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2008 LONG TERM CARE FUNDING INCREASES HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR BETTER INFORMATION AND CARE PROJECT

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 6, 2008, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve receipt and expenditure of additional one-time funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in the amount of \$24,200 for implementation of the Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care pilot project.
2. Staff be authorized to sign any agreements required by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Central Local Health Integration Network that may be necessary to implement the above.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to secure approval from Regional Council for the receipt and expenditure of additional subsidy from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for program costs related to the implementation of the Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care initiative in the Long Term Care centres.

3. BACKGROUND

In November 2007, the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch received notification of additional Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding related to several Ministry initiatives, which included early adopter funding for a new information management project called the Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care.

On December 13, 2007 Council authorized staff, through the adoption of Clause No. 5 of Report No. 7 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee, to receive and expend an additional \$27,500 in provincial funding related to implementing this initiative (\$12,561 for staff training and \$14,907 for portable computers) for both the Newmarket and Maple Health Centres. Subsequent to that report, staff have received notification from the Ministry of an additional \$24,200 in provincial funding to cover costs associated with the installation of wireless technology at both of the Health Centres.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Ministry announces additional funding for wireless network to enhance implementation and utilization of the program

The Ministry has subsequently advised that it has approved an additional \$24,200 in provincial funding for costs associated with creating a wireless network at the Health Centres. A wireless network will facilitate more efficient bedside documentation and care delivery by eliminating the need to store data on portable computers and will avoid the additional time associated with downloading the data when staff return to the nursing stations.

These funds have been included in the 2008 proposed budget; however, the funds must be spent by March 31, 2008. In order to provide sufficient time to acquire the equipment before the Ministry deadline, staff require Regional Council approval to receive and expend these additional funds prior to completion of the 2008 budget approval process.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Long Term Care and Seniors Branch will receive an additional \$24,200 from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in 2008 for costs associated with establishing a wireless network at both the Newmarket and Maple Health Centres. These costs have been included in the proposed 2008 Long Term Care Budget and did not impact the net tax levy requirements. Annual maintenance costs will be absorbed within the existing Long Term Care Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The utilization of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding will allow the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch to continue to meet the needs of clients with greater service needs, assist in the provision of quality services and will facilitate retention of late career nurses which will benefit and support the programs and services we provide for all citizens needing or using our services in York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

Approval of the recommendations for the receipt and expenditure of the additional subsidy from the Province of Ontario will enable the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch to improve the quality of care through the enhanced wireless implementation of the Health Outcomes for Better Information and Care initiative.

For more information on this report, please contact Shawn Turner, General Manager, Long Term Care and Seniors Branch of the Community and Health Services Department at 905-895-3628, extension 231.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.