



REPORT TO: Co-Chairs and Members of the
Public Health and Social Services Committee

SUBJECT: 2008 Seniors Services Amending Agreements
Between Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB)
Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and Niagara Region

RECOMMENDATION

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that the Regional Chairman and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2008 Amending Agreements with Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for the receipt of an additional \$372,000 annually and the creation of corresponding 8.0 full-time equivalents (FTEs) of Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) positions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff are in receipt of correspondence from the LHIN requesting the execution of the 2008 Amending Agreements for each of the eight long-term care homes operated by Niagara Region's Seniors Services (one Amending Agreement attached). Seniors Services will subsequently receive \$372,000 toward the addition of one full-time RPN per home.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provincial subsidy will be increased by a total of \$372,000 (i.e. \$46,500 per home for 8 homes). The additional funding is approximately equal to full-time wages for one FTE of RPN per home. Any shortfall of funds for wages and benefits will be covered by the unallocated surplus of Provincial CMI revenue and/or covered by savings from vacant part-time RPN positions (if approved by the LHIN). Accordingly, there will be no requirement for additional funding from the Region.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain the necessary Committee and Council approval to authorize the Regional Chairman and Clerk to execute the eight Amending Agreements with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) enabling the receipt of an additional \$372,000 for the introduction of one additional RPN position per home.

BACKGROUND

In May 2007, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced \$57.7 million in annual funding for 1,200 new and permanent RPN positions in all long-term care homes in Ontario so that each home receives funding to create one new full-time RPN position. It is a requirement that the Region enter into Amending Agreements with the LHIN for each of the eight long-term care homes to receive this newly announced funding for these additional RPN positions.

REPORT

Currently, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the LHIN has existing Service Agreements with each of the Region's long-term care homes. These agreements outline the expectations for resident accommodation, care, services, programs and goods in an effort to ensure that all long-term care homes in Ontario are operated within the applicable legislation, the Ministry's Program Manual and the specifics of the agreement. Report COM 57-2006, dated September 19, 2006, approved the execution of these existing Service Agreements.

The Amending Agreements for the new RPN funding are to be treated as an increase in funding and are subject to the terms and conditions of the existing Service Agreements. These funds are dedicated funds and can only be spent for the creation of one new full-time RPN position per home. This new funding which begins January 1, 2008 annualizes to \$46,500 per home in 2008. Accordingly, staff are recommending the execution of the Amending Agreements between the LHIN and the Region's eight long-term care homes.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Brian Hutchings
Commissioner, Community Services

Mike Trojan
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Dominic Ventresca, Director, Senior Services and Judy Sobchak, Operational Support Services and reviewed by Cathy Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services.

Appendix 1 Sample of Amending Agreement