

# TORONTO STAFF REPORT

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January 4, 2006

To: Board of Health

From: Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health

Subject: Public Health Agency of Canada funding for “A Skills Building Workshop: The Impact of Crack Smoking and Crystal Methamphetamine Use on Hepatitis C Transmission for Drug Users in Ontario”

Purpose:

This report seeks approval to receive one-time funding confirmed from the Public Health Agency of Canada to organize and deliver a workshop on Hepatitis C transmission and crack smoking and crystal methamphetamine in partnership with the Ontario Needle Exchange Coordinating Committee.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

The Public Health Agency of Canada has approved the allocation of \$68 thousand in 2005-2006 to Toronto Public Health to organize and offer a skills building workshop for managers and outreach staff at needle exchange programs and other programs working with drug users in Ontario.

Approval of this report will result in a one-time increase to the 2006 Operating Budget of \$68.0 thousand gross, fully offset by a \$68.0 thousand increase in federal funding confirmed from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The net impact to the 2006 Operating Budget will be \$0.0. These funds have not been included in the 2006 Proposed Operating Budget.

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to receive up to \$68 thousand of one time 100% federal funding to develop a Skills Building Workshop on Hepatitis C transmission

and crack smoking and crystal methamphetamine for staff of Ontario Needle Exchange Programs and other relevant staff;

- (2) an amount of \$68.0 thousand gross and \$68.0 thousand in federal funding revenue be added to the 2006 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget to support the development of the Skills Building Workshop;
- (3) this report be forwarded to Budget Advisory Committee for consideration in the 2006 Budget process; and
- (4) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

This project is being submitted by the Ontario Needle Exchange Network which represents needle exchange programs in Ontario. Funding has been received to organize a conference/workshop for managers and outreach staff at needle exchange programs and IDU Outreach Workers throughout Ontario in 2006 (see Appendix 1).

Comments:

The types of illicit drugs used in Ontario and how they are used is constantly changing. It is imperative that staff working in agencies serving drug users have the most recent knowledge about the drugs used, their health effects, and ways to reduce harm and prevent the transmission of communicable disease, including Hepatitis C.

This working meeting will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about crack and crystal methamphetamine, how they are used and the particular concerns they present when working from a harm reduction perspective. Participants will also learn about Canadian and international approaches, programs and resources. The intent is that participants will return to their communities better prepared to prevent the harms associated with drug use in particular, crack and crystal methamphetamine and that they will be able to pass this information on to their clients.

The conference is being organized by regional representatives of Ontario needle exchange programs who will bring the various regional concerns and trends to the agenda for the conference. Toronto Public Health is acting as the sponsoring organization for the funding.

Conclusion:

This report summarizes the request for a budget adjustment to reflect one-time 100% federal funding confirmed from the Public Health Agency of Canada to organize and offer a "A Skills Building Workshop: The Impact of Crack Smoking and Crystal Methamphetamine Use on Hepatitis C Transmission for Drug Users in Ontario". This report seeks approval from the Board

of Health and City Council for an adjustment to the 2006 Public Health Operating budget and corresponding authority to disperse these funds.

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Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health

List of Attachments:

Appendix 1: Letter dated October 13, 2005 from Public Health Agency of Canada approving the proposal for “A Skills Building Workshop: The Impact of Crack Smoking and Crystal Methamphetamine Use on Hepatitis C Transmission for Drug Users in Ontario”