



Administrative Report

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Warden McNamara and Members of County Council

**From: Robert Maisonville
Chief Administrative Officer**

Date: May 15, 2019

Subject: Ontario Health Teams – County Participation

Report #: 2019-0515-ADM-R08-RM

Purpose

To advise and seek support of County Council for County inclusion in a collaborative submission by the Windsor Essex community of the Ontario Health Team Self-Assessment Form for the development and exploration of a regional Ontario Health Team (OHT) for Windsor Essex.

Background

On February 26, 2019, the Province introduced Bill 74, *The People's Health Care Act, 2019*. If passed, Bill 74 will guide the restructuring of the health care system in the province. The intent of the legislation is to build a connected health care system centred around patients, families and caregivers; streamline navigation of services; reduce fragmentation; improve access to secure digital tools and improve patient experience and access to services.

The focus of Bill 74 is the creation of a new agency called Ontario Health, phasing out the Local Health Integrated Networks (LHIN) and the establishment of local Ontario Health Teams (OHT). These OHTs would be clinically and fiscally responsible for the full continuum of care, connecting patients and families with health service providers and services. The initial introduction of OHTs is voluntary and intended to be phased in over several

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years. At maturity, it is expected that there will be approximately 30-50 OHTs, serving a population base of 50,000 to 300,000 (flexibility on size).

Providers and organizations eligible to become an OHT include, but are not limited to, at least three of the following types of service providers:

- Primary care;
- Secondary care;
- Home care or community support services;
- Mental health or addictions;
- Health promotion and disease prevention;
- Long-term care home services;
- Palliative care services;
- Emergency health services;
- Any other prescribed health care service or non-health service that supports the provision of health care services.

Discussion

In response to the Provincial government's announcement of Bill 74, regional health service providers have proactively engaged in discussions on the development of a Windsor Essex OHT. Unlike many other jurisdictions in the province, Windsor Essex is very fortunate to enjoy strong collaborative and supportive relationships across health sector organizations and municipal boundaries.

Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare is coordinating the completion and submission of the OHT Self-Assessment Form on behalf of the Windsor Essex health care providers. Provided below is a preliminary list of organizations presently engaged:

- Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
- Windsor Regional Hospital
- Erie Shores Healthcare
- City of Windsor
- County of Essex
 - Essex-Windsor EMS / Community Service – Housing with Supports / Sun Parlor Home
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Windsor Essex County Health Unit
- House of Sophrosyne
- Alzheimer's Society
- Family Health Teams

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- Family Services Windsor Essex
- Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre

The Province has outlined a multi-staged readiness assessment process to become an OHT:

- The first step is **Self-Assessment**, an open call of interested groups of providers and organizations assessment of their readiness based on application criteria as set out in the Provincial *Ontario Health Teams: Guidance Document for Health Care Providers and Organizations*. The first call for self-assessment opened on April 3, 2019, with a deadline submission to the province of May 15, 2019. **Note that Council approval is not required for the submission date, given the tight timeframe. Further, the application process is not intended to create any contractual or other legally enforceable obligation on the Ministry, the applicant or anyone else.**
- Based on the Self-Assessment evaluations, select groups will be invited to the second step, submission of **Full Application**.
- Then, based on Full Application scoring, a short list of groups will be selected for **In-Person Visits** in order to identify those most ready to begin implementation of the OHT model.

It is important to note that this exercise is not a pilot project, the process will continue with further application dates to be communicated at a later date until full provincial coverage is achieved. All groups who participate in the self-assessment process will receive access to supports that will help improve readiness for eventual implementation of the OHT model.

Given the breadth of organizations and the tight timeframe for submission, it is anticipated that the Windsor Essex collaborative will be considered *In Development*, at this time. Participation at this early stage provides opportunities to help guide the process, receive supports for eventual implementation and highlight to the province the extensive collaboration that exists in Windsor Essex.

Financial Implications

Financial consideration are not known at this time.

Base program funding for both Essex Windsor EMS and Sun Parlor Home (SPH) is provided directly from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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(MOHLTC), with minor program supports received through the Erie St. Clair LHIN, including a portion of the EMS - Vulnerable Patient Navigator program and SPH - Behavioural Support Team.

Funding for Housing with Supports is received through the City of Windsor as the regional Consolidated Municipal Service Provider (Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding).

It is anticipated that all health services related funding will eventually flow from the Ministry through the OHT to providers.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of Administration:

- **That** County Council endorse a collaborative submission of the Ontario Health Team Self-Assessment Form, inclusive of the County of Essex health service provisions, creating one Ontario Health Team for the Windsor Essex community, understanding that the governance model has not yet been determined and will continue to evolve over time, and further;
- **That** County Council authorize Administration to participate and share information and data with the Windsor Essex collaboration group for the sole purpose of developing, implementing and making operational an Ontario Health Team, as long as it adheres to the requirements of any funding agreements and relevant information and Privacy Information Acts including, but not limited to, MFIPPA and PHIPA, and further;
- **That** the County Clerk and the Warden be authorized to execute any documents required to establish participation in the Windsor Essex Ontario Health Team.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Maisonville

Originally Signed by

Robert Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer