NOTICE OF MOTION

Board of Health Date: July 7, 2010

PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR McHATTIE

Re: Concerns with the Access to Best Care (ABC) Plan for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department

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 Gynecology 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, Anesthesia etc., and;

Whereas, the Obstetricians in Hamilton have unanimously condemned 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 Gynecology (PACOG), working with HHS administration and using objective criteria, found the ABC plan for the HHS Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology 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 Health Centre 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, should HHS implement the ABC plan, physicians from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, notably the high-risk obstetrics group, would have no choice but to defer accepting a significant number of complicated patients referred from LHINs 3 and 4, 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, representing a failure to meet provincial standards of care in this respect, and;

Whereas, key stakeholders have been excluded from the relevant planning process including HHS and SJHH Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Family Medicine, Midwifery, Neonatology, and regional care providers;

Therefore, the City of Hamilton requests that Hamilton Health Sciences and the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) undertake the following:

(a) An immediate formal and public review of the relocation of services of the HHS Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology proposed under the ABC Plan;

(b) That the review include input from the major stakeholders identified above;

(c) That the LHINs Board immediately direct HHS to place its plan to move adult beds and services from the MUMC site on hold.