MOTION

Board of Health Date: September 27, 2010

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR McHATTIE.................................................................

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.................................................................

Re: Concerns respecting the Access to Best Care (ABC) Plan for the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Hamilton Health Sciences

Whereas, in January 2008, Hamilton Health Sciences’ (HHS) announced the Access to the Best Care (ABC) Plan for the amalgamation and reorganization of virtually every one of its medical departments; and,

Whereas, McMaster University Medical Centre (MUMC) is the regional referral centre for high-risk obstetric patients from Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) 3 and 4; and,

Whereas, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department is not a stand-alone program like the Children’s Hospital, and is critically dependent on other major adult services such as Critical Care Medicine, Anaesthesia, etc.; and,

Whereas, the Obstetricians in Hamilton have unanimously opposed the ABC Plan as unsafe for patients coming under their care, and have communicated this concern to HHS, LHIN 3 members, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; and,

Whereas, the Physicians Advisory Committee on Obstetrics and Gynaecology (PACOG), working with HHS administration and using objective criteria, found the ABC Plan for the HHS Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to be both medically impractical and medically unsound as it pertains to patient safety; and,
Whereas, PACOG working with HHS administration recommended that HHS women’s reproductive health services relocate to a full-service adult hospital, either the Henderson Hospital or to St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH), and preferably amalgamate with the women’s reproductive services now located at SJHH; and,

Whereas, HHS has stated that such a move may not happen for ten years or longer, if at all; and,

Whereas, implementation of the ABC Plan would result in the only level three obstetric unit in the Province to function outside of a full-service adult hospital, with no clear plan for relocation to a full-service adult hospital, representing a failure to meet Provincial standards of care in this respect; and,

Whereas, the City of Hamilton has concern for the health and safety of our citizens, and in particular, the women and children who could be affected by changes to the Obstetrics and Gynaecology services in Hamilton;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

(a) That the City of Hamilton requests that Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS), St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) and key stakeholders, including HHS and SJHH Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Family Medicine, Midwifery, Pediatricians and Pediatric Subspecialties, Neonatology, and regional care providers; commit to convene and implement a process to identify the optimal model for Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology services within Hamilton that can be reasonably achieved with capital changes if necessary;

(b) That the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network participate in the process in keeping with their regional mandate;

(c) That, until such time as the optimal solution identified through the process, outlined in recommendation (a) above, can be implemented, the parties ensure that the necessary supports are in place and continue to be in place within Hamilton Health Sciences and St Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton to ensure that patient health and safety within the Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatology Services are protected and maintained; and,

(d) That the Medical Officer of Health report back to the Board of Health respecting the progress made in this area in June of 2011.