



## INFORMATION UPDATE

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| <b>TO:</b>               | Mayor and Members<br>City Council  |
| <b>DATE:</b>             | May 16, 2019   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | Hamilton Health Team Self-Assessment Submission (City Wide)                |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> | City Wide  |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>     | Paul Johnson<br>General Manager<br>Healthy and Safe Communities Department |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>        |  |

On May 15, 2019, a group of over 20 health and social service providers from across Hamilton, including hospitals, primary care, home care, the City's Healthy and Safe Communities Department and other community agencies, co-chaired by two patient advocates, submitted an expression of interest (a self-assessment proposal) to be considered as an early implementer of the Ontario Health Team (OHT) model.

As outlined in Report BOH19020 presented to the Board of Health in April, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announced plans earlier this year to better connect the health care system by implementing local Ontario Health Teams (OHTs). OHTs are groups of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and co-ordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population. In April, the MOHLTC released a prescribed, multi-phased process for formal applications by health and social service agencies seeking to be selected an early implementer of the OHT concept.

While this is a competitive process, Hamilton's many assets and its history of collaboration make this community well positioned to be an early implementer of this new model of care. Being selected as an early implementer of the OHT concept presents significant opportunities for Hamilton's health and social service sector to be more coordinated and integrated than ever before - expanding the collective impact and efforts of the systems. Additionally, this presents an opportunity to advance ideas for stronger population health approaches that have been discussed through the work of the Hamilton Anchor Institution Leadership (HAIL).

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

### **Alignment with the Healthy and Safe Communities (HSC) Department Mandate**

The participation of the City's HSC Department in the OHT application enables the City to further strengthen partnerships across the sector to address social determinants and health inequities in the system in the longer term, creating meaningful change for residents. HSC is a service provider, service system manager and funder of many program areas identified by the MOHLTC as possible partners for the OHT including housing, mental health and addictions services, long-term care, and community support programs.

OHTs have important relevance to advancing the work of the following HSC program areas and services:

- Public Health Services (health promotion and disease prevention, mental health and addictions)
- Hamilton Paramedic Service (emergency health services)
- Human Services and Long-Term Care (including housing, social assistance, neighbourhood development and our two long-term care facilities)

### **Target Populations**

While still in very early stages, the Hamilton Health Team proposal is working towards long-term improvements in the overall health and well-being of the whole community, while balancing a short-term focus on redesigning how to connect, coordinate, and deliver health and community support services to better serve two vulnerable populations.

In the short term (Year 1) the team proposes to focus on the following populations:

- Individuals (adults, youth, children) with mental health and addiction concerns: Hamilton's community mental health and substance use challenges have been well documented by Public Health's population health assessment and identified as priority health issue.
- Seniors with multiple chronic conditions: integration and better coordination of health and social services (housing, long-term care, in-home support services) is required to proactively support this population.

The proposed Hamilton Health Team will build on integrated care delivery success that has been shown to reduce emergency department visits, hospital readmissions, and the number of patients in Alternate Level of Care and improve overall patient satisfaction. Better coordination of services could contribute to fewer ambulance offload delays, better home-care coordination and supports in housing for vulnerable seniors, and better access to and coordination of the full continuum of mental health and addictions services and supports. Above all, creating a more connected and integrated health and social service

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system that provides outcomes for residents directly contributes to the City's vision to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

**Next steps**

The OHT application is a competitive process and is still at a very early stage. The MOHLTC will be reviewing these initial self-assessment proposals and will provide a formal response in early June. Successful applicants for this first stage of the process will be invited by the MOHLTC to submit a full application by July 12, 2019. The government has indicated that approved OHTs will be announced in the fall of 2019, though this will be an evolving application process.

The Hamilton Health team will continue to move forward with planning on the assumption the team will be invited to complete a full application. The next steps include working diligently to develop a robust partner and community engagement strategy with multiple entry points in order to seek input from health and social service providers, community organizations, patients and families in the co-design of this new model of care in Hamilton. At this stage a more formal report to Council would be provided detailing the partnership and any formal commitments the City would be required to make.

Should you require further information about the Hamilton Health Team planning please contact Paul Johnson, General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department at ext. 5647 or [Paul.Johnson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Paul.Johnson@hamilton.ca).