

## Request for Decision

### City of Lakes Family Health Team - Walden & Chelmsford Sites

Presented To:	City Council
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### Recommendation

That City Council support the future expansion of sites for the City of Lakes Family Health Team in the former town office of Walden commencing October 2009 and that the development of the Family Health Team in the former town of Rayside Balfour be reviewed during the 2010 Budget.

### Finance Implications

If approved, a funding source for the City's contribution of \$345,000 will be identified during the 2010 Budget deliberations. As well, a budget option will be prepared for the development of the Rayside Balfour Site.

## Background

In March of 2005, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Honourable George Smitherman announced funding for the implementation of 150 Family Health Teams, to address the shortage of family medicine practitioners in the province of Ontario. Family Health Teams provide an interdisciplinary model of delivering primary health care and comprehensive care that will include; health promotion, treatment of minor illnesses and chronic diseases. Family physicians, specialists, nurse practitioners and other allied health care providers would make up this team.

On April 15, 2005, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care announced that the City of Lakes Family Health Team's expression of interest for the City of Greater Sudbury had been approved. On May 11, 2005, Dr. Chris McKibbin, lead for the City of Lakes Family Health Team addressed City Council on the concept and proposed model. The City of Lakes Family Health Team is governed by a community-based Board of Directors having unique features emphasizing a collaborative team-based primary care model. Physicians must take hospital privileges to ensure that when patients are hospitalized that they receive care. Electronic medical records are used at each site along with broadband fiber network so that information is kept current having easy access. The connection to Ontario Telehealth Network for consultation purposes is an added bonus for patients for consultation purposes. Patients will have easier access through after hours clinics

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offered five times per week in the evenings and on weekends, as well, Family Health Teams are clinical teaching sites for Medical Students, Residents and allied health care learners.

## **Sponsors**

In this joint venture, each sponsor has committed to the Family Health Team by means of either infrastructure or in-kind contributions. The City of Greater Sudbury's contribution is infrastructure; use of surplus properties not used due to amalgamation with consideration for cost recovery (former town offices in Valley East, Walden and Chelmsford, as well as, Pioneer Manor).

Other sponsors include; Sudbury Regional Hospital, Ontario Telehealth Network and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

## **Physician Recruitment**

Attracting physicians to outlying areas of the City of Greater Sudbury has been an enormous challenge. The City of Lakes Family Health Team has helped locate primary care facilities.

The locations of the sites identified in the initial proposal reflect the City's commitment to enhancing the delivery of primary care to those areas most affected by the shortage of family medicine practitioners. These are; Valley East, Rayside Balfour and Walden.

Last month the announcement of four more family physicians was made and beginning in July 2010, will be ready to take on new patients within the City of Greater Sudbury at the Walden Site. They will take on 6,000 new patients in all. It should also be mentioned that all four physicians are committed to the City of Greater Sudbury through the City's Physician Recruitment Plan. In December of 2008, Council decided that they wanted to be sure that the physicians were in place prior to moving this project forward and now the physicians have been confirmed.

## **Budget Impact**

The City of Lakes Family Health Team has requested \$345,000 to be directed to the leasehold improvements for the Walden Site should the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care provide fifty-percent of the capital cost.

## **City's Commitment – Infrastructure**

The city's contribution to the City of Lakes Family Health Team is to provide available infrastructure. Pioneer Manor and Valley East have already been completed are fully operational. There is now a need to move forward with the Walden Site given confirmation of four medical practitioners intended in that area.

The completed capital costs for Pioneer Manor and Valley East sites were; \$1,200,000 and \$270,000 respectively. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care cost shared 50%; therefore the City costs were \$790,000 and \$148,000. It should be noted that the cost for Valley East was substantially lower because renovations had been done prior for the operation of Sudbury & District Health Unit at that site.

## **Operational Costs**

For operational costs, it is understood that the City would not have any commitment and costs would be covered by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the City of Lakes Family Health Team and each individual family physician. The Physicians contribute to 50% of the operational costs of each site. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides over \$1,100,000 towards the Family Health Team operational budget.

### **Patient Roster**

It is estimated that there is over 30,000 patients within the City of Greater Sudbury without a family physician or primary health care giver. The current patient roster for the City of Lakes Family Health Team is over 12,200+. Approximately 2,700 of those were orphan patients when the City of Lakes Family Health Team first opened in 2008.

In Walden it is estimated that an additional six family physicians are required and in four in Chelmsford. The Walden site will enroll 6,000 new orphan patients.

**Note:** The current patient physician ratio for Ontario is one physician to 1,380 as per definition of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

### **Next Steps**

The next steps would be to acquire the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding should Council decide to support this recommendation. The City of Lakes Family Health Team would then acquire a Transitional Funding agreement from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for staffing and operations. The target dates for opening would be July 2010 for Walden and Chelmsford is planned for 2012 given successful recruitment of physicians.