SUBJECT: 2006 Ontario Works Addiction Services (SPH05034(a)) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That report SPH05034(a) respecting the 2006 Ontario Works Addiction Services be received.

(b) That item “H” respecting the Ontario Works Addiction Services (SPH05034) be identified as completed and be removed from the Social Services Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On October 19, 2005 a Report SPH05034 was tabled at the Social and Public Health Services Committee to provide an overview of the Department’s plan to submit a proposal to pilot the Ontario Works Addiction Services (OWAS) to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) for considered funding in 2006.

It was announced on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, by the MCSS, that Hamilton was not successful in its bid to host an interim pilot site of large urban centres in 2006. MCSS does plan to introduce province-wide implementation of the initiative in 2007.
BACKGROUND:

The MCSS invited the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) to submit implementation proposals for provision of OWAS by October 6, 2005. Public Health and Community Services (PHCS) requested Council’s approval of the implementation proposal, which was considered a positive factor for “readiness” of Hamilton’s OWAS Program.

A letter from the MCSS dated January 16, 2006, was received by the Community Services Department on January 27, 2006. The Department was commended for the work that had gone into the proposal; however, the chosen 2006 sites were: Wellington Dufferin (joint proposal), Peel, London, Ottawa and Chatham-Kent. Staff has requested feedback from the MCSS as to the reasons why Hamilton’s proposal was unsuccessful, but to-date staff have not received verbal or written feedback.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Once feedback has been received from the MCSS, staff will be able to assess this model and prepare for when the eventual implementation of a program when it becomes mandatory, which is expected in 2007. The working group will reconvene and work throughout 2006 to examine the feedback from MCSS. Staff will consider the recommendations, evaluate the outcomes and experience of the 2006 pilot programs, and prepare, once additional details and funding implications of the province-wide implementation become known, a report to be brought forward to the Social Services Committee.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

N/A

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial, staffing or legal implications associated with Report SPH05034(a).

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services for feedback. Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (are you referring to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario?)
CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and 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
Opportunities to self identify addictions as a health and social issue will enable individuals and families to make appropriate choices about assessment and treatment options, therefore promoting opportunity for improved quality of life.

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

Enhanced training and awareness about addictions will provide staff with the knowledge about recognizing the impact of addictions as a barrier to employment, social and health well being of not only clients but for their personal lives.