



**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**PUBLIC HEALTH  
Family Health Division**

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| <b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members<br>Board of Health   | <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE                               |
| <b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> September 26, 2011   |  |
| <b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b><br>New Children's Mental Health Funding for Child & Adolescent Services (BOH11034)<br>(City Wide)     |  |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b><br>Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC<br>Medical Officer of Health<br>Public Health Services Department | <b>PREPARED BY:</b><br>Kathy de Jong<br>(905) 546-2424 ext. 3697 |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>   |  |

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized and directed to receive, utilize and report on the use of these funds to support local initiatives aimed at increasing access to children's mental health services and reducing wait times;
- (b) That the Board of Health approve the increase of 5.0 FTE to the complement of Child and Adolescent Services which is 100% funded by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Child and Adolescent Services (C&A) is an outpatient children's mental health centre that is 100% funded by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), The Youth Justice sector and the Ministry of the Attorney General. C&A serves children, youth and their families throughout the City of Hamilton.

On March 29, 2011, the Ontario Provincial budget announced \$257 million in new funding for community based child and mental health services over three years. As part of the phase one allocation, C&A will receive an additional \$492,818 (pro-rated for the

**SUBJECT: New Children's Mental Health Funding for Child & Adolescent Services (BOH11034) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 4**

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first year), with an additional \$50,000 being allocated on a one-time basis for start up. This funding will increase C&A staffing complement by 5.0 FTE registered health professionals.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See page 3**

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (for Recommendation(s) only)

**Financial:** The new monies will be tracked separately from base funding. The funding provided will cover staff salaries and benefits, as well as incidental costs such as travel, phone etc.

**Staffing:** C&A staffing complement will increase from 15.8 FTEs to 20.8 FTEs. It is expected that this increase will allow clinical staff to address existing wait times for services. It is also expected that C&A clinical staff will serve an additional 250 clients per year.

**Legal:** not applicable.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (Chronology of events)

It is estimated that approximately 15-25% of children and youth in Ontario are affected by at least one mental health issue (MCYS, 2006). Therefore, approximately 14,000-24,000 children and youth in Hamilton are affected by issues of mental health. This is a significant burden of illness within the City of Hamilton as childhood mental health affects more than just the child. It also affects those within the child's support system including, family members, school mates, friends, community members, neighbors and others.

Historically there has not been a base budget increase within children's mental health since 2007-2008 and FTE levels at C&A have remained the same since 2009-2010. Due to a frozen base funding, reductions of 1.0 FTE occurred in 2008-2009 (Child and Adolescent Services Budget 2008-2009 – BOH08026a) and a further reduction of 1.0 FTE in 2009-2010 (Child and Adolescent Services Budget 2009-2010 BOH08026(b)) in order to remain within budget.

The first phase of Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy focuses on children and youth. These supports target three key areas:

1. Fast access to high-quality services
2. Early identification and support
3. Helping vulnerable children and youth with unique needs

**SUBJECT: New Children's Mental Health Funding for Child & Adolescent Services (BOH11034) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 4**

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These new permanent allocated funds represent a key investment for Ontario's children and youth by building the capacity of services such as C&A to provide short-term therapy to help an additional 250 children and their families in Hamilton and reduce wait times. In total, an additional 13,000 children and youth across the province will receive service.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Consultation has occurred with the area office MCYS supervisor regarding the terms and conditions of this new funding, as outlined in this report.

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

MCYS set criteria for funding and the allocation made to C&A came as a result of this process. Going forward, the newly allocated funds will be tracked separately from base funding with service target and budget reconciliations occurring quarterly back to the funder. Through the allocation of these funds, C&A will:

1. Be able to hire 5 additional registered health professionals who will bring expertise in children's mental health counselling, augmenting the skill sets of an already strong, innovative and established clinical team.
2. Increase C&A's capacity to be an even greater critical link in the children's service delivery system in Hamilton by working in partnership with other service providers to offer innovative and evidence informed services to help to more effectively serve the children, youth and families of the City of Hamilton.
3. Address issues identified by community partners through C&A's Situational Assessment related to lengthy wait lists and limited access to services (Child and Adolescent Services Situational Assessment (BOH10027a)).

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

The Board of Health could decide not to approve the requested 5.0 FTE increase. This is not recommended for the following reasons:

**SUBJECT: New Children's Mental Health Funding for Child & Adolescent Services (BOH11034) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 4**

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1. This new FTE is a 100% funding increase to PHS' base budget.
2. This funding will address issues identified by community partners through C&A's Situational Assessment related to lengthy wait lists and access to services (Child and Adolescent Services Situational Assessment (BOH10027a))
3. This funding will contribute directly to the City's vision of *"Making Hamilton the best place to raise a child."*

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)**

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development, 6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

***Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization***

- ◆ A culture of excellence
- ◆ A skilled, adaptive and diverse workforce, i.e. more flexible staff
- ◆ More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus

***Intergovernmental Relationships***

- ◆ Influence provincial policy development to benefit Hamilton through the exploration of more innovative service delivery models.
- ◆ Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

***Social Development***

- ◆ People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma

***Healthy Community***

- ◆ Adequate access to food, water, shelter and income, safety, work, recreation and support for all (Human Services)

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

N/A