SUBJECT: North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Resolutions Regarding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (BOH07039) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the Board of Health forward a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services requesting that allocated administrative costs be funded in the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program budget.

(b) That the Board of Health advocate for a systematic approach to funding of the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program through relevant provincial planning bodies (e.g. Association of Local Public Health Agencies and the Ontario Public Health Association).

(c) That the item “North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Resolutions regarding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program” referred from the April 23, 2007 Board of Health be removed from the Outstanding Business list.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the April 23, 2007 Board of Health meeting Public Health Services (PHS) was asked to develop a recommendation report reviewing the approach taken by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSHU) regarding funding to the Healthy Babies,
Healthy Children (HBHC) Program. Subsequent to the submission of the NBPSHU resolutions to their Board of Health, MCYS notified health units of increases to their 2007 HBHC budgets. The City of Hamilton received a 3.6% increase over the 2006 budget. Although a budget increase was received, concerns remain regarding the province’s approach to developing and maintaining a consistent evidenced-based approach to the HBHC Program. It is therefore recommended that PHS advocate for a systematic approach to reviewing HBHC through relevant provincial planning bodies (e.g. Association of Local Public Health Agencies and the Ontario Public Health Association. In addition, PHS will continue to advocate for improved implementation standards consistent with the home visiting effectiveness literature, revisiting service targets and lay-professional visiting ratios, funding criteria, and evaluation measures.

As per the NBPSHU resolutions, administrative costs have never been part of the HBHC budget allocation from MCYS. PHS incurs administrative costs in three main areas: Finance and Admin staff time (for budget preparation and reports), Director and Medical Officer of Health time (for strategic development, budget review, program updates, issues management, and oversight of the HBHC program), and rent for office space. It is recommended that the Board of Health write a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services requesting that allocated administrative costs be funded in the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program is a 100% funded prevention/early intervention initiative intended to improve the well being and long-term prospects of children. HBHC consists of seven services:

- Telephone Intake, Screening and Assessment
- Universal Postpartum Program (Postpartum Telephone Assessments and Home Visits)
- In-Depth Assessments for Families with Identified Risk Factors for Growth and Development
- Public Health Nurse and Family Home Visitor Home Visits to At-risk Families
- Referral and Linkage to Needs Based Supports and Services.
- Service Co-ordination for High Risk Families
- Early Identification of children at risk for poor development

At the April 23, 2007 Board of Health meeting Public Health Services was asked to develop a recommendation report reviewing the approach taken by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSHU) regarding funding to the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program. The NBPSHU has developed four policy documents:

- Board of Health resolution regarding the inadequacy of their HBHC budget
- Letter to Minister Chambers regarding their HBHC budget
- Board of Health resolution regarding the lack of MCYS funding for administrative costs within the HBHC budget
- Letter to Minister Chambers requesting that allocated administrative costs be funded in the HBHC budget
ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

In the new draft Ontario Public Health Standards, the prenatal component of HBHC has been added into Reproductive Health (HBHC currently is only in Child Health) signalling the province’s continued commitment to this foundational program. However, at the present time there are wide variations across the province regarding how the various components of this program have been implemented. As the program has matured there have been less centralized supports to skill building of staff (e.g. training of Public Health Nurses and Family Home Visitors), Continuous Quality Improvement, and Quality Assurance activities. PHS has made concerted efforts to build on best practices (e.g. Postpartum Assessment Clinic Model) and is committed to ongoing professional development of staff. It is recommended that PHS advocate for a systematic approach to reviewing the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program through relevant provincial planning bodies (e.g. Association of Local Public Health Agencies and the Ontario Public Health Association. In addition, PHS will continue to advocate for improved implementation standards consistent with the home visiting effectiveness literature, revisiting service targets and lay-professional visiting ratios, funding criteria, and evaluation measures.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

PHS could continue to subsidize the administrative costs for HBHC through other budgets. PHS could also chose not to advocate for changes within the HBHC Program, recognizing that despite the issues that exist, we are providing a much-needed service to a large number of pregnant women, postpartum mothers and their newborns, and families with young children.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The HBHC budget has an equity funding formula component which assists MCYS in allocating funds based on: population size, indices of needs, and the cost of providing services. Subsequent to the submission of the NBPSHU resolutions to their Board of Health, MCYS notified health units of increases to their 2007 HBHC budgets. The City of Hamilton received an increase of $111,121, a 3.6% increase over the 2006 budget. The following chart summarizes the HBHC provincial budget allocation from 2002 to 2007.
SUBJECT: Health Unit Resolutions Regarding the HBHC Program (BOH07039)
(City Wide) - Page 4 of 5

City of Hamilton Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Budget 2002-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Increase in Total Budget</th>
<th>Total Approved Budget *</th>
<th>Total Salaries &amp; Wages</th>
<th>Total Operating Costs</th>
<th>FHV Contracts</th>
<th>Approved PHS FTE</th>
<th>FHV FTE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3,196,873</td>
<td>2,315,091</td>
<td>246,159</td>
<td>635,623</td>
<td>31.50</td>
<td>17.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3,085,752</td>
<td>2,219,970</td>
<td>230,159</td>
<td>635,623</td>
<td>31.50</td>
<td>18.1</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>2,979,933</td>
<td>2,124,075</td>
<td>222,258</td>
<td>633,600</td>
<td>32.00</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>2,770,895</td>
<td>1,961,310</td>
<td>222,186</td>
<td>587,399</td>
<td>28.20</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2,569,791</td>
<td>1,814,127</td>
<td>235,664</td>
<td>520,000</td>
<td>27.10</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2,524,914</td>
<td>1,724,350</td>
<td>252,564</td>
<td>548,000</td>
<td>30.25</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FHV = Family Home Visitor
* Excluding one-time grants
Note: 2007 total budget has been approved but resource allocation approval is pending

As per the NBPSHU resolutions, administrative costs have never been part of the HBHC budget allocation from MCYS. It is expected that health units subsidize the HBHC program through other means such as their cost-shared mandated public health programs (i.e. Child Health). PHS incurs administrative costs in three main areas: Finance and Admin staff time (for budget preparation and reports), Director and Medical Officer of Health time (for strategic development, budget review, program updates, issues management, and oversight of the HBHC program), and rent for office space.

Projected PHS administrative costs for HBHC in 2007 are:
Staffing $ 22,268
Operating Costs $ 99,200
Total $ 121,468

It is recommended that the Board of Health write a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services requesting that allocated administrative costs be funded in the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program budget.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

HBHC is part of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (Child Health) for Boards of Health. The Board of Health is required to implement the HBHC Program in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Community and Social Services Implementation Guidelines which stipulate the requirements for the seven program components outlined in the Background section of this report.
RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Public Health Services has consulted with the Finance and Administration Division regarding the preparation of the 2007 HBHC budget. PHS has also consulted with Hamilton’s designated Program Consultant from the MCYS regarding this year’s budget.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. □ Yes  ☑ No

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. □ Yes  ☑ No

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. □ Yes  ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? □ Yes  ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? □ Yes  ☑ No