



## **Administrative Report**

### **Office of the Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS**

**To:** Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

**From:** Bruce Krauter  
Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022

**Subject:** Title Ownership of Mobile High Priority Community Healthcare Clinic

**Report #:** 2022-0316-EMS-R01-BK

---

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to give information on the High Priority Community Program, the need for a mobile healthcare clinic within the municipalities of Essex County and the City of Windsor, and the opportunity to obtain a mobile healthcare clinic through provincial funding.

#### **Background**

In 2021, Windsor/Essex County received \$1.2 million High Priority Community (HPC) Funding from the Province of Ontario. The HPC program was put in place to deliver key health care interventions to "hard hit" neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by COVID across our region. The local lead agency is to work in partnership with Ontario Health, public health units, municipalities, and other community partners to deliver these interventions in identified areas. Indicators for a high priority community were initially based on low COVID testing rates, high positivity, and sociodemographic barriers to testing and self-isolation.

The local lead agency appointed for the HPC funding is the Canadian Mental Health Association – Windsor Essex Branch (CMHA-WECEB). The funding is under the direct oversight of the CEO, Ms. Claudia den Boer.

Since early 2021, and to date, the HPC funding has had a positive impact of not only improving testing and vaccination rates but providing primary health care to various high priority neighborhoods across Windsor and Essex County.

The actions of the HPC strategy include the following as a foundation:

- Tailored community outreach and engagement;
- Increase access to testing; and
- Wraparound supports using a case management approach.

Through the network of CMHA-WECB, the relationships built during the pandemic and the formation of the Windsor Essex Ontario Health Team (WEOHT), the HPC Program has been able to meet the action items and build upon them. The County of Essex, through EWEMS, is a partner of the HPC Program and a signatory partner of the WEOHT. EWEMS worked alongside other HPC partners and can speak to the value of providing care directly within the high priority neighborhoods. Strong collaborative efforts have provided testing, vaccination, health care and supports to some of our most vulnerable populations. Some examples include the vaccination centres in Kingsville and Leamington, testing at our agri-food facilities, and providing care in congregate care settings and homeless shelters.

The successes of the HPC program are largely attributed to the mobility and nimbleness of the team and services provided. Difficulties have arisen where suitable or secure structures could not be found, and tents or open-air spaces were utilized to provide healthcare. A mobile unit, capable of handling multiple people, providing better protection from weather elements, providing private care and having the ability to get into neighborhoods would be beneficial to the clients served, but also for the staff that provide the services.

In February 2022 HPC was projecting a significant surplus in the 2021/2022 funding and as a result, requested and received approval from the Province to purchase a capital asset in the form of a Mobile High Priority Community Clinic (MHPCC).

## Discussion

As CMHA, Erie Shores Health Care and EWEMS were key team providers of the HPC work, the group worked to source a vehicle that would meet current and future needs and is available in short order. A vehicle has been located and is available, is able to be retrofitted, meets the needs of the demographic served and is quoted to be within the approved surplus amount of the HPC funding (Appendix I). A local vendor, [MRA, Mobile Experiential](#) was contacted and CMHA is arranging to procure the asset. CMHA follows similar policies and practices as the County of Essex in procuring capital assets. The estimated cost of the mobile clinic is \$400,000. It has been determined that following a sole source procurement process is appropriate, as this asset is currently available, is a unique configuration and is a specialized piece of equipment.

Once the vehicle is placed into operation, it will be staffed by HPC and/or WEOHT clinical partners to provide care and services throughout Essex County and the City of Windsor. This unit will provide a safe, secure and controlled

environment while continuing the mobility and nimbleness of the successful HPC past practice. The unit will also be a key enabler of the WEOHT Year 1 population health outcomes.

One item that has been identified as a gap is the ownership and ongoing maintenance of the vehicle. CMHA nor other organizations within the HPC and WEOHT partners have neither the expertise, capacity or infrastructure to own the asset.

EWEMS and the County of Essex is identified as having the expertise, knowledge and infrastructure to own and maintain the vehicle. Using current or planned infrastructure, the vehicle could be housed indoors, secured and climate controlled. As EWEMS maintains and services a fleet of ambulances and response vehicles, this vehicle would be in line with current maintenance programs. The County of Essex has an extensive fleet insurance plan and adding this asset is not expected to be problematic. As the County has staff experienced and certified to drive the vehicle, moving the asset should not be a hinderance.

The HPC program is suggesting that the Title of the vehicle be in the name of The Corporation of the County of Essex, as an asset of the Corporation and be used for the services provided by HPC and/or the WEOHT. Ongoing costs of maintenance and repairs would be paid for by the County and invoiced to the HPC and/or WEOHT on a full cost recovery basis. Roles, responsibilities, future use and ownership of the asset would be contained within a user/owner contract or Memorandum of Understanding. In short, the County of Essex would not be responsible for any costs associated with the owning and operations of the vehicle.

## **Financial Implications**

Provided a Memorandum of Understanding is in place confirming the financial recovery nature of this ownership relationship, there are no financial implications to the County of Essex for the ownership, operations, replacement, ongoing maintenance, repairs or storage of the MHPCC. From a risk perspective, the inclusion of this asset in the Corporation's fleet insurance program may give rise to a negative claims history if this unit is involved in a claim.

Any insurance claim involving this asset may impact global fleet renewal rates, however, the likelihood or financial amount are indeterminable at this time.

## **Consultations**

The County Solicitor, the County Clerk and the County Treasurer were consulted in the preparation of the report and recommendation.

## Recommendation

That Essex County Council authorize the Clerk and Warden to execute all documents necessary to take ownership and title of a Mobile High Priority Community Clinic vehicle, to be utilized by the High Priority Community Program or partners of the Windsor Essex Ontario Health Team (WEOHT).

## Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bruce Krauter*

Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Concurred With,

*Mary Birch*

Mary Birch, Director, Council & Community Services/Clerk

Concurred With,

*David Sundin*

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., County Solicitor

Concurred With,

*Sandra Zwiers*

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Concurred With,

*Mike Galloway*

Mike Galloway, MBA, CMO, Chief Administrative Officer

| Appendix Number | Title                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| I               | Self-Propelled Single Mobile Clinic |