

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

Minister's Office

56 Wellesley Street West
14th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2S3
Tel.: 416 212-7432
Fax: 416 212-7431

**Ministère des Services
à l'enfance et à la jeunesse**

Bureau de la ministre

56, rue Wellesley Ouest
14^e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2S3
Tél. : 416 212-7432
Télééc. : 416 212-7431



JAN 31 2013

CMB-13-119432

His Worship Bob Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the City of Hamilton Board of Health regarding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. I appreciate the opportunity to respond and provide some information.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children helps to support women, children and their families from the prenatal period through to the child's transition to school. Through a combination of screening, assessment and support services, the program helps children to achieve their full potential. We have noted the City of Hamilton Board of Health's decision to reduce the Family Home Visitors from the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program services.

As I indicated in my October 12, 2012 letter to the Medical Officers of Health, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is working with its Healthy Babies Healthy Children partners to improve the program to more quickly and effectively identify and support vulnerable children and their families. The changes in the 2012 Healthy Babies Healthy Children Protocol include:

- a new, evidence-based and more detailed Healthy Babies Healthy Children screen that provides greater focus on risk identification for families who can benefit from home visiting services;
- a streamlined screening process that eliminates additional and duplicate screens currently administered to families;
- education and training for public health nurses to strengthen and standardize service delivery;
- development of a family service plan which helps to support service providers and families receiving Healthy Babies Healthy Children services to develop family-centred goals; and
- a package for every new parent that includes information about infant and child development, other available programs and local contact numbers for further assistance.

.../cont'd

In addition, we have approved new base funding for 36 additional full-time equivalent Public Health Nurse positions to support the delivery of the program across the province, with one full-time position allocated to the City of Hamilton Board of Health. I can assure you that there are no funding reductions to Healthy Babies Healthy Children as part of the work underway. These changes will continue to position the program as a key opportunity to support families in your community and across the province.

One of the goals of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is to promote optimal physical, cognitive, communicative and psychosocial development in children through a system of effective prevention and early intervention services for families. This goal can be achieved by implementing all of the program's components, including family home visiting.

Your letter indicates that in this challenging economic environment, Public Health Units must make decisions that support the needs of their communities. We will continue to work with our service delivery partners to help ensure that communities receive the needed services that support all families.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to support women, children and their families.

Yours truly,



Laurel Broten
Minister

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
MAR 19 2013	
REC'D BY _____	DATE _____
REF'D TO _____	DATE _____
REF'D TO _____	DATE _____
REF'D TO _____	DATE _____
ACTION: <i>for BOH</i> <i>Agenda</i>	