



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 21, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Long Term Care in Hamilton (HSC24018) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Angela Burden General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Emergency Services Committee at its meeting of December 7, 2023, approved the following: “That staff from the Healthy and Safe Communities Division and Public Health Services be directed to report back in Q1 2024 to Emergency and Community Services Committee with a holistic overview of the long-term care and congregate settings in Hamilton including the number of beds lost with the closure of long-term care homes and any opportunities that might be available with the current closures of private Long-Term Care Facilities in the City.”

INFORMATION

This information report aims to provide an overview of the current status of Long-Term Care beds in Hamilton, including the impact of alternate level of care patients and those waiting at home in the community. Alternate levels of care patients are patients in hospital that no longer require hospital-level/acute-care but remain in the hospital due to a lack of available Long-Term Care beds, complex care beds or other community destinations including the patient’s home. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for understanding the growing demand for long-term care and home care services and improving the overall healthcare system in our community.

As of June 28, 2024, the Home and Community Care Support Services are now rebranded as Ontario Health atHome. All applications and admissions for long-term care homes as well as community care are all arranged through Ontario Health atHome.

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Demand for LTC beds in Hamilton is difficult to quantify as data is collected at different times by different parts of the health system and different waiting lists reflect a difference in priority for long term care placement. Long Term Care placement is a provincial process, and just as Hamilton residents can request LTC placement in a Hamilton long term care home, or at a home in another area of the province, individuals living across the province can request a LTC bed in a Hamilton long term care home. There are thousands of individuals on regular LTC waiting lists in our region and hundreds waiting who are on priority crisis lists. There are also individuals in hospital who no longer need medical treatment but are occupying a hospital bed as they wait for a LTC placement. This is known as Alternate Level of Care.

In January 2024, there were 6063 patients on the Long-Term Care waitlist across Hamilton, Halton, Niagara, Brant and Haldimand with Hamilton's waitlist at 1938 patients. Home and Community Care Support Services shared that there were 368 patients on the crisis list for placement for Long-Term Care in Hamilton. These active crisis patients were noted to be in the following locations: 197 community patients, 138 hospital patients, and 33 patients noted as other locations. A crisis application is defined as: The applicant's needs can be met in a long-term care home and requires immediate admission to a long-term care home as a result of a crisis arising from the applicant's condition or circumstances that puts them at significant safety risk if left in their current environment. Crisis admission is considered to be the last possible option after all community-based services have been exhausted. For Crisis Applicants, they may be eligible for a "Reunification Priority Access Bed" if they have a partner or spouse who is resident currently in a long-term care home and the applicant wishes to be reunited with partner or spouse at that specific long-term care home.

As of November 4, 2024 there are 66 alternate levels of care patients at St. Joseph's Hospital and 95 patients at Hamilton Health Sciences Hospital, for a total of 161 patients in the hospitals occupying an acute care bed that they do not require but remain there waiting for placement to a Long-Term Care home.

As of October 14, 2024, there are now 25 Long-Term Care Homes that serve residents in Hamilton. In the past 12 months Hamilton lost two Long-Term Care Homes. In Hamilton, the two Long-Term Care Homes that have closed over the past year were Pine Villa in Stoney Creek and Blackadar in Dundas for a total of 90 lost beds. In addition to those 90 lost beds, during the COVID-19 pandemic all three and four bed wards were eliminated which resulted in the loss of approximately 231 beds in Hamilton. With the loss of the 231 beds during the pandemic and closure of 90 long-term care beds this past year, Hamilton now has approximately 3773 Long-Term Care beds available to serve our community through its 25 homes. At any given time, Hamilton can have a range of 1500 to 2000 patients on the Ontario Health atHome waitlist for Long-Term Care Homes. Importantly to note that Long-Term Care Homes current occupancy rates across Ontario Health West stand at 98% or greater, indicating the high demand for available beds. Wait times for new admissions can exceed two to five years for patients on the waitlist list, reflecting the pressures on our local and provincial Long-

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Term Care system. The crisis-list wait can range anywhere from weeks to 6 or more months.

Recent initiatives have resulted in planned addition of long-term care beds throughout the province. Through media releases, we understand that Hamilton will be benefitting from new Long-Term Care construction by Shalom Manor Long Term Care. Shalom Manor Hamilton is expected to welcome residents in summer of 2026 that will be providing 188 new beds. Macassa Lodge is redeveloping 44 beds and developing 20 net new beds which is anticipated to be ready for summer 2026. As well, in lower Stoney Creek, media release announcements have indicated Rykka Care Centres GP Inc. is proposing to construct a four-storey, 224-bed Long-Term Care facility ready in 2027 where Pine Villa Long-Term Care was previously. Schlegel Villages has recently announced the building of two Long-Term Care homes with a combined total of 512 beds due to its aging building. Therefore the net-new beds planned for Schlegel Villages after decanting Hamilton Continuing Care Long-Term Care into the new Long-Term Care development will be 438 beds anticipated availability by 2032-2033.

Noting the above information, there would be approximately 208 new beds by summer of 2026; another 224 planned for 2028 and a further 438 beds by 2033 for a total of 870 beds over the next eight to nine years. There could be other Long-Term Care developments or redevelopments that have not been made public that could further support those in need of Long-Term Care beds including those alternate level of care patients in hospitals as they wait for Long-Term Care placement.

The Ministry of Finance released the 2024 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review. There were no new investments noted to be made in healthcare and the Long-Term Care sectors. There was an update on the progress of new builds or redevelopment for long term care homes / beds. The update was as follows: As of fall 2024, 113 long-term care homes are either completed, under construction, or have the approval to start construction across the province. This includes: 32 homes that are completed, representing 2,385 new beds and 2,610 beds upgraded to modern design standards; and 81 homes that are either under construction or approved to start construction, representing 7,026 new beds and 6,418 beds being upgraded to modern design standards.

AdvantAge Ontario and Ontario Long-Term Care Association are two key organizations that advocate for improved funding, capital development and redevelopment of long term care facilities provincially. Both organizations aim to address the growing demand for long-term care services and ensure that infrastructure meets the needs of an aging population. Both organizations have been advocating within the 2024-25 budget in securing funding for long-term care operations, capital development and redevelopment, and workforce support that are all essential for meeting the needs of Ontario's aging population. Both organizations continue to push for systemic changes

that will enhance the quality of care and the living conditions of seniors in Ontario's long term care homes.

For additional information on these key organizations advocacy work please see the below links:

Link for AdvantAge website <https://www.advantageontario.ca/>

Link for OLTCA website <https://www.oltca.com/>

The status of Long-Term Care beds in Hamilton is critical to the well-being of our aging population and those 18 years and over that require long-term care. With a significant number of alternate levels of care patients and individuals waiting for placement from both the hospital and the community, it is essential for the province to prioritize actions that enhance our Long-Term Care capacity and address the systemic challenges faced by our healthcare system. The goal of collaborating and addressing these issues together, we can work towards a more efficient, effective and compassionate care model for all residents.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not applicable