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LONG TERM CARE FUNDING CONVALESCENT CARE PROGRAM—MAPLE HEALTH CENTRE

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 1, 2008, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the receipt and expenditure of \$320,808 in additional base funding for May to December 2008 (\$376,461 annualized) from the Central Local Health Integration Network to designate, convert, and staff fifteen Long Term Care beds for the Convalescent Care Program at the Maple Health Centre (*see Attachment 1*).
2. Council authorize a 3.12 full time employee increase in the approved Long Term Care and Seniors Branch 2008 permanent staffing complement to accommodate implementation and delivery of the program.
3. Council authorize the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to receive and expend future 100% grants from the Central Local Health Integration Network related to additional one-time start-up funding or the ongoing maintenance of the 15 bed conversion.
4. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to sign any agreements with the Central Local Health Integration Network and Central Community Care Access Centre that may be required to implement the above, subject to prior review by Legal Services.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to secure approval from Council for the receipt and expenditure of additional subsidy from the Central Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for program costs related to the Convalescent Care Program.

3. BACKGROUND

In early 2005, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced a program to further expand the utilization of short stay beds in designated long term care facilities.

The program is a form of sub-acute care that allows for the earlier discharge from hospital of individuals that require ongoing convalescent and rehabilitative care before being suitable for discharge to community or Long Term Care facilities. On February 17, 2005, through the adoption of Clause No. 3 of Report No. 2 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee, staff was authorized to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the designation and funding of up to 58 convalescent care beds at the Newmarket (32) and Maple Health Centre (26). To date, of the proposed 58 convalescent care beds, the Ministry has awarded 19 beds to the Region for the new Convalescent Care Program at the Newmarket Health Centre (11 beds in 2005 and 8 beds in 2006).

In January 2008, the Central Community Care Access Centre submitted a proposal to the Central Local Health Integration Network for additional convalescent care beds for York Region and recommended that 15 of the beds be awarded to the Maple Health Centre. In February 2008, the Region received correspondence from the Central Local Health Integration Network, advising that the Maple Health Centre had been awarded 15 beds for the Convalescent Care Program.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The funding provided under this initiative will permit the continued focus of the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch's long term care facilities on difficult to serve or hard to place clients with higher care requirements, enhance the level of service provided to the community and increase the subsidy from the Central Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the delivery of these services.

The Convalescent Care Program helps to alleviate hospital pressures and has very successful client outcomes

The additional convalescent care beds will help to free up acute care beds in hospitals and deliver services to these clients in a more cost effective manner. Clients in this program require intensive rehabilitation and therapy for a period of up to 90 days to maximize their functional abilities and level of independence.

Based on our existing program at the Newmarket Health Centre, the average length of stay has been 51.5 days. Approximately 88% of the clients have reached their rehabilitation goals and have been successfully discharged back into the community. The overall average client satisfaction rating for this program is 97% in the combined A (excellent) and B (good) categories for all services provided. We have received a 100% excellent/good client satisfaction rating in the overall rating for the program and 97% of clients indicated that they would recommend the facility and program to others.

Program implementation and expansion to be phased in over a 90 day time frame

New convalescent care beds are existing Long Term Care beds that are re-designated, as opposed to additional new beds. Accordingly, there is a need to phase in the implementation of the program as vacancies occur at the Centre. During the implementation of the program at the Newmarket Health Centre all of the beds were converted and filled within a 90 day timeframe. The program expansion will be implemented over the spring/early summer and should be fully operational by August 2008. This program will require additional permanent and contract personnel in the areas of medical, nursing and personal care as well as program therapy and support.

Enhanced funding is being provided to the Region for the conversion and operation of convalescent care beds

The additional provincial subsidy of \$68.76 per bed/per day will begin to flow following the first admission. The total annualized program costs of \$1,108,742 for the 15 convalescent care beds is comprised of the \$376,461 in new funding plus the existing base funding of \$732,281. Although the Maple Health Centre will not be at full occupancy until later in the year, the Central Local Health Integration Network will provide full funding throughout the ramp-up period as the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch will continue to accrue fixed program costs regardless of occupancy and service levels.

Relationship to Vision 2026

The conversion of these beds for convalescent care will contribute to the attainment of the Vision 2026 goals of developing Quality Communities for a Diverse Population and Responding to the Needs of our Residents. The Long Term Care and Seniors Branch offers a continuum of community-based, outreach, day and institutional services that support clients with a diverse range of care and support needs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 1 provides a summary of the allocation of the additional base funding provided by the Central Local Health Integration Network for 2008 together with the annualized impact. It also identifies the need for 3.12 additional permanent staff. This funding will cover the increased cost of providing convalescent care services and will not have an impact on the net tax levy component of the proposed 2008 Long Term Care and Seniors Branch budget. Although the municipal contribution for these beds will not change, the Region's share as a percentage of total cost will decrease due to the additional provincial funding.

Table 1
Overview of Additional Base Funding

Program Envelope	2008 Budget Increase	Annualized Budget	FTE Increase	Contract Hours Increase
Medical, Nursing and Personal Care	\$135,888	\$203,832	1.4—RN 0.75—HCA 0.5—RPN	195—MD
Program, Therapy and Support	96,836	145,254	0.28—SW 0.19—ACT	780—PT 1,950—PTA 280—DT
Start-up Costs and Supplies	69,834	0		
Administration and Facility	18,250	27,375	n/a	
Total Additional Base Funding	\$320,808	\$376,461	3.12	3,205*

RPN = Registered Practical Nurse

RN = Registered Nurse

SW = Social Worker

HCA = Health Care Aide

ACT = Activationist

MD = Medical Doctor

PT = Physiotherapist

PTA = Physiotherapy Assistant

DT = Dietician

* Total Contract Service Hours equivalent to 1.65 FTE.

The funding provided for this initiative will be annualized and become part of the program's ongoing funding.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The implementation of the new Convalescent Care Program at the Maple Health Centre will improve specialized supportive care health services for citizens across York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

Expansion of the Convalescent Care Program will expand the availability of rehabilitation beds for residents in York Region. Among other things it will also reduce the need to transfer residents to other facilities outside the Region, facilitate the early discharge from hospital of individuals that require ongoing rehabilitation and therapeutic support before discharge to a community setting and will also help to free up beds in the acute care sector.

Delivery of this service is consistent with the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch Mission and Business Plan objective of meeting the demand for the provision of programs and services for clients with heavy, complex physical, cognitive and/or behavioural care requirements.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the agenda for the April 10, 2008 Committee meeting.)