

Board of Health

Meeting No. 6
Meeting Date Monday, July 9, 2007
Start Time 1:00 PM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
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HL6.14	NO AMENDMENT			
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Toronto's Blind-Low Vision Early Implementation Plan

City Council Decision

City Council on July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, adopted the following motion:

- The Toronto Public Health's 2007 Approved Operating Budget be increased by \$242,720.00 gross and \$0 net to reflect funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program.

(July 9, 2007) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Board Recommendations

The Board of Health recommends that:

- the Toronto Public Health's 2007 Approved Operating Budget be increased by \$242,720 gross and \$0 net to reflect funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program.

Financial Impact

Blind-Low Vision Program Source of Funds	2007			2008 GROSS INCREMENTAL
	Gross	Revenue	Net	
Base funding from MCYS	\$132,720	\$132,720	\$0	\$240,555
One time funding from MCYS*	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0	(\$89,600)
TOTAL	\$242,720	\$242,720	\$0	\$150,955

Positions	4.0	(1.0)
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* One-time funding of \$130,400 is allocated as follows: 2007 \$110,000 / 2008 \$20,400

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

Implementation Points

The MCYS has established a very short timeline for local planning and implementation of the BLV EI program. Planning, including community consultation, was done between February 1, 2007 and May 31, 2007. The Toronto BLV EI Plan was submitted to the MCYS on May 31, 2007 and approved shortly thereafter. A province-wide implementation date has been set for September 1 2007.

Summary

This report provides information on the implementation and funding of the new Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program. This program is 100% funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) (see Attachment 1).

In February 2007, the MCYS announced the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention (BLV EI) Program as another of the foundation programs within the Best Start framework. Best Start is a comprehensive, evidence-based early learning and care strategy designed to help give Ontario's children the best possible start in life by promoting an integrated approach to early identification, intervention and support for children's healthy growth and development. Toronto Public Health already delivers a number of programs, including Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Preschool Speech and Language, and the Infant Hearing Program, that support the Best Start plan for Toronto.

Vision loss and blindness affect every aspect of child development putting a child who is blind or has low vision at great risk for developmental delays. Early intensive intervention is therefore critical to healthy child development. The BLV EI Program is therefore, an important addition to the range of services that promote healthy growth and development. It will provide an integrated system of services and supports to families and their children from birth to the transition into school in order to facilitate early identification and intervention. The BLV EI program will work in partnership with existing community services to deliver a multi-strategy approach which includes family support and intervention services, child care consultation and public awareness and a professional and parent education strategy.

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of Health about this new program and Toronto Public Health's plan for implementing it. The report also seeks approval to adjust the Toronto Public Health 2007 Operating Budget to include the related funding and staff complement and to award and execute the required purchase of service contracts.

Background Information

Toronto's Blind-Low Vision Early Implementation Plan
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-5616.pdf>

Council also considered the following communication:

- (July 10, 2007) from the Budget Committee. ([HL6.14a](#))

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. endorsed the Toronto Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention plan and supported its implementation;
2. authorized the Medical Officer of Health to award, amend and execute purchase of service contracts with Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) and Ontario Foundation for the Visually Impaired Children (OFVIC) to provide early intervention services and child care consultation for children with low vision or blind and their families; and
3. requested the Budget Committee to consider this matter at its meeting on July 10, 2007, and to report directly to City Council confirming the requested increase to the Toronto Public Health 2007 Approved Operating Budget in the amount of \$242,720 gross and \$0 net to reflect funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program.

Submitted Monday, July 9, 2007

Councillor John Filion, Chair, Board of Health