To: Mayor and Members
   Board of Health

From: Elizabeth Richardson
      Medical Officer of Health

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Date: March 7, 2006

Re: Children’s Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) Accreditation PH06006 (City Wide)

Council Direction
Not applicable

Information:

Child and Adolescent Services, within Public Health Services, was awarded accreditation by Children’s Mental Health Ontario for a period of four years, effective January 16, 2006.

Child and Adolescent Services is an outpatient children’s mental health centre that is funded 100% by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This service provides counselling to 700 or more new children and adolescents and their families in the City of Hamilton each year.

One in five children and youth under 19 has a mental health disorder (Statistics Canada 2003). Serious behaviour and emotional problems include bullying, violence, fire setting, sexual offending, depression, suicide, anxiety, substance abuse and disruptive behaviours along with serious psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, anorexia and bulimia.

Child and Adolescent Services is a member of Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) which is a Provincial organization that promotes and supports a system of 79 children’s mental health centres throughout Ontario. Through its accreditation program, CMHO sets standards that ensure that programs are delivered consistently and to a high standard. Accreditation also ensures accountability and adherence to evidenced based practices within the field of children’s mental health. Accreditation formally acknowledges a centre’s achievement of the standards and provides an incentive to continuously improve services and treatment methods.
Children’s Mental Health Ontario Accreditation involves a review of set standards determined through Provincial Standards Committees. The review itself consists of a process of review by professional peers who identify both strengths and areas for improvement and provide objective information about a centre’s functioning.

The standards for accreditation encompass the four major aspects of a centre’s operation: programming, staffing, governance and management. A site review is conducted in which staff and management are interviewed, policies are reviewed and files are audited. The community agencies that work closely with the member agency are also involved through a questionnaire inviting feedback on the centre’s performance. To achieve full accreditation, a centre must meet 100% of 22 Mandatory Standards and a minimum of 80% of 115 Defining Standards.

Child and Adolescent Services achieved 100% of the Mandatory Standards, as required and 90.6% of the Defining Standards which exceeds the total percentage required.

Elizabeth Richardson
Medical Officer of Health