

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Board of Health Meeting Date: June 17, 2013

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MERULLA.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

UNIVERSAL DENTAL PLANS

WHEREAS oral diseases, including dental caries and periodontal disease are the among the most prevalent chronic diseases in humans;

AND WHEREAS oral diseases can lead to infection, pain, abscesses, chewing problems, poor nutritional status and gastrointestinal disorders; can affect individuals' sense of self-esteem, ability to learn, and potential to thrive; and are linked to serious health conditions including respiratory infections, cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke), diabetes, low birth weight babies, and bone-related and inflammatory conditions in seniors including osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis;

AND WHEREAS in Canada, approximately 60 percent of the dental services are paid through employment insurance plans, 5 percent are publicly funded through government programs like Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT), Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO), and Ontario Works Children; leaving 35 percent of dental services being paid out-of-pocket, which can result in inequitable access to oral health services, as well as oral health outcomes; and, a lower percentage of city of Hamilton residents than Canadians have dental insurance, putting our population at higher risk of unchecked dental decay;

AND WHEREAS better access to oral health services could result in savings to the health care system;

AND WHEREAS the basic minimum standard of care must include examinations, x-rays, preventive services (topical fluoride, sealants and scaling), restorations, extractions and root canal on anterior teeth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the findings of Oral Health - More Than Just Cavities, a report by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, 2012 (attached hereto), be supported;
- (b) That the Province of Ontario be requested to adopt the four recommendations for action; supporting improved and equitable access to oral care services in Ontario, contained in the More Than Just Cavities, a report by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, 2012 (attached hereto);

- (c) That the Province of Ontario be requested to unify all of the provincially funded dental programs for children (Children in Need of Treatment, Healthy Smiles Ontario, Ontario Works for Children, and Ontario Disability Services Plan) under one Provincial plan that would include the same eligibility criteria, fee guides and administration; focusing on those that are marginalized, self-employed and/or under-employed and offering the basic minimum standard of care;
- (d) That the Province of Ontario be requested to implement a universal dental plan for seniors, under one Provincial plan that would include the same eligibility criteria, fee guides and administration; focusing on those that are marginalized, self-employed and/or under-employed and offering the basic minimum standard of care;
- (e) That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA); the Ontario Public Health Association; Local Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and, all Boards of Health in Ontario.