



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

ISCIS Implementation for Toronto Preschool Speech and Language and Infant Hearing Program

Date:	April 7, 2008
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is the lead agency for Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services and the Infant Hearing Program. Both of these programs are 100% funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The Ministry is now requiring that Preschool Speech and Language Services and Infant Hearing Programs throughout the province make use of the internet version of its computerized information system known as Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS). ISCIS is under the custodianship of the Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA). ISCIS is already being used by TPH for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, pursuant to Agreements entered into in 2003 between the City and SSHA.

The purpose of this report is to seek authorization from the City to execute any necessary documentation that SSHA requires in order to expand the scope of the original 2003 Agreement so that Toronto Public Health can implement ISCIS for Preschool Speech and Language Services and the Infant Hearing Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to execute on behalf of the City whatever additional contract documentation the Province’s Smart System for Health Agency may require to permit the use of the internet version of the Province’s “ISCIS” records facility by Toronto Public Health (TPH) for the data of:

- a. its Preschool Speech/Linguistics and Infant Hearing Programs;
- b. any other present or future Program run by TPH funded by the Ministry if the Ministry requires such use;

on the same terms with necessary modifications, as apply to use of that facility for other TPH program data under the existing 2003-dated agreements between the City and SSHA as may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time in accordance with Council authority, so long as there is continued compliance with all the data safeguards called for therein, and provided that the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Information Officer are satisfied as to content and the City Solicitor as to form.

Financial Impact

Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services and the Infant Hearing Program are 100% funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). All one-time and/or ongoing operating costs related to the use of the internet version of ISCIS by TPH will also be 100% funded by the MCYC.

DECISION HISTORY

Over the past 5 years, City Council has approved a number of reports related to use by TPH of provincial databases pursuant to contractual arrangements between the City and the Province's Smart Systems for Health Agency. On February 4, 5 and 6, 2003, City Council approved Board of Health Report 1, Clause 4 (January 23, 2003) authorizing the City to enter into Agreements with SSHA to make use of ISCIS to support data collection for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. At its meeting of July 19, 20, 21 and 26, 2005, City Council approved the recommendations in Board of Health Report 6, Clause 2 authorizing the City to modify these Agreements for the purpose of province-wide standardization subject to continuation of data safeguards and extension of the scope of the Agreements, allowing Toronto Public Health to use the Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) to manage communicable disease control data.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto Public Health is the lead agency for Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services and the Infant Hearing Program. Both of these programs are 100% funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). As part of its funding agreement with the MCYS, Toronto Public Health is required to produce quarterly and yearly client and service level data for both programs, as measured against annual service targets. Given the size of these services, this can only be achieved through the support of a computerized client and service database.

Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services (TPSLS) provides individual speech and language therapy to children from the ages of birth to school entry. It also provides parent group education, caregiver training and early identification outreach in order to promote optimal speech and language development among Toronto's preschool children. TPSLS provides services to approximately 6,000 children per year. Service delivery data

is currently entered into the Danic database. The Danic database was developed in 2000 exclusively for Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services and has been in use since that time.

The Infant Hearing Program provides universal hearing screening for all babies born in the City of Toronto, audiology testing for those who screen positive, and family support and case management for children up to 6 years of age who are diagnosed as deaf or severely hard of hearing. Approximately 38,000 infants are screened each year, with 80 children and their families receiving support and case management. Service delivery data is currently entered into the provincial Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS). The current Infant Hearing Program ISCIS is a locally based MS Access database application.

In order to produce provincial reports and to maintain consistency across the province, the MCYS is now requiring that all Speech and Language Services and Infant Hearing Programs throughout the province migrate their client and service data from their existing systems to a new Oracle based ISCIS application residing within the Smart Systems for Health Agency (SSHA) infrastructure.

COMMENTS

SSHA is a Crown agency that was established in 2002 by Ontario Regulation 43/02 and is the key element in the Province's Strategic Information and Information Technology Plan. SSHA already hosts and operates the data network that supports the iPHIS software and database and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children ISCIS software and database. Both of these databases are currently being used by Toronto Public Health, pursuant to a set of Agreements entered into between the City and SSHA in 2003 for HBHC ISCIS and 2005 for iPHIS.

These Service Level Agreements with SSHA take the form of a general Master Service Agreement, a Network Services Schedule and a Database-specific Hosting Services Schedule. The existing Master Service Agreement between SSHA and the City of Toronto sets out the terms and conditions that apply to the services provided by SSHA. The Network Services Schedule addresses network services provided by SSHA. In order to implement ISCIS for TPSL and IHP, two new schedules are required: a ONE ID Direct Service Schedule, which addresses identity and access management services provided by SSHA, and a Data Hosting Services Module which addresses data hosting service provided by SSHA.

Together, the agreement and schedules ensure the integrity, limited access to and confidentiality of client data. Only users authorized by the City have access to the database. The Agreements also provide SSHA with access to the computer system that is hosting the database for the purpose of maintaining and repairing the system and producing aggregate service reports. SSHA access does not include access to the personal information contained in the database, unless proper authorization has been obtained.

The MCYS, as owners of ISCIS, has conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment on the implementation of ISCIS in Ontario. The Privacy Impact Assessment has been reviewed by the City of Toronto Corporate Access & Privacy (CAP) office and they are satisfied that the MCYS has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the privacy and security issues relating to ISCIS.

Following the execution of all documentation required to enable the use of ISCIS services data, Toronto Preschool Speech and Language program will be manually entered into ISCIS for all active children. The Danic system will continue to be maintained in order to provide data on discharged clients and enhanced functionality for reporting on active clients until functionality of the provincial ISCIS is enhanced to meet these requirements. The Infant Hearing program will use the internet-based ISCIS application exclusively.

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SIGNATURE

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