CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Living Division

TO: Mayor and Members
    Board of Health
WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE

COMMITTEE DATE: September 27, 2010

SUBJECT/REPORT NO:
Public Health School Asthma Project Budget (BOH10025) (City Wide)

SUBMITTED BY:
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Public Health Services Department

PREPARED BY:
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SIGNATURE:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2010-2011 budget for the Public Health School Asthma Project (PHSAP) in the amount of $100,200, which is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Health School Asthma Project is an evidence-based program with the goal of improving the well-being of children with asthma by providing education and support to schools and child care settings. Funding for 2010-11 has been confirmed at $100,200, which includes a 3% increase from the 2009-2010 base funding.

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)

Financial:

The project is funded 100% by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care, and funds 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse. The funding period is April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.
Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

Values: Honest, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Approved Annual Base Budget</th>
<th>One Time Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>$94,500</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>$97,300</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>$100,200</td>
<td>0</td>
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Staffing:

There are no staffing implications.

Legal:

There is an existing contractual agreement that governs the Public Health School Asthma Project that is signed by the Medical Officer of Health. The contract is reviewed annually by Legal Services staff, as part of the contract review process.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children. As many as one in five children in Ontario have asthma. It is a significant cause of hospitalization in children, and work absenteeism for parents. Asthma accounts for more missed school days than any other childhood illness.

In 2000, following recommendations from an inquest into the death of a teen with asthma, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced its Asthma Plan of Action. In 2002, fourteen pilot projects began, one being the Public Health School Asthma Pilot Project. Since completion of the pilot project in 2006, and as a result of its success, the Ministry has continued to fund four Health Units (Hamilton, Halton, Durham and Sudbury) to continue providing asthma education and resources to school communities including pre-school settings. Since 2003, the Public Health School Asthma Pilot Project (PHSAP) has been implemented in 52 Hamilton elementary schools. The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) has had an asthma protocol in place since 2008. All licensed childcare centre staff have access to asthma education sessions and resources.

Locally, the PHSAP Coordinator continues to collaborate with school administrators, teachers and Superintendents of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB), Affiliated Services for Children & Youth (ASCY), key primary care sites (North Hamilton Community Health Centre), and with staff from within Public Health Services (Physical Activity promotion, Tobacco Use prevention, Family Health, Environmental Health) as well as other City Departments (Community Services: Culture and Recreation, Children’s Services). On a provincial and national level, the Hamilton coordinator works...
closely with the coordinators from the other three participating health units, the Ontario Physical Health Education Association (Ophea), the Ontario Lung Association, the Asthma Society of Canada and representatives from the Ontario Ministries of Health & Long Term Care, Health Promotion and Education. Experts from the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children provide ongoing consultation and research support.

During 2010-2011, this project will continue to support child care providers with a new Creating Asthma Friendly Childcare Setting manual. Once developed, this resource will be made available to every childcare centre in Hamilton.

Since 2008, the PHSAP coordinator has partnered with the Primary Care Asthma Program (PCAP) at North Hamilton Community Health Centre (NHCHC) to provide asthma education to schools in that community. In 2010-2011, PHSAP will continue to work with its partners in the neighborhood around NHCHC to provide education and resources to children with asthma and their families through local schools, early learning and childcare settings and the recreation centre.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Although PHSAP relates to Chronic Disease Prevention (CDP), it is not specifically addressed in the Ontario Public Health Standards. An Ontario Lung Health Strategy is being developed with potential representation from the Public Health School Asthma Project. The National Lung Health Framework (NLHF), Canada’s first national action plan on lung health, has begun to address respiratory diseases such as asthma. The Hamilton PHSAP coordinator has actively participated in 3 recent Public Health Agency of Canada funded projects under the NLHF. Through its participation in PHSAP, the City of Hamilton is being recognized in Ontario and across Canada as a leader in school-based asthma education.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Public Health Services has consulted with the Finance & Administration Division and the Asthma Program Coordinator at the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care regarding the preparation of the 2010-2011 Public Health School Asthma Project budget and work plan. The Asthma Program Coordinator at the Ministry approved the 2010-11 budget and work plan.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Public Health School Asthma Project continues to successfully address its objectives, which include the following:
• Maintain and enhance resources for supporting the implementation and uptake of PHSAP as per the strategic plan.
• Maintain and enhance activities related to PHSAP in school communities.
• Maintain and enhance activities related to asthma awareness and education in childcare settings.
• Perform administrative responsibilities associated with provision of PHSAP on an ongoing basis.
• Develop and maintain collaborative partnerships and linkages with stakeholders at the local, provincial and national level to promote and integrate asthma messaging.
• Maintain and enhance knowledge and skills to support implementation and improvement of the program.
• Develop and implement strategies for knowledge transfer at the regional, provincial and national level.

### ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:
(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

The Board of Health could decide not to approve the Public Health School Asthma Project 2010-2011 budget. In doing so, the City of Hamilton Public Health Services would not receive 100% funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Without this funding, Public Health Services would not have the resources to implement the project in the City of Hamilton, and would need to reduce staffing by 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse.

### CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)


#### Intergovernmental Relationships

• Acquire greater share of Provincial grants (including those that meet specific needs
• Maintain effective relationships with other public agencies

#### Social Development

• Residents in need have access to adequate support services
• People participate in all aspects of community life without barriers or stigma