**TO:** Mayor and Members  
Board of Health  

**WARD(S) AFFECTED:** CITY WIDE  

**COMMITTEE DATE:** January 24, 2011  

**SUBJECT/REPORT NO:**  
Assignment of the Alcohol, Drug & Gambling (ADGS) Methadone Case Manager to the Hamilton Family Health Team (HFHT) (BOH11002) (City Wide)  

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health Services Department  

**PREPARED BY:**  
Susan Boyd 905 546-2424 ext. 2888  

**SIGNATURE:**  

**RECOMMENDATION**  

(a) That the City deliver substance use services addressing the issue of opiate misuse on-site at the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., one day per week for a one-year term, with a renewal option for an additional one year, and;  

(b) That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to execute an agreement between the City and the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, to implement the above recommendation, and;  

(c) That a temporary increase in complement by 0.2 FTE for Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS), funded by the Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., to deliver the above program be approved.  

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  

The Family Health Team of Hamilton Inc., operating as the Hamilton Family Health Team (HFHT) provides primary care to patients in 114 medical sites throughout Hamilton. The physicians and mental health counsellors have identified that pain and
the misuse of opiates is an issue for patients and it would be beneficial to provide education and supportive counselling concerning the risks and effects of continued misuse of opiates. Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) has delivered a program addressing these issues, the Methadone Case Management Program, to the community for the past 5 years. Because of this specialized service and knowledge, the HFHT has requested a trained worker from ADGS be assigned to their workplace one day per week to work with their addiction counsellor to deliver a program focusing on education, referrals and supportive counselling.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4**

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<tr>
<th>FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)</th>
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<td><strong>Financial:</strong> Funding for this one-year pilot project is expected to cost $17,628, which will be funded by the HFHT.</td>
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<td><strong>Staffing:</strong> Funding will be used to backfill the 0.2 FTE assignment by increasing existing part-time hours. If the decision is made to renew the contract for 2012 it will be included in the 2010 budget process.</td>
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<td><strong>Legal:</strong> Implementation of this recommendation will require Legal Services to prepare a service contract between the City and the HFHT.</td>
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<th>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)</th>
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<td>Public Health Services provides a Methadone Case Management Program for individuals who are concerned about their use of opiates, or are receiving methadone maintenance therapy in Hamilton. Case management services are considered an important component of a comprehensive methadone program. Individuals who misuse opiates or receive methadone maintenance treatment often experience issues in other areas of their life that need to be addressed such as, housing, health, employment and finances. Services provided within the case management program include, education, assistance to identify strategies and supports to improve daily functioning, referrals, and monitoring of change made to the use of opiates.</td>
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<td>The HFHT has identified that within their practices misuse of opiates is a concern and recognized the need to design services specifically to address this issue within their organization. ADGS was approached as a potential partner in this initiative to deliver</td>
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services on site, and engaging individuals in early intervention strategies potentially prevents further development of negative health and social consequences.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This service agreement will be implemented in accordance to City of Hamilton Purchasing and Finance & Administration policies.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Eleonora Filippone, from Legal Services, was consulted and required approval for authority to enter into contract with HFHT. Otherwise no concerns were noted.

The Hamilton Addiction Services Coalition are in support of this initiative.

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

ADGS has a longstanding history of providing services to individuals who misuse or abuse opiates. Provincial funding was received 5 years ago to provide a specific case management program to address the needs of individuals receiving methadone maintenance treatment or who are using opiates and looking for alternative treatment. ADGS is recognized in the community for having knowledge and skills in the area of opiates and providing support to this population.

Many individuals may not access the services of an addiction treatment agency, however, may be identified within primary care as having early issues related to opiate use. Often individuals are comfortable receiving care within their family doctor’s office and the Hamilton Family Health Team is structured to provide enhanced services to patients. The collaboration between ADGS and the HFHT would provide an opportunity to increase capacity and offer early intervention services to individuals potentially preventing more severe consequences from the inappropriate use of opiates.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

Public Health could continue to provide services only at the ADGS site which would not allow for expansion of services to this population.
CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN  (Linkage to Desired End Results)


Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization
- More innovation, greater teamwork, better client focus

Financial Sustainability
- Delivery of municipal services and management capital assets/liabilities in a sustainable, innovative and cost effective manner

Intergovernmental Relationships
- Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

Growing Our Economy
- An improved customer service

Social Development
- Residents in need have access to adequate support services

Healthy Community
- Adequate access to food, water, shelter and income, safety, work, recreation and support for all (Human Services)

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Not Applicable.