



Staff Report

Date: May 16, 2012

To: Board of Health

From: Carol MacDougall

Subject: **Vienna Declaration – Additional Information**

11.1(b)

PURPOSE: To provide additional information about the Vienna Declaration and rationale for why the Perth District Health Unit should support it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: No financial implications for Perth District Health Unit.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Support from our Board of Health would strengthen the ability of Perth District Health Unit staff to engage in concerted effort with community partners to address issues identified in recent Perth and Huron County reports (as listed below), through the implementation of evidence-based policy:

1. "Starting the Conversation: A Report on Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling in Perth and Huron Counties"
2. "It Affects Us All: A Report on Mental Illness in Perth County"
3. "The Time is Now: A Plan for Enhancing Community-based Mental Health and Addiction Services in the South West LHIN".

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

- Endorse the Vienna Declaration, enabling Dr. Klassen to register the Perth District Health Unit as a signatory on the Vienna Declaration website.
- Consider circulating a letter with the attached background information and Staff Reports to the Drug Strategy Task Force and all other Ontario Public Health Units encouraging their endorsement of the Vienna Declaration.
- Consider a media release to inform county residents of this endorsement as a follow-up action to the recent report, "Starting the Conversation: A Report on Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling in Perth and Huron Counties".

BACKGROUND:

In November of 2011, the Board of Health of the Perth District Health Unit received the staff report, "The Vienna Declaration" (see attached), and voted to defer signing the declaration pending further information, which is now provided in this report (see attached.)

CONCLUSIONS:

This is an opportunity for the Perth District Health Unit to communicate the importance of implementing evidence-based approaches when addressing the issue of illegal drug use, and thereby optimally benefiting the citizens of our county.

CONTACT:

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

Staff Report –The Vienna Declaration, November 2011.
Additional Information on the Vienna Declaration, May 2012.

REFERENCES:

Huron Perth Social Research and Planning Council. (May 2012). Starting the Conversation: A Report on Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling in Perth and Huron Counties. Retrieved from:
http://socialresearchandplanning.ca/Welcome_Page_SRPC_files/Starting%20The%20Conversation.pdf

Perth County Social Research and Planning Council. (Nov 2008). It Affects Us All: A Report on Mental Illness in Perth County. Retrieved from:
http://www.socialresearchandplanning.ca/Welcome_Page_SRPC_files/MentalHealthReport2008FINAL.pdf

Whaley and Company for the South West Addiction and Mental Health Coalition and the South West Local Health Integration Network. (Nov 2011). The Time is Now: A Plan for Enhancing Community-based Mental Health and Addiction Services in the South West LHIN. Retrieved from:
http://www.southwestlhlin.on.ca/uploadedFiles/Public_Community/Current_Initiatives/Mental_Health/Community%20Capacity%20Report-final_Nov16_2011.pdf