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THE YORK CENTRE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends that:

- 1. The Chair of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee send a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth in support of The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families' (The York Centre) proposed capital project.**
- 2. This report be forwarded to the Human Services Planning Coalition for its support.**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services send a letter to The Minister of Children and Youth in support of The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families' (The York Centre) proposed capital project.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the deputation and request for assistance made by representatives of The York Centre and The York Centre's Capital Campaign Cabinet at the June 8, 2006 meeting of Finance and Administration Committee (*see Attachment 1*).

3. BACKGROUND

The York Centre is a community-based children's mental health agency and it provides a range of treatment and intervention services for approximately 1,500 children, youth and their families. It is an incorporated charitable agency and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is its main funding source.

Although The York Centre's programs and services have been accredited by Children's Mental Health – Ontario, its facilities have been identified as below standard. It has developed an expansion/consolidation capital building plan for construction of a new building and renovations to the existing facility which could allow for a potential increase service capacity. The estimated cost is \$3.5 million. The York Centre's request to the Ministry for Children and Youth Services for capital grant funding has not been approved.

On June 8th, 2006, representatives from The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families and The York Centre's Capital Campaign Cabinet made a deputation to the Finance and Administration Committee requesting support in attaining capital funds required to construct an expanded and consolidated children's mental health centre. At the time of the deputation, Committee was advised that the Centre had received financial commitments from the Town of Richmond Hill, the York Centre Family and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

While York Region Health Services (YRHS) provides primary prevention services for infants and preschool children, it is not mandated to provide treatment services. Children and families with potential mental health issues are referred to either Blue Hills Child and Family Centre or Kinark Child and Family Services as these organizations provide services to families with infants and preschoolers. School-aged children do not fall under the Department's mandate for mental health treatment services. Therefore, YRHS does not have access to funding or grants related to the provision of mental health treatment services.

Staff acknowledges that The York Centre provides an important and specialized service to the community and adequate funding for the capital program should be acquired through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. It is recommended that a letter be sent in support of The York Centre's proposed capital plan to the Minister of Children and Youth Services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The York Centre provides a valuable service to the community.

7. CONCLUSION

Funding for The York Centre capital centralization/expansion capital plan should be accessed through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, which is its main source of funding.

It is recommended that the Regional Municipality of York show its support for children's mental health services in York Region by sending a letter from the Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services to the Minister of Children and Youth Services advocating that additional Ministry funding be provided to the York Centre for its centralization/expansion capital plan proposal.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the March 8, 2007 Committee meeting.)