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Re: Request to appear before the Emergency and Community Services Committee on November 1, 2012, respecting Agenda **Item 4.1 Proposed Discretionary Benefits Budget Options.**

City of Hamilton Community Services Department Benefit Eligibility Division Report (CS12020 (b) includes recommendation to eliminate funding of Adult Day Program User Fees (pages 7 of both main report and appendices). Rationale for recommendation includes:

- Primary Funding is provided by the MOHLTC via the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to service providers in the community
- Community providers can apply for increased funding for users unable to pay their user fee as part of their 3 year budget submission which is due 2013 (no guarantee that additional funding will be provided)

Regarding above rationale, Emergency and Community Services Committee members and staff should be aware:

- HNHB LHIN has recently informed Adult Day Programs (along with other HNHB LHIN Funded Community Support Agencies) that no funding increases will be allowed for existing services for both the 2012 -2013 and 2013 -2014 fiscal years ***hence no additional funding to subsidize user fees through HNHB LHIN***
- Although SAM Program has some existing subsidy assistance in budget, amounts quite limited due to increased program expenses and 0% budget increase

Elimination of funding of Adult Day Program User Fees will have negative impact on already compromised group of low income seniors, adults with diminished abilities and caregivers living in our community which rely on this subsidy.

Adult Day Service Programs provide a structured day out for older adults with disabilities and adults who require additional support to participate in social, physical and recreational activities. Many caregivers also benefit from the regular respite care that our programs provide. Refer to "Hamilton Adult Day Program Guide" for more information. Seniors Activation Maintenance (SAM) Program is one of seven Adult Day

Programs serving Hamilton residents.

Adult Day Program user fees funding elimination will have the greatest impact at our SAM Central Program site located within First Place in downtown Hamilton.

Presently 43% (29/68) of SAM Central program participant program fees are subsidized through the City Of Hamilton which is representative of the population served by this site.

Elimination of Adult Day Program User Fee subsidy could also mean the need for restructuring and/or relocation of our SAM Central site which is an important support service within the downtown area of Hamilton.

To date Hamilton Adult Day Programs have not received formal notice of possible elimination of Adult Day Program User Fees subsidy effective December 31, 2012.

As a result, sufficient time has not been given to explore alternative services or funding sources for this vulnerable group of individuals which will be negatively affected.

Capping the number of days that a person may be subsidized to attend an Adult Program should be explored instead of a complete elimination of this benefit should be considered so that low income seniors and adults with disabilities are not at risk of complete social isolation and its related problems.

Respectfully Submitted by

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