To: Mayor and Members
   Board of Health

From: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHScc, FRCPc
      Medical Officer of Health
      Public Health Services

Telephone: (905) 546-2424 x3501
Facsimile: (905) 546-4075
E-mail: erichard@hamilton.ca

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Re: Public Health Research and Education (PHRED) Program- PH06002(c) (City Wide)

Council Direction:

At its January 22, 2007 meeting, the Board approved report PH06002(b) to continue the current PHRED partnership agreements with the University of Guelph and McMaster University with changes to increase accountability.

Information:

This report provides an update on the outcomes of the recent Public Health Research and Education (PHRED) program grants competition.

Background

A major change for 2007 is the shift from block grants to competitively-awarded grants to support research networks. Teams from McMaster University and the University of Guelph were invited to apply for 2 year funding with the second year conditional on progress during year 1 and budget availability. Successful proposals include practice-relevant deliverables to be developed with input from public health practitioners, and developmental work intended to lead to externally-fundable research efforts.
Selected Proposals

All proposals were reviewed by PHS staff and 3 external reviewers. Four were selected for funding and are summarized below. Year 2 funding decisions will be made in December, 2007 following receipt of progress reports from each project.

Dr. Maureen Dobbins from McMaster University is the lead for Health-evidence.ca, an online resource to promote evidence-informed public health decision making. Practice related deliverables will include: development of twenty-five summaries of systematic reviews available in Health–evidence.ca, provision of half day workshops with Public Health Services staff to facilitate the interpretation and translation of the summaries into local public programs, and a two day workshop for public health services staff focused on developing capacity for evidence informed decision making.

Dr. Margaret Black from McMaster University will be developing a Chronic Disease Prevention Network for Diverse Ethno-Cultural Communities with an emphasis on Physical Activity Promotion. The practice related deliverables include: development and delivery of a series of interactive learning modules based on a cultural competence framework; and establishing a Chronic Disease Prevention network to better coordinate and examine the Role Bridging Model, which is a relationship formed between a health professional and a peer support/educator.

Dr. Cate Dewey from the University of Guelph will lead an Information Network for the Promotion and Protection of a Safe Food Supply. The practice related deliverables include: development of informational materials covering common food and waterborne pathogens to be launched at a one-day workshop presented to public health inspectors, additional educational materials that can be used in the training of restaurant workers, and online, web-based availability of this information for public health practitioners across Ontario.

Dr. J. Scott Weese from the University of Guelph will lead a project entitled Community-Based Public Health Resources Regarding Zoonotic Diseases and Household Pets. The practice related deliverables include: establishing an integrated network of professionals with expertise in the field of companion animal zoonotic diseases, comprehensive, evidence-based information sheets in electronic format regarding different pet species and different zoonotic diseases; and developing an educational program to increase the knowledge of public health personnel involved in health promotion concerning pets and zoonotic diseases.

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