
Niagara Region

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

SUBJECT: Receipt of Additional Funding for Seniors Community
Programs from the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB)
Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN)

RECOMMENDATION

That this Committee recommends to Regional Council that:

1. this report be received for information.
2. the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any required accountability agreement with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (HNHB) Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) in order to receive the identified Provincial funding for the project enhancement, and additional staff.
3. the additional funding from the LHIN be applied to:
 - a) continue with the expanded or enhanced Seniors Community Programs from the previously approved Emergency Department Action Plan (EDAP) funding.
 - b) Add 1.0 full-time equivalents (FTEs) of required staff with the exclusive utilization of the LHIN funding, to support the intended expansion or enhancement of the identified Seniors Community Programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Regional Council has been apprised of ambulance “off load delays”, the long waiting lists for long-term care homes in Niagara, and the large number of patients in local hospitals awaiting placement to alternate facilities or discharge to the community.
- As part of a Niagara community collaborative, Niagara Region’s Seniors Services has received approval of its request for continued funding of four of its enhanced community support programs from the HNHB LHIN
- Approximately \$897,000 has been approved by the HNHB for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to support the expanded and enhanced
 - Alzheimer Respite Companion Program
 - Alzheimer Overnight Respite Program
 - Adult Day Service in south Niagara
 - Supportive Housing in west Niagara.
- The funding will be applied to sustain the expanded and enhanced programs that had been previously funded by the LHIN for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and to cover the full cost of the required additional 1.0 FTE to meet the enhanced programs’ requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no additional cost to the Region for the continuation of the identified community support programs, as LHIN funding will be exclusively used to cover ongoing costs and the costs of the additional 1.0 FTE. Funding has been identified by the LHIN for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and the subsequent fiscal year up to 2011.

PURPOSE

This report summarizes the additional funding received from the HNHB LHIN to enhance four Seniors Services community support programs for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

Alleviation of Health Services Pressures

Niagara Seniors Services received approximately \$650,000 from the HNHB LHIN for the 2007-2008 fiscal year for expansions and enhancements to four of its community support programs (Receipt of “Emergency Department Action Plan” Funding for Seniors Community Programs, COM 55-2007, November 20, 2007).

The LHIN approved the expansion of these programs to assist with alleviating health service pressures including ambulance “off load delays” at local hospital Emergency Departments, long waiting lists for long-term care homes in Niagara and the large number of patients in local hospitals awaiting placement to alternate facilities or discharge to the community (COM 55-2007, November 20, 2007).

REPORT

Multi-year Funding for Enhanced Seniors Community Program

The HNHB LHIN Board has approved \$896,779 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for Seniors Services to continue with the expansion and enhancement of its four community support services previously approved in October 2007. Specifically, the LHIN has approved the continuation of EDAP funding for the Alzheimers Overnight Respite Program and the Supportive Housing Program and the new Aging at Home funding for the Alzheimer Respite Companion Program and the Adult Day Service.

Program	Expansion/Enhancement	2007/08 Funding	Proposed FTEs
Alzheimers Respite Companion Program	Increase number of hours of in-home respite care across the Region to support family caregivers in the care of their loved ones with Alzheimers or related dementia.	\$199,386	0.5 FTE Intake Representative
Alzheimers Overnight Respite (T. Roy Adams Regional Centre for Dementia Care)	Expand the capacity of the Adams Centre to care for additional persons with dementia by increasing care staff on evening and night shifts and on Sundays. Increase support to family caregivers across the Region in caring for their loved ones at home.	\$193,758	0.2 FTE Housekeeping Aide
Adult Day Service (i.e., Seniors Day Programs)	Expand Monday to Friday daily hours of service and add Saturday service for South Niagara (at existing day program at Northland Pointe) to support working family caregivers in the care of their loved ones in the community. Improve access to day programs across the Region by expanding intake service and enabling prompt admission to the required community support program.	\$102,337	0 FTE
Supportive Housing in West Niagara	Enhance and expand supportive housing at Deer Park Villa by providing 24/7 access to "assisted living" services (e.g., personal care, medication management, meals, house-keeping, laundry and transportation to community services) to a total of 26 persons; and introduce a specialized bathing suite with fully accessible tub for assisted bathing, as required.	\$401,298	0.3 FTE Care Coordinator
TOTAL		\$896,779	1.0 FTE

NOTE: The \$896,779 supports the previously approved 6.1 FTE as well as the additional 1.0 FTE

Each of the above program enhancements or expansions support the LHIN's priority within its Integrated Health Services Plan relating to care of the frail elderly. The additional services will increase options for care available to vulnerable older adults transitioning from care in hospitals or considering placement in a long-term care home. All the local hospitals and other key community agencies, such as the Alzheimer Society, Community Support Services of Niagara and the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) have been consulted and concur with the value of these additional services. In concert with the other projects approved by the LHIN under "Emergency Department Action Plan" and the "Aging at Home" funding, Niagara Region's program enhancements will serve many more individuals and contribute to reducing some of the pressures on local hospitals and 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, Seniors Services.