Council Direction:
At the October 11 Council Meeting, the following motion was carried:

"That the previous Community Health Bus schedule to Beasley, namely half-day service every Monday, be immediately reinstated."

Information:
The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the reinstatement of Community Health Bus service at Beasley Community Centre, and the financial implications and service level changes that result. Community Health Bus service to Beasley is expected to resume on Monday, October 23, following reestablishment of the hydro connection.

As described in the information update provided to Councillors on October 6, a review of the Community Health Bus operation was undertaken in early 2006 in an effort to ensure that this service provides the greatest possible benefit for those in greatest need. As part of the review process, seventeen community stakeholders, including the Coordinator from the Beasley Community Centre, were approached and asked to participate in interviews. Ten agreed and were interviewed. The remaining seven either declined to be interviewed or could not be reached. One of the outcomes of this process was a decision to remove Beasley Community Centre from the Community Health Bus schedule.

This reinstatement has the following implications when compared with the planned service schedule:
Service Hours
Following the review process, the Bus schedule was modified to include only full day sites, as half day sites provide fewer overall hours of service for the reasons described below.

In order to change locations mid-day, dental staff must stop providing treatment at 11:15 am, and spend 45 minutes preparing the equipment for travel. This includes emptying the sterilizer, draining the X-ray developer and fixer solutions, and securing all equipment for transport. The Bus Driver arrives at noon to secure the awning, stow outside chairs, disconnect and store the electrical connection. He then drives to the next site, and sets up the Bus where dental staff refill the sterilizer, add solutions to the X-ray machine, and again set up all other dental equipment. The Bus is available for service at the afternoon site by about 1:30. Thus a half-day location means that the Bus is unavailable for service 2.25 hours each day, instead of just one hour over the lunch hour. Two or three clients could receive dental service during the 1.25 hours of lost service. When services provided by Public Health Nurses are included, it is estimated that 150 fewer clients per year will be able to receive service from the Bus with the reinstatement of the half-day sites.

Service at Wesley Centre and Pinky Lewis Centre
Wesley Centre and Pinky Lewis Centre will now receive service one half day every two weeks, instead of one full day every two weeks. As at Beasley, the majority of clients served at those two centres are adults, and belong to the marginalized populations targeted by the Bus as part of the Equal Access Mandatory Program.

Staffing Costs
A Program Assistant must be hired by the Community Services Department to work three hours on Monday afternoons, to allow the Beasley Community Centre to be open during Bus operation hours. This building, unlike some City owned facilities, has not been set up to allow access by the public without staff in the building. All Bus sites have a nearby building that people may use for shelter while waiting for Bus service. For example, at the Hess Street School site, people may wait in the school. The cost for providing a Program Assistant on Monday afternoons will be $1980 annually.

If increased funding is approved for the Community Services Department to allow enhanced programming at the Beasley Community Centre as part of the 2007 budget approval process, then this site would be open on Monday afternoons for additional services.

The Bus Driver’s hours of work must be increased to allow time for preparing the Bus for travel mid-day, driving the Bus to the new site, and then setting the Bus up for the afternoon. The increased Bus Driver cost will be $3080 annually.

Material Costs
There will be a slight increase in costs for Bus fuel and the dental fluids that are discarded mid-day. This is estimated to be $50 per month, or $600 annually. Replacement of the hydro coupling equipment will cost approximately $6,000 as a one-time cost.
Summary
The changes to Bus service following on the October 11 motion by Council will allow clients within the Beasley neighbourhood to obtain services from the Community Health Bus at their preferred location of the Community Centre. Overall costs will increase by an estimated $5,660 per year and one-time costs of $6,000 will be incurred. The additional costs will be covered within the existing budget for 2006, and included in the 2007 budget submission.

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