



## REPORT FOR ACTION

### **Service Agreements Awarded and Executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2020**

**Date:** June 23, 2020

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Medical Officer of Health

**Wards:** All

#### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to provide information on the purchase of service contracts awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2020, according to the delegation of authority by City Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute, and amend, on an ongoing annual basis, the purchase of service contracts for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program in Appendix E to this report, within Toronto Public Health's approved 2020 Budget and in accordance with established provincial criteria and fee structures.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved by City Council in the 2020 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health. Appendix A summarizes \$15.782 million in service contracts awarded and executed by program to support delivery for 2020. Further details by program can be found in Appendices B through F.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed the report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting on August 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2000, City Council delegated authority to the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute, and amend on an ongoing annual basis the purchase of service contracts.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2000/agendas/council/cc/cc000801/pof10rpt/cl037.pdf>

## COMMENTS

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Toronto Public Health (TPH) currently has service contracts with partner agencies that support service delivery in the community for the Early Abilities program, which includes Preschool Speech and Language, Infant Hearing and Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention. There are also service contracts for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, the Sexual Health program, the Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults program, the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, the Mobile Good Food Market program and the Community Food Works program.

Purchasing services from community agencies is an effective and efficient way to provide essential public health services. This approach builds on existing service infrastructure in the community, facilitates community partnerships, supports continuity of service to clients, and maximizes service efficiencies.

### Early Abilities Programs

#### Preschool Speech and Language

Toronto Public Health is the lead agency for the 100 percent Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) funded Preschool Speech and Language program. This program provides services to children up to school entry, and includes communication programming for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Current service contracts align with the provincial fiscal year for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Service contracts are based on projected service delivery targets from the MCCSS for the 2020/21 fiscal year. See Appendix B.

#### Infant Hearing

The 100-percent MCCSS funded Infant Hearing Program provides: (1) universal screening of newborns at hospital discharge and at community clinics; (2) screening of high risk infants in hospitals and follow up audiological surveillance at 12 months; (3) audiology diagnostic assessment at community sites; (4) referral to the Preschool Speech and Language program for auditory-oral communication programming and finally, the reporting of all four of these deliverables.

Service contracts have been established with two hospitals that have opted to hire their own dedicated staff for screening in the postpartum and/or neonatal intensive care units. Service contracts for four community-based diagnostic assessment clinics have been established with agencies that were designated by the MCCSS. All contracts are on a fee for service basis using a fee structure established by MCCSS. In order to align

with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. See Appendix B.

### **Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention**

This 100-percent MCCSS funded program is standard throughout Ontario for children who have low vision or are blind. Early childhood vision consultation services are provided in Toronto through the purchase of service from Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada, Ontario Division, which is a Canadian National Institute for the Blind organization and Surrey Place Centre. Family support is provided by TPH staff. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. See Appendix B.

### **Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program**

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is a 100-percent MCCSS funded program that provides blended home visiting services by both Public Health Nurses and Family Home Visitors for high risk families. In an effort to support local community capacity and avoid service duplication, the Family Home Visiting service contracts were awarded to and executed with the four local agencies that were already providing peer home visiting services. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. See Appendix C.

### **Sexual Health Program**

The Sexual Health Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health (70 percent) and the City (30 percent). Purchase of service arrangements are in place with Hassle Free Clinic; the Birth Control and VD Information Centre; and the Immigrant Women's Health Centre. These clinics deliver services which address the needs of specific client populations and can identify and respond quickly to gaps in service or emerging sexual health needs. Contract amounts with clinics for 2020 are identified in Appendix D.

Toronto Public Health also has purchase of service agreements with five community agencies. These agencies deliver sexual health promotion services reaching specific high risk and hard to reach populations.

### **Dental Care to Street-Involved Youth and Low-Income Adults Program**

City Council has approved funding for three agencies that use volunteer dental professionals to provide dental services to street youth and low/no income adults, 18-64 year olds, who are unable to pay for dental care in the private sector. These agencies are: Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre (an amalgamation of Central Toronto and Parkdale Community Health Centres), Evergreen Centre for Street Youth - Yonge Street Mission; and The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care.

The 2020 budget for these agencies is \$80,390. The agencies that receive funding through a purchase of service contract use these funds to purchase dental supplies,

repair dental equipment, subsidize dental assistant salaries and provide honorariums for dental professionals such as dentists and dental hygienists. These funds assist with keeping the clinics operating and attracting volunteers.

Agencies that provide free dental care to these residents are also funded by charitable donations. It is important for the City to continue to assist with funding these agencies so this service can be maintained. See Appendix E.

### **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program**

On November 20, 2019 the Government of Ontario launched the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), a 100 percent Ministry of Health funded dental program for low-income Ontario seniors. Toronto Public Health is responsible for providing dental care to OSDCP eligible seniors through TPH clinics, Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs).

Under the Ministry of Health's Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement, TPH may enter into contractual partnerships with organizations to provide eligible OSDCP seniors with specialty dental services that are part of the OSDCP service schedule, but unavailable through PHUs, CHCs and AHACs. Appendix E lists contractual partnerships that will be explored based on operational demands of the program.

### **Mobile Good Food Market Program**

The Mobile Good Food Markets Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health (70 percent) and the City (30 percent). Mobile Good Food Markets are 'produce stores on wheels' bringing low cost, fresh fruits and vegetables into low income communities underserved by traditional suppliers of healthy food. They focus primarily on Neighbourhood Improvement Areas where a high proportion of newcomers, single-parent families and seniors living in high-rise apartments do not have ready access to healthy food.

Launched in 2012, the program is a collaboration between TPH and FoodShare Toronto. A donated TTC Wheel-Trans vehicle was retrofitted as a Mobile Market. The Mobile Good Food Market operates 10 market locations throughout the year in low-income neighbourhoods across the city. In 2018, a total of 11,000 people were served and about 57,000 pounds of produce sold through 411 markets at 9 locations. See Appendix F.

### **Community Food Works Program**

Community Food Works (CFW) integrates food handler training and certification, food literacy and employment skills development. This is achieved through training and support of low income community participants, including newcomers and refugees, using an adult education, learner centred approach. Initiated in 2011, CFW has been delivered through TPH in collaboration with Working Women Community Centre (WWCC) and other community partners as well as with Toronto Employment and Social Services as a partner. Community Food Works has demonstrated positive food safety

outcomes as well as improved nutrition and employment outcomes as evidenced by the excellent success rates in obtaining food handler certification, enhanced employability and improved nutrition skills. Some program graduates have acquired employment or established food related social enterprises such as small catering businesses, or selling prepared food at farmers' and community markets.

For program continuity and the ability to expand and garner additional resources, it is recommended that the City of Toronto enter into a Purchase of Service agreement with WWCC to operate the program. Toronto Public Health would continue to support partnership development, both within City divisions and in the community, as well as provide strategic advice and evaluation support. As a well-established, not for profit community organization with considerable experience in project management, employment skills development, settlement services and community capacity building, WWCC is well positioned to operate the program and to provide considerable additional in-kind resources and external funding. Working Women Community Centre is very familiar with all aspects of program operations and will be in a position to augment CFW by leveraging additional external funding to expand and consolidate the program. Working Women Community Centre has access to inspected kitchens to run the program and has multiple existing partnerships in place to engage interested participants, facilitate employment pathways and support existing partnerships and to facilitate new ones. See Appendix F.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Medical Officer of Health

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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- Appendix A - Toronto Public Health – 2020/21 Service Contract Summary
- Appendix B - 2020/21 Preschool Speech and Language Service Contracts
  - 2020/21 Infant Hearing Service Contracts
  - 2020/21 Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention (BLVEIP) Service Contracts
- Appendix C - 2020 Healthy Babies Healthy Children Service Contracts
- Appendix D - 2020 Sexual Health Clinic Service Contracts
  - 2020 Sexual Health Service Contracts
- Appendix E - 2020 Dental Care to Street-Involved Youth and Low-Income Adults Service Contracts
  - 2020 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Service Contracts
- Appendix F - 2020 Mobile Good Food Markets Program Service Contract
  - 2020 Community Food Works Program Service Contract