
2019 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

24-Hour Drop-in Centres – Outcome of Discussions with the Province to Resource Operations

Issue:

At the Budget Committee meeting held on February 6, 2019, City staff were requested to provide a Briefing Note identifying:

- Outcomes of the discussions with the provincial government and operators of 24-hour drop-in centres about the resources needed for operations and what the cost would be to increase resources.

This briefing note provides information on the work done to date with the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (TC-LHIN) to improve operations and access to health services for clients using the 24-hour drop-ins.

Key Messages:

- SSHA staff are involved in ongoing discussions with the TC-LHIN on increased health services needed in emergency shelters, 24-hour respite sites and 24-hour women's drop-ins.
- Additional resources for the 24-hour women's drop-ins have been requested from the LHIN through these ongoing discussions. To date, no additional LHIN funding has been received for the 24-hour women's drop-ins.
- In addition, Sistering submitted a proposal to the TC-LHIN over two years ago for 24/7 mental health nursing supports in their service but it has not yet received any funding.
- SSHA staff have worked with the 24-hour women's drop-ins to develop processes to prioritize referrals to shelters with more health supports in place for women whose health care needs are beyond the capacity of the drop-in to address adequately.

Background:

- SSHA staff have been involved in ongoing discussions with the TC-LHIN for the past two years about the increasing health needs of people experiencing homelessness, and have requested increased funding to support three priority areas:

- Implementation of the shelter health services framework for new shelter pilot sites by issuing an EOI and providing funding to a lead health service provider for each site;
 - Providing funding for specialized health services in replacement programs for the Seaton House as part of George Street Revitalization; and
 - Increasing health services in existing shelters, 24-hour respite sites and 24-hour women's drop-ins to respond to increasingly complex needs.
- The outcome of these requests for increased TC-LHIN funding to date have been:
 - Additional funding for personal support workers through a community partner at Seaton House; and
 - One-time funding of \$300,000 ending March 31, 2019 for health services to support 24-hour respite sites.
 - SSHA staff facilitated a meeting with TC-LHIN and the 24-hour women's drop-ins to request additional health supports in early 2018. Discussions remain on-going without any commitment of funding.
 - Expanding health services for clients of shelters, 24-hour respite sites and 24-hour women's drop-ins has been identified as one of the priorities for the 2019 Action Plan for the City-LHIN System Leadership table led by Social Development, Finance and Administration.
 - In addition to supporting requests for increased LHIN funding, SSHA staff have worked with the 24-hour women's drop-ins to develop processes to prioritize referrals to shelters with more health supports in place for women whose health care needs are beyond the capacity of the drop-in to address adequately.
 - City staff are also working with the LHIN and Toronto hospitals to develop protocols that would reduce the number of inappropriate referrals to shelters, 24-hour respite sites and 24-hour women's drop-ins.

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