



**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(Formerly the Board of Health)
REPORT 24-005**

9:30 a.m.

Monday June 3, 2024

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor A. Horwath (Chair)
Councillor M. Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, J.P. Danko, T. Hwang, T. Jackson,
C. Kroetsch, T. McMeekin, N. Nann, E. Pauls, M. Spadafora,
M. Tadeson and A. Wilson

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillors B. Clark – Personal and M. Francis – City Business

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 24-005 AND
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

1. Update on the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan – June 2024 (BOH24015) (City Wide) (Item 9.1)

That Report BOH24015, respecting an Update on the Hamilton Opioid Action Plan – June 2024, be received.

2. Suspect Drug-Related Deaths and Opioid-Related Paramedic Calls (January-March 2024) (BOH24016) (City Wide) (Item 9.2)

That Report BOH24016, respecting Suspect Drug-Related Deaths and Opioid-Related Paramedic Calls (January-March 2024), be received.

3. Canada's Pharmacare Plan: Impact on Population Health (BOH24011) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List) (Item 9.3)

That Report BOH24011, respecting Canada's Pharmacare Plan: Impact on Population Health, be received.

4. Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability Report (BOH24012) (City Wide) (Item 9.4)

That Report BOH24012, Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability Report, be received.

5. Expansion of Subsidy for Air-Conditioning to Low-Income Households (BOH24010(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

That Report BOH24010(a), Expansion of Subsidy for Air-Conditioning to Low-Income Households, be received.

6. Heat Response Strategy (BOH24010) (City Wide) (Item 10.1(a))

- (a) That the Heat Response Strategy attached as Appendix “A” to Report BOH24010, with the exception of Action Numbers 6, 7, 9 and 10 be approved, as amended by including the following actions with proposed timelines for implementation:
 - (i) To expand and align the eligibility of the existing Ontario Works air conditioner subsidy of \$350 available to Social Assistance households, to include all low-income households who are most vulnerable to heat because of a severe medical condition, toward the purchase an energy efficient air conditioner; and that this expansion be funded through the Climate Change Reserve #108062 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$52,500.00;
 - (e) That staff be directed to undertake an analysis of the expanded air conditioner subsidy program to further inform the work of the city’s extreme heat response and report back to the Public Health Committee by Q4 2024.

7. Child and Adolescent Services Annual 2024-2025 Budget (BOH24013) (City Wide) (Item 10.2)

- (a) That the April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Child and Adolescent Services Program budget, funded by the Ministry of Health, be approved;
- (b) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to submit a letter to request for increased base funding of \$103,931 to cover the budget shortfall and the impact of the continued capped funding along with the 2024-2025 budget to the Ministry of Health;
- (c) That if the Ministry of Health does not provide Public Health Services with additional funding to cover the budget shortfall then Council approve funding of \$77,948 to allow the continuation of the program with the current staffing complement until December 31, 2024, to be funded first from any

Child and Adolescent Services program surplus, then from any Healthy and Safe Communities Departmental Surplus and lastly from any Corporate Surplus or any source deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Corporate Services;

- (d) That if the Ministry of Health does not provide Public Health Services with additional funding to cover the budget shortfall, then staff be directed to include the annualized estimated cost indexed for inflation of \$165,000 for the program pressure resulting from capped Ministry funding and annual cost increases of staff salaries and benefits in the 2025 Tax Operating Budget submission; and,
- (e) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to execute all agreements, contracts, extensions, and documents, including submission of budgets and reports required to give effect to all the 2024-2025 Child and Adolescent Services Program budget approved in Public Health Committee Report BOH24013.

8. Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Budget 2024-2025 (BOH24014) (City Wide) (Item 10.3)

- (a) That the April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Healthy Babies Healthy Children program budget be approved;
- (b) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to submit a letter to request for increased base funding of \$108,323 to cover the budget shortfall and the impact of the continued capped funding along with the 2024-2025 budget to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services;
- (c) That if the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services does not provide Public Health Services with additional funding to cover the budget shortfall then Council approve funding of \$81,242 to allow the continuation of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program with the current staffing complement until December 31, 2024, to be funded first from any Healthy Babies Healthy Children program surplus, then from any Healthy and Safe Communities Departmental Surplus and lastly from any Corporate Surplus or any source deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Corporate Services;
- (d) That if the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services does not provide Public Health Services with additional funding to cover the budget shortfall of then staff be directed to include the annualized estimated indexed for inflation cost of \$210,000 for the program pressure resulting from capped Ministry funding and annual cost increases of staff salaries and benefits in the 2025 Tax Operating Budget submission;

- (e) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to receive, utilize, and report on the grant received from the Hamilton Community Foundation for the Nurse Family Partnership program for 2024; and,
- (f) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to execute all agreements, contracts, extensions, and documents, including submission of budgets and reports required to give effect to the 2024-2025 Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program budget approved in Report BOH24014.

9. Indigenous and Newcomer Vaccine Ambassador Project (BOH24017) (City Wide) (Added Item 10.4)

- (a) That the Medical Officer of Health, or delegate, be authorized and directed to execute all agreements, contracts, extensions, and documents, including submission of budgets and reports required to give effect to the Indigenous and Newcomer Vaccine Ambassador Project; and
- (b) That Confidential Appendix “A” to Report BOH24017, respecting Indigenous and Newcomer Vaccine Ambassador Project, be received and remain confidential.

10. Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a “No Paid Plasma Zone” (Item 11.1)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton supports voluntary blood and plasma donation and aims to protect our public collection system, recognizing the importance of blood donation as a public good;

WHEREAS, Canada’s tainted blood crisis resulted in the loss of approximately 8,000 lives and the subsequent Royal Krever Commission recommended Canada operate a fully voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donation system;

WHEREAS, within Ontario’s healthcare system blood donations are viewed as a public resource;

WHEREAS, the integrity of the of the public, voluntary donor system must be protected;

WHEREAS, in Ontario, the Voluntary Blood Donations Act, stipulates that it is against the law for private companies to pay donors and for donors to receive payment for their blood or plasma;

WHEREAS, paid plasma collection schemes are known to target and exploit the most vulnerable members of communities; and

WHEREAS, this resolution reaffirms the principles of voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donation and aims to protect the integrity of Canada's public blood system and the integrity of blood donors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton designates itself a "Paid-Plasma Free Zone" and declares that private for-profit blood collection companies are not permitted to operate in the city;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton resolves to protect marginalized and vulnerable populations from exploitation resulting from for-profit plasma collection by advertising financial payment for the sale of their blood-plasma; and
- (c) That a copy of this resolution be sent to Canadian Blood Services, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Health, Grifols pharmaceuticals, and all Ontario Municipalities requesting that they respect the City of Hamilton as a "Paid-Plasma Free Zone" and support only voluntary Blood and plasma collection.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)

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

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.3 Correspondence respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy, from the following individuals:

- (b) ACORN Hamilton, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and Environment Hamilton

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1(a)

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

6.1 Delegation Requests respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone", for today's meeting, from the following individuals:

- (f) Krista Laing, Canadian Union of Public Employees

6.2 Delegation Requests respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy, for today's meeting, from the following individuals:

- (a) Daniel Chin, Hamilton and District Apartment Association
- (b) James Kemp

The agenda for the June 3, 2024, Public Health Committee 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) April 29, 2024 (Item 4.1)

The Minutes of the April 29, 2024, meeting of the Public Health Committee was approved, as presented.

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

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

- (a) Correspondence from Angela Diano, Executive Director, ALPHA-1 Canada, respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone" (Item 5.1)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 11.1.

- (b) Correspondence from Christine Duncan-Wilson, Chair, Immunity Canada, respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone" (Item 5.2)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 11.1.

- (c) Correspondence respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy, from the following individuals (Item 5.3):

- (a) Joshua Weresch (Item 5.3(a))

- (b) ACORN Hamilton, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and Environment Hamilton (Added Item 5.3(b))

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1(a).

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

The following delegation requests were approved, for today's meeting:

(i) Delegation Requests respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone" (Item 6.1):

- (a) Kat Lanteigne, Executive Director, BloodWatch.org (Item 6.1(a))
- (b) Christine Duncan-Wilson, Immunity Canada (Item 6.1(b))
- (c) Jennifer van Gennip, Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) (Item 6.1(c))
- (d) Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Item 6.1(d))
- (e) Donna Hartlen, GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada (Item 6.1(e))
- (f) Krista Laing, Canadian Union of Public Employees (Added Item 6.1(f))

(ii) Delegation Requests respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy, (Item 6.2):

- (a) Daniel Chin, Hamilton and District Apartment Association (Added Item 6.2(a))
- (b) James Kemp (Added Item 6.2(b))

(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Delegations respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone" (Item 7.1)

- (1)** The following delegates addressed the Committee respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a "No Paid Plasma Zone":

- (a) Kat Lanteigne, Executive Director, BloodWatch.org (Item 7.1(a))
- (b) Christine Duncan-Wilson, Immunity Canada (Item 7.1(b))
- (c) Jennifer van Gennip, Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) (Item 7.1(c))
- (d) Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Item 7.1(d))

- (e) Donna Hartlen, GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada (Item 7.1(e))
 - (f) Krista Laing, Canadian Union of Public Employees (Item 7.1(f))
- (2) The following delegations respecting Item 11.1, Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a “No Paid Plasma Zone”, were received and referred to the consideration of Item 11.1:
- (a) Kat Lanteigne, Executive Director, BloodWatch.org (Item 7.1(a))
 - (b) Christine Duncan-Wilson, Immunity Canada (Item 7.1(b))
 - (c) Jennifer van Gennip, Network of Rare Blood Disorder Organizations (NRBDO) (Item 7.1(c))
 - (d) Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Item 7.1(d))
 - (e) Donna Hartlen, GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada (Item 7.1(e))
 - (f) Krista Laing, Canadian Union of Public Employees (Item 7.1(f))

For further disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 10.

(ii) Delegations respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy (Item 7.2)

- (1) The following delegates addressed the Committee respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy:

- (a) Daniel Chin, Hamilton and District Apartment Association (Item 7.2(a))
- (b) James Kemp (Item 7.2(b))

- (2) The following delegations respecting Item 10.1(a) - Sub-section (a)(i) to Report BOH24010, Heat Response Strategy, were received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1(a):

- (a) Daniel Chin, Hamilton and District Apartment Association (Item 7.2(a))
- (b) James Kemp (Item 7.2(b))

For further disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 6.

(g) **DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**

(i) **Heat Response Strategy (BOH24010) (City Wide) (Item 10.1(a))**

- (a) That the Heat Response Strategy attached as Appendix “A” to Report BOH24010, with the exception of Action Numbers 6, 7, 9 and 10 be approved, as amended by including the following actions with proposed timelines for implementation:
- (i) To expand and align the eligibility of the existing Ontario Works air conditioner subsidy of \$350 available to Social Assistance households, to include all low-income households who are most vulnerable to heat because of a severe medical condition, toward the purchase an energy efficient air conditioner; and that this expansion be funded through the Climate Change Reserve #108062 at an upset limit, including contingency, not to exceed \$52,500.00;

The following amendment was placed on the floor:

That Report BOH24010, respecting Heat Response Strategy, **be amended** by adding sub-section (e), as follows:

- (e) ***That staff be directed to undertake an analysis of the expanded air conditioner subsidy program to further inform the work of the city’s extreme heat response and report back to the Public Health Committee by Q4 2024.***

For further disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 6.

(h) **MOTIONS (Item 11)**

Mayor Horwath relinquished to the Chair to Vice-Chair M. Wilson in order to introduce the following item:

- (i) **Resolution to declare the City of Hamilton a “No Paid Plasma Zone” (Item 11.1)**

For further disposition of this item, please refer to Item 10.

Mayor Horwath assumed the Chair.

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

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

The following amendments to the Public Health Committee's Outstanding Business List, were approved:

- (1) Items Considered Complete and to be Removed (Item 13.1(a)):
 - (i) Pharmacare Information Report
Added: February 5, 2024 (PHC Report 24-002, Item 1(b))
Addressed as Item 9.3 on today's agenda.
 - (ii) Heat Response Strategy
Added: April 29, 2024 (PHC Amended Report 24-004, Item 2)
Addressed as Item 10.1 on today's agenda

(j) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)

(i) Confidential Appendix "A" to Item 10.4 Indigenous and Newcomer Vaccine Ambassador Project (BOH24017) (City Wide) (Item 14.1)

The Public Health Committee determined that discussion of Confidential Appendix 'A' to Report BOH24017 was not required in Closed Session.

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 9.

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

There being no further business, the Public Health Committee adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Andrea Horwath
Chair, Public Health Committee

Matt Gauthier
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk