SUBJECT: Continued Funding of Health Initiatives for Youth Hamilton (HIFY) – (BOH08011) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to execute an agreement, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, for the purchase of mandated sexual health clinic services from Health Initiatives for Youth Hamilton (HIFY), at $165,000 annually, commencing April 1 2008- March 31 2009 with an option to renew for one year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Hamilton Public Health Services provide sexual health clinic services, as mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), at four city office locations on the mountain, Dundas, Waterdown and in the east end of the city. Hamilton Initiatives for Youth (HIFY) is the only service that responded to a request for expressions of interest related to these services for central Hamilton, and has a long tradition of contracting with the City, and former Region, to provide these services.
BACKGROUND:

HIFY has been in operation since 1932 originally known as the Elizabeth Bagshaw Planned Parenthood Society of Hamilton. HIFY has received funding from Public Health Services since 1970 to provide sexual health services to adolescents in the downtown area. HIFY is currently located at 151 York Boulevard across from Sir John A. MacDonald School. The previous tender was in existence from April 2005 to April 2007 with an option to extend the contract for one year. The contract is for $13,768 per month, which is $165,000 annually. The clinic is open Tuesday to Friday 2-5pm and is staffed by a registered nurse and registered practical nurse from Tuesday to Thursday and a registered nurse and medical practitioner on Friday.

The sexual health services provided are consistent with the Mandatory Programs and Services/Ontario Public Health Standards including the provision of low cost contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, provision of emergency contraception and health teaching and counselling. In addition to the sexual health services funded by the city, HIFY have additional staff who provide youth with access to other programs which promote healthy relationships and self esteem such as Street Involved Youth Drop-in, Health Promotion presentations, the Rainbow Youth Drop-in and Adolescent Risk Reduction program and the Me First Program. HIFY youth participants can access short term counselling support and case management services. HIFY receives funding to support these community services from Hamilton Community Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other individuals and corporations.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The City of Hamilton has had a long standing relationship with HIFY to provide these sexual health services in the downtown area. In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on sharing of business information which assists with continuous quality improvement.

Public Health Services does not currently have a central location to provide sexual health clinic services to the community in central downtown Hamilton, and thus an external service provider remains necessary.

An Expression of Interest was put forth in December 2007 in accordance with City of Hamilton purchasing policies. HIFY was the only agency who responded to the Expression of Interest and are deemed a sole source provider of sexual health clinic services in downtown central Hamilton.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Staff considered two options, which are not recommended:
1. Investigate rental spaces in central downtown Hamilton for a Public Health Services sexual health clinic to be staffed with Public Health Services staff. While Public Health is currently undertaking an assessment of alternate office sites, any new site downtown remains two to three years in the future. It is not recommended that a clinic site be considered separate from the remainder of the downtown offices.

2. Discontinuing these services would not be recommended as this would put the City in contravention of the Ontario Public Health Standards and Health Protection & Promotion Act. These services have been consistently used by Hamilton residents, and the loss of the service downtown would leave a gap in services, and for a particularly vulnerable/high need population that is served downtown.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The current budget for Public Health Services includes the funds necessary to continue the contract with HIFY with no additional costs to the City. This is a 75/25 cost shared budget.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

The Expression of Interest was completed in accordance with Purchasing Department policies.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Consultation has been done with Purchasing, Finance, Legal and Risk Management Departments.

**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

  Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

- **Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.** ☐ Yes ☑ No

- **Economic Well-Being is enhanced.** ☑ Yes ☐ No
The provision of sexual health services is important to support teens and adults in making informed decisions about their health and reproductive lives, which contributes to better positioning for their contribution to the economic well-being of the City.

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

Life-long learning is supported in the continued relationship with this community agency. Public Health Sexual Health Program staff and HIFY staff share expertise in the form of presentations and informal discussions. The Public Health Services Sexual Health Program manager meets monthly with the Executive Director of HIFY to discuss common client services issues.