

# **TORONTO** STAFF REPORT

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October 3, 2002

To: Board of Health

From: Dr. Sheela V. Basrur, Medical Officer of Health

Subject: Healthy Babies, Healthy Children 2001  
Year-end Settlement Report

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Board of Health approval of the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children 2001 Year-end Settlement Report for the City of Toronto.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no net financial implications for the City resulting from this report.

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program is 100% provincially funded through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The 2001 budget for Toronto's Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program was \$13,393,193 while actual expenditures were \$13,110,104, resulting in a surplus of \$304,794. This represents a 2.3% variance. This variance is primarily related to underspending in employee benefits.

The Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health and Chair of the Board to submit the audited Healthy Babies, Healthy Children 2001 year-end settlement report; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program was launched by the provincial government in 1998 and funding has gradually increased over the past four years as program components have been phased in. Each year, the City is required to enter into a service agreement with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care which includes a funding schedule and a service planning schedule. At the end of each year, an audited statement of revenues and expenditures for the year-end settlement is required. Any settlement variances are adjusted through the following year's cash flow.

Comments:

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children is a province-wide program that provides screening, assessment, counselling, education, referral, and service co-ordination for families with children up to six years of age. Its goal is to ensure that parents have the skills and capacity to support their children's optimal growth and development. The program consists of universal prenatal, postpartum and early identification screening, universal postpartum follow-up within 48 hours of hospital discharge, high risk Public Health Nurse and Family Home Visitor support and integrated early years service planning through the establishment and maintenance of a community service inventory and co-ordination of Healthy Babies, Healthy Children local area networks.

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children 2001 audited year-end settlement has been prepared by the City Auditor with the support of the Public Health HBHC Program Manager and the Manager of Finance. The authorized 2001 budget for Toronto's Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program was \$13,393,193 while actual expenditures were \$13,110,104, resulting in a surplus of \$304,794. This represents a 2.3 % variance. This variance is primarily related to underspending in employee benefits. The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program has been a rapidly expanding program and over the past several years significant full-time and part-time Public Health Nurse and Family Home Visitor recruitment has been required. Many of these employees were hired on a temporary basis and, as such, they do not qualify for benefits in the first six months of employment.

Conclusions:

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children 2001 year-end Settlement has been prepared as requested by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and reflects sound fiscal management of this program. There is a small positive variance in the program which is mainly attributable to lower costs for employee benefits.

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Dr. Sheela V. Basrur  
Medical Officer of Health

List of Attachments:

- 1) 2001 Year-End Settlement