Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel Membership

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<th>Date</th>
<th>December 23, 2014</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Board of Health</td>
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<td>From:</td>
<td>Medical Officer of Health</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>Reason for Confidential Information:</td>
<td>This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals.</td>
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SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to approve the updated Membership of the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel for the 2014-2018 term of Council. Toronto City Council approved the Toronto Drug Strategy (TDS) in December 2005. The TDS provides a comprehensive approach to alcohol and other drug issues based on the integrated components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.

A key TDS recommendation was the creation of a multi-sectoral committee to oversee and guide implementation. The TDS Implementation Panel was formed as a City advisory committee in 2006 to fulfill this role. In May 2011, City Council directed Toronto Public Health (TPH) to determine the future requirements of this Panel. As implementation of the drug strategy continued to progress, in June 2011, the Board of Health (BOH) agreed to reconstitute the Panel. As action is still needed to implement TDS recommendations and to respond to new and emerging issues related to substance use, this report seeks approval of the Panel membership for the next term of Council, including appointment of a City Councillor BOH member as Chair.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health designate a City Councillor member of the Board of Health to act as Chair of the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel;

2. The Board of Health appoint the individuals named in Confidential Attachment 1 to the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel for the term indicated or until successors are appointed; and,

3. The Board of Health approve the public release of the confidential information contained within Confidential Attachment 1.

Financial Impact
There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY
At its June 7, 2011 meeting, the Board of Health approved a report requesting that the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel be reconstituted by the Board of Health, including approval of its Terms of Reference and Panel Membership.

At its May 17 and 18, 2011 meeting, City Council approved a report recommending that the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel be referred to Toronto Public Health to determine future requirements.

At its December 5, 2005 meeting, City Council approved the Toronto Drug Strategy.

At its October 7, 2005 meeting, the Board of Health approved the Toronto Drug Strategy.

At its May 13, 2003 meeting, the Board of Health recommended development of a comprehensive drug strategy for the City of Toronto.

ISSUE BACKGROUND
In December 2005, Toronto City Council approved the Toronto Drug Strategy (TDS) and its 68 recommendations for action. The TDS provides a comprehensive approach to alcohol and other drug issues based on the integrated components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement. A key recommendation of the strategy was the establishment of a multi-sectoral committee to oversee and guide implementation. The TDS Implementation Panel was formed as a City advisory committee in 2006 to fulfill this role.
At its May 2011 meeting, in a report on City advisory bodies and working groups, City Council approved a recommendation from the City Manager asking TPH to review and determine the future requirements of the TDS Implementation Panel. As implementation of the drug strategy continued to progress, TPH recommended that the Panel report to the BOH, which the Board approved in June 2011, along with its Terms of Reference (see Attachment 2) and membership. This staff report outlines the ongoing role and mandate of the TDS Implementation Panel, and includes the updated membership for BOH approval.

COMMENTS
The TDS Implementation Panel provides oversight and strategic advice regarding implementation of the drug strategy recommendations. Another key role for the Panel has been to bring together diverse stakeholders involved with substance use issues. This multi-sectoral collaboration is critical to advancing our collective response to substance use in Toronto. The Panel has several working groups charged with implementing specific drug strategy recommendations.

The Panel membership includes representatives from the areas of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement, as well as groups representing people who use alcohol/other drugs, youth and the chairperson of each working group. The Panel composition was recommended by the committee that developed the drug strategy to be representative of the key stakeholders and stakeholder groups required for multi-sectoral leadership on this issue in Toronto. Each stakeholder group designates their representative to sit on the Panel. The working groups facilitate diverse community participation from individuals, groups and institutions across Toronto. Toronto Public Health staff provides policy, research and administration support to the Panel, its working groups, and all other initiatives related to TDS implementation.

As part of its accountability to the BOH and the community, the Panel issues a status report every two years documenting action taken to implement TDS recommendations. The most recent status report was submitted to the BOH in November 2014, and is available at: http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.HL34.7

Action is still needed to implement the TDS recommendations, and to respond to new and emerging substance use issues. There is broad support among City, community and institutional partners of the TDS to continue collaborating to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drugs in Toronto. As the Panel reports to the BOH, the Board is requested to approve the updated membership for the new term of Council (see Attachment 1). Due to changes in the City Councillor members on the Board of Health, the position of Panel Chair is now vacant. The Board is therefore requested to designate a City Councillor member of the BOH to Chair the Panel. Chair will lead the Panel in its implementation of an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to substance use based on the four integrated components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.
CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment 1: Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel Membership (Confidential)
Attachment 2: Terms of Reference for the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel