAS, The YWCA Hamilton has been operating a safer use space since late April 2022 to present. As of January 19, 2023, the program has served 176 unique guests and successfully reversed 34 drug poisonings. There have been zero calls made to police and one call made to EMS that did not require transfer to hospital;

WHEREAS, The meaningful engagement and involvement of people with lived and living experience of drug use and homelessness is vital;

WHEREAS, The City of Hamilton has a responsibility to implement policies and programs designed to urgently address the increase in opioid-related mortality, including providing access to evidence-based harm reduction services across the City, including in the houseless serving sector; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City staff be directed to provide quarterly reports on overdoses tracked by EMS and all deaths related to toxic drugs to the Board of beginning in Q2 2023; and
- (b) That City staff be directed to:

- (i) Convene with local stakeholders, including people with lived and living experience, health, and drug policy experts, to develop an evidence-based harm reduction action plan for the purpose of addressing high rates of opioid-related deaths with a completion and report back to the Board of Health on June 12, 2023; and
- (ii) That these consultations and action plan specifically consider how to implement safer use spaces and other evidence-based harm reduction strategies both in the City and in the Houseless serving sector.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised the Board of the following changes to the agenda:

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.2 Correspondence from John Sudak respecting a Consumption and Treatment Services Site at 746 Barton Street, Hamilton.

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- 6.6 Daniel Freiheit, respecting the Prevention of Future Emergency Declarations Regarding the Opioid Crisis in Hamilton (for today's meeting)
- 6.7 Dr. Claire Bodkin, HAMSMaRT respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (for today's meeting)
- 6.8 Scott Gervais, respecting Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton Shelters (for today's meeting)
- 6.9 Walter Furlan, respecting Opposition to the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site (for today's meeting)

**9. CONSENT ITEMS**

- 9.3 Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 23-001 – February 10, 2023

The agenda for the February 13, 2023 Board of Health was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) January 16, 2023 (Item 4.1)**

The Minutes of the January 16, 2023 meeting of the Board of Health were approved, as presented.

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**

(i) The following items were approved, as presented:

- (a) Correspondence from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), respecting Program Update and Speaker Line-Up for the alPHa Winter Symposium and Section Meetings (Item 5.1)

Recommendation: Be received

- (b) Correspondence from John Sudak respecting a Consumption and Treatment Services Site at 746 Barton Street, Hamilton.

Recommendation: Be Received.

**(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

(i) The following Delegation Requests for the February 13, 2023 Board of Health meeting, were approved:

- (i) Steven Roman Soos, respecting Declaring a State of Emergency for Opioid Overdoses and Death in the City of Hamilton (Item 6.1)

- (ii) Tim McClemon, The AIDS Network, respecting Support for the AIDS Network's Application to Operate a Proposed Consumption Treatment Services Program at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton (Item 6.2)

- (iii) Olivia Mancini, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, respecting Safer Use Spaces in Shelters (Item 6.3)
- (iv) Marcie McIlveen, Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Item 6.4)
- (v) Kim Ritchie, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition: Harm Reduction Working Group, respecting the Prevention of Overdose Related Deaths for those Experiencing Homelessness (Item 6.5)
- (vi) Daniel Freiheit, respecting the Prevention of Future Emergency Declarations Regarding the Opioid Crisis in Hamilton (Added Item 6.6)
- (vii) Dr. Claire Bodkin, HAMSMaRT respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 6.7)
- (viii) Scott Gervais, respecting Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton Shelters (Added Item 6.8)
- (ix) Walter Furlan, respecting Opposition to the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 6.9)

**(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)**

The following Delegations addressed the Board:

- (i) Steven Roman Soos addressed the Board respecting Declaring a State of Emergency for Opioid Overdoses and Death in the City of Hamilton (Item 7.1)
- (ii) Tim McClemon, The AIDS Network, addressed the Board respecting Support for the AIDS Network's Application to Operate a Proposed Consumption Treatment Services Program at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton (Item 7.2)
- (iii) Olivia Mancini, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, addressed the Board respecting Safer Use Spaces in Shelters (Item 7.3)
- (iv) Marcie McIlveen, Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), addressed the Board respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Item 7.4)

- (v) Kim Ritchie, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition: Harm Reduction Working Group, addressed the Board respecting the Prevention of Overdose Related Deaths for those Experiencing Homelessness (Item 7.5)
- (vi) Daniel Freiheit, respecting the Prevention of Future Emergency Declarations Regarding the Opioid Crisis in Hamilton (Added Item 7.6)
- (vii) Dr. Claire Bodkin, HAMSMaRT respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 7.7)
- (viii) Scott Gervais, respecting Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton Shelters (Added Item 7.8)
- (ix) Walter Furlan, respecting Opposition to the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 7.9)

The following delegations, were received:

- (i) Steven Roman Soos, respecting Declaring a State of Emergency for Opioid Overdoses and Death in the City of Hamilton (Item 7.1)
- (ii) Tim McClemont, The AIDS Network, respecting Support for the AIDS Network's Application to Operate a Proposed Consumption Treatment Services Program at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton (Item 7.2)
- (iii) Olivia Mancini, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, respecting Safer Use Spaces in Shelters (Item 7.3)
- (iv) Marcie McIlveen, Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), addressed the Board respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Item 7.4)
- (v) Kim Ritchie, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition: Harm Reduction Working Group, addressed the Board respecting the Prevention of Overdose Related Deaths for those Experiencing Homelessness (Item 7.5)
- (vi) Daniel Freiheit, respecting the Prevention of Future Emergency Declarations Regarding the Opioid Crisis in Hamilton (Added Item 7.6)
- (vii) Dr. Claire Bodkin, HAMSMaRT respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 7.7)
- (viii) Scott Gervais, respecting Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton Shelters (Added Item 7.8)

- (ix) Walter Furlan, respecting Opposition to the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site (Added Item 7.9)

**(g) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)**

**(i) Board of Health Governance Education Session (Item 8.1)**

Karima Kanani, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP addressed the Board with a Presentation respecting the Board of Health Governance Education Session.

The presentation by Karima Kanani, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP respecting the Board of Health Governance Education Session, be received.

**(ii) Respiratory Diseases Update (Item 8.2)**

The Presentation respecting a Respiratory Diseases Update, was waived and received.

Upon further consideration, the members of the Board noted that the presentation respecting a Respiratory Diseases Update would be beneficial to the Board members and to the public, and it was therefore:

The Presentation respecting a Respiratory Diseases Update, be DEFERRED to the Board of Health meeting on March 20, 2023.

**(h) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 9)**

**(i) Opioid Emergency Response (BOH23008) (City Wide) (Item 9.2)**

That Report BOH23008, respecting Opioid Emergency Response, be DEFERRED to the Board of Health meeting on March 20, 2023.

The Board of Health recess at 1:55 p.m. for 10 minutes.

**(i) GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)**

**(i) Amendments to the Outstanding Business List (Item 13.1)**

The following amendments to the Outstanding Business List, was approved, as amended:



(a) Items Requiring New Due Dates:

1. Municipal Actions to Reduce harms Associated with Alcohol Use (BOH19032)  
OBL Item: 2019-V  
Current Due Date: On Hold Due to COVID-19  
Proposed New Due Date: July 2023
2. Child & Adolescent Services 2021-2022 Budget & Base Funding Increase of Five Percent (BOH21010)  
OBL Item: 2021-G  
Current Due Date: On Hold Due to COVID-19  
Proposed New Due Date: April 2023

(b) Items Considered Complete and Needing to be Removed:

1. Consumption and Treatment Services and Wesley Day Centre (Referred to the Board of Health from the Emergency and Community Services Committee on June 19, 2020)  
OBL Item: 2020-I
2. Correspondence from Anita Dubeau, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, respecting a Response to the Opioid Crisis in Simcoe Muskoka and Ontario-Wide  
OBL Item: 2022-D
3. Correspondence from the Timiskaming Health Unit, respecting Decriminalization of Personal Possession of Illicit Drugs  
OBL Item: 2022-F
4. Matters related to the Respiratory Disease Update  
Date Completed: January 16, 2023 (BOH Report 23-001 - Item 2)  
OBL Item: 2022-G
5. Opioid Emergency Response  
OBL Item: 2023-A  
Opioid Emergency Response (BOH23008) (City Wide) DEFERRED to March 20, 2023 meeting.

(i) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

There being no further business, the Board of Health be adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Andrea Horwath,  
Chair, Board of Health

Loren Kolar  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk