



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Subject: WEOHT – Amended Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement

Report #: 2025-0521-CAO-R06-SZ

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Report (the "**Report**") is to provide County Council with the history of the County's involvement in the Windsor-Essex Ontario Health Team ("**WEOHT**") and to seek County Council's confirmation that an amended Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement ("**CDMA**") may be signed by the Clerk and the Warden.

Background

In May of 2019, the then CAO, Robert Maisonville, presented Report # 2019-0515-ADM-R08-RM, Ontario Health Teams – County Participation (the "**2019 Report**"), to County Council. For ease of reference, the 2019 Report is appended to this Report as **Appendix A**.

The 2019 Report informed Council of the following:

- (1) That the Province had introduced Bill 74, *The People's Health Care Act, 2019*, which created a new agency called Ontario Health, would be phasing out the Local Health Integrated Networks ("**LHINs**") and would focus on the establishment of local Ontario Health Teams ("**OHTs**").
- (2) The intent was that the OHTs would provide for a full continuum of care, connecting patients and families with health providers and services.
- (3) In response to the move to OHTs and away from LHINs. Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare took the lead in exploring the formation

of the WEOHT.

- (4) The County was approached and asked to participate in the WEOHT in 3 areas, namely (1) the County as an upper tier municipal government, (2) Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Services ("**EMS**") as an emergency health service, and (3) the Sun Parlor Long Term Care Home ("**SPH**") as a long-term care home service.

Following receipt of the 2019 Report, County Council authorized the following:

- (1) a collaborative submission creating one OHT for the Essex-Windsor Region;
- (2) the sharing of information and data with the to be created WEOHT; and
- (3) that the Clerk and Warden be authorized to execute any documents required to establish participation in the WEOHT.

Since the 2019 Report, and the subsequent direction from Council, the County, EMS, and SPH have entered into a CDMA for the WEOHT. A copy of the original CDMA is appended to this Report as **Appendix B** for ease of reference.

Discussion

The County, EMS, and SPH all executed the original CDMA in 2022 following formal approval of the formation of the WEOHT being obtained from the Province.

The Steering Committee of the WEOHT is now calling for amendments to the CDMA, which are outlined in the draft amended CDMA appended to this Report as **Appendix C**.

The amended CDMA will result in the Steering Committee having 3 County representatives, with a member of County Administration representing the County (recommended to be the CAO), the Chief of EMS representing EMS, and the Administrator(s) of SPH representing SPH.

The fact that the CDMA is being amended was a good opportunity to bring this matter before Council for information and further discussion.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to the County for being a party to the WEOHT or for executing the amended CDMA. All funding for WEOHT is from provincial dollars, which can be explained in more detail when the Executive Director of WEOHT appears before Council to provide an update on the operations of the WEOHT.

Consultations

During the drafting of this Report consultations were held with the current Administrators of SPH, the Chief of EMS, and David Sundin in his role as County Solicitor.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council:

- (1) receive Report 2025-0521-CAO-R06-SZ, WEOHT – Amended Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement as information; and
- (2) reconfirm that the amended Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement may be executed by the Clerk and the Warden on behalf of the CAO representing the County as a municipal government, by the Chief of EMS on behalf of Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services, and by the Administrator(s) of SPH on behalf of the Sun Parlor Long Term Care Home.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Report of Robert Maisonville, being Report # 2019-0515-ADM-R08-RM
B	Fully Executed Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement
C	Draft Amended Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement