

November 12, 2007

To: Community Development and Recreation
Planning and Growth Management Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: The Health of Toronto's Young Children Volume 3 – The Growing Child

The Board of Health on November 12, 2007, amongst other things, forwarded the report (October 29, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Community Development and Recreation Committee and the Planning and Growth Management Committee for information.

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

1. requested the Chair of the Board of Health to meet with the Minister of Children and Youth Services to discuss the impact of poverty on children's health and the need for a provincial child poverty reduction strategy with identified targets and timelines;
2. requested the Chair of the Board of Health to write to Prime Minister Harper to outline the negative health impacts of child poverty and request that the federal government set targets and implement strategies to reduce child poverty;
3. endorsed Canada's Child and Youth Health Charter which identifies key actions that must be taken in order to protect and promote child health and communicate its endorsement to Prime Minister Harper;
4. requested the Medical Officer of Health to collaborate with key stakeholders to further investigate disparities in young children's health outcomes across Toronto, enhance monitoring and reporting of disparities, and further develop strategies to address the disparities;
5. requested the Medical Officer of Health to collaborate with key stakeholders at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels to explore the feasibility of expanding and enhancing current databases and surveys to address data gaps in young children's health outcomes,

including those related to contributing factors and disparities in outcomes and report to the Board of Health at its November 2008 meeting on progress made in filling the "data gaps", including recommendations for future action;

6. requested the Medical Officer of Health to provide additional support for the development of the City's 10-year plan for children to ensure that children's health outcomes are incorporated into the goals, benchmarks and action plans included in the plan;
7. requested the Medical Officer of Health to advocate to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care a universal dental program for children and youth across the province;
8. requested the Medical Officer of Health to forward a resolution to the OPHA conference to be held November 18-21, 2007, based on this data, urging the OPHA to organize a conference in the Spring 2008 focussed on the needs of Ontario's children and the policies required to meet them;
9. forwarded this report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee and the Planning and Growth Management Committee for information; and
10. forwarded this report to the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scolaire de district du centre Sud-Ouest, Conseil Scolaire de district catholique du centre Sud, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Public Health Association, Ontario Medical Association, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Ontario Association of Family Physicians, Ontario Association of Pediatricians, Ontario Association of Infant and Child Development, Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, Ontario Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, and Children and Youth Services, Canadian Public Health Association, Public Health Agency of Canada, Council for Early Child, Development, Canadian Mothercraft, Canadian Institute of Child Health, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Pediatric Society, College of Family Physicians of Canada, Campaign 2000, Toronto Children's Services, Toronto Best Start Network, Children's Services Advisory Committee, the Ontario Ministry of Education, all Boards of Education in Ontario, School Board Associations, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, the College of Nurses of Ontario, Faculties of Education, the Faculties of Medicine, the leaders of the provincial and federal political parties, the five Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), for action and advocacy that support making the health of children and youth a priority.

Background:

The Board of Health on November 12, 2007, considered a report (October 29, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the Health of Toronto's Young Children Volume 3 – The Growing Child, recommending that:

1. the Chair of the Board of Health request to meet with Premier McGuinty to discuss the impact of poverty on children's health and the need for a provincial child poverty reduction strategy with identified targets and timelines;

2. the Chair of the Board of Health write to Prime Minister Harper to outline the negative health impacts of child poverty and request that the federal government set targets and implement strategies to reduce child poverty;
3. the Board of Health endorse Canada's Child and Youth Health Charter which identifies key actions that must be taken in order to protect and promote child health and communicate its endorsement to Prime Minister Harper;
4. the Medical Officer of Health collaborate with key stakeholders to further investigate disparities in young children's health outcomes across Toronto, enhance monitoring and reporting of disparities, and further develop strategies to address the disparities;
5. the Medical Officer of Health collaborate with key stakeholders at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels to explore the feasibility of expanding and enhancing current databases and surveys to address data gaps in young children's health outcomes, including those related to contributing factors and disparities in outcomes;
6. the Board of Health forward this report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee for information; and
7. the Board of Health forward this report to the Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Conseil Scholaire de district du centre Sud-Ouest, Conseil Scholaire de district catholique du centre Sud, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, the Centre for Urban Health Initiatives, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Public Health Association, Ontario Medical Association, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, Ontario Association of Family Physicians, Ontario Association of Pediatricians, Ontario Association of Infant and Child Development, Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, Ontario Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, and Children and Youth Services, Canadian Public Health Association, Public Health Agency of Canada, Council for Early Child, Development, Canadian Mothercraft, Canadian Institute of Child Health, Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Pediatric Society, College of Family Physicians of Canada, Campaign 2000, Toronto Children's Services, Toronto Best Start Network, Children's Services Advisory Committee.

Speakers:

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Director, Planning and Policy and Associate Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health and filed a copy of her presentation material;
 Jan Fordham, Manager, Planning and Policy, Healthy Families and Communities, Toronto Public Health;
 Nancy Day, Supervisor, Planning and Policy Metrics and Planning, Toronto Public Health; and
 Andrea Ionescu (Submission Filed).

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd
Item HL9.2
Attachment

c. Medical Officer of Health
Andrea Ionescu