

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number HS2017-001

Date: June 6, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: 16

Subject: Bethany Nurse Practitioner Clinic

Author Name and Title: Rod Sutherland, Director of Human Services

Recommendation(s):

RESOLVED THAT Report HS2017-001, Bethany Nurse Practitioner Clinic, be received; and

THAT the merger of the part time Bethany and Lindsay Nurse Practitioner clinics into one full time clinic in Lindsay be approved and remain funded at current levels.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

The City contributes financial support for two full time Nurse Practitioner (NP) positions, one practicing full time in Kirkfield, and one split between Bethany and Lindsay. The Kirkfield NP program has been in operation since prior to amalgamation, with Eldon Township providing financial support starting in 1999 and the City subsequently providing funding since 2001. The second Nurse Practitioner splits their time between the part time Bethany clinic, opened in 2005 in space leased from the City at the Library, and the privately leased part time clinic in Lindsay.

The Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) has administered both of these NP programs since 2007. The City's 2017 funding to the VON for the Nurse Practitioner program is \$106,698, representing approximately 25% of the total costs of the programs, with the balance from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Rationale:

Due to the continuing decline of the patient roster in Bethany, the VON is planning on merging the Bethany and Lindsay part time clinics into one full time clinic in Lindsay (Attachment A).

The terms of the City's existing funding agreement with the VON identifies the location of the funded services as being in Kirkfield, Bethany and Lindsay. The VON is requesting the City's continued funding and support for the merged full time clinic in Lindsay.

The Bethany site is not sustainable. With only part time operations, laboratory samples cannot be picked up on site, requiring additional trips for tests or unnecessary transporting of samples to other locations. In addition, the Bethany site does not have the electronic records capability, reducing the continuity of care, while the Lindsay site has access to electronic records.

The patient roster at the Bethany clinic is currently approximately 80, with 36 being residents of the City and the balance from neighboring municipalities. The Bethany site has reduced its hours from two days per week to one half day per week based on patient needs, with only two to three appointments booked.

Numerous patient recruitment efforts have been made including aligning hours of operation and offering flu shot clinics, however, since the fall of 2016 there have been two new patients at the Bethany clinic, while approximately 30 new patients were accepted at the Lindsay clinic.

All Bethany patients can be kept on the roster and will be able to be served at the Lindsay clinic. Full time operations in Lindsay will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of care.

The transfer of Bethany services to Lindsay and the closure of the Bethany site are expected to occur within one to three months. The VON will prepare a communications strategy to relay the changes and details of the move to all current patients.

The merger of the clinics in Lindsay is not a reflection of a lack of need for primary health care in the Bethany area; rather the operation of the clinic in its location and form is not sustainable. The City is identified as an Area of High Physician Need (AHPN) by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the purposes of physician recruitment compensation models. Individual communities within the City were identified as Underserved Areas in the previous provincial program; however, under the AHPN designation the City as a whole is identified.

The Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative (KLHCI), with its Family Doctor Recruitment Program, is aware of the need for family doctors in the southern part of City and is pursuing recruitment opportunities. Staff have been in contact with the KLHCI to relay the closure of the Bethany NP clinic as it relates to physician recruitment.

Other Alternatives Considered:

While the terms of the existing funding stipulate that NP services will include Bethany, maintaining the Bethany site is not sustainable. If the City does not approve the transfer of Bethany services to Lindsay, the closure of the site could result in the loss of those services completely. The funding agreement with the VON would subsequently be amended or re-negotiated.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Maintaining current funding levels for a merged clinic has no financial impact in the Human Services budget.

Merging the clinics in Lindsay will result in the termination of the lease for the Bethany clinic at the library. This will reduce annual revenue in the Building and Property Division of Community Services by \$4,800.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

The provision of Nurse Practitioner clinics relates to City's Strategic Goal of An Exceptional Quality of Life.

Consultations:

Victorian Order of Nurses

Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative

Attachments:

Attachment A: VON Letter



Appendix A Bethany
NP Clinic.pdf

Department Head E-Mail: rsutherland@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca

Department Head: Rod Sutherland



Appendix A to Report HS2017-001

May 19, 2017

To: Whom it May Concern

VON has been operating a Nurse Practitioner Clinic from the Bethany Municipal site for well over a decade. Care was being provided initially two days per week but due to low patient registration, service provision was moved to one day per week. VON has been most thankful to the City of the Kawartha Lakes for their ongoing support of the clinic throughout the years and sees the low enrollment as an opportunity to merge the Bethany Clinic patients with the Lindsay Clinic patients in one physical location in Lindsay. This is where most health services and specialists are located where we will be able to provide efficient patient care.

To date 82 patients are registered at the Bethany site, a large percentage of them reside outside of the City of the Kawartha Lakes catchment area. Presently the Bethany site holds 36 City of Kawartha Lakes patients 27 from Bethany, 5 Omemee and 1 Pontypool. During the last two years we have registered approximately two new patients to the Bethany roster. We have offered free flu shot clinics open to the community and have handed out applications on an open basis. These applications are seldom returned to the clinic. Many Bethany residents have advised that they have primary care elsewhere in Ontario. We are open Mondays and see approximately one to two patients; we are chronically unable to book a full day of patient care. It is with great hope that the patients seen in the Bethany site would continue their care with us from the Lindsay site. Nurse Practitioner clinics are expected to register approximately 800 patients per clinic and see anywhere from 14 to 17 patients in a day.

I would strongly recommend that the council endorse this move to close the Nurse Practitioner clinic located in Bethany opting instead for the Lindsay site to be open five full days weekly. It is our sense and responsibility that the City of the Kawartha Lakes is aware of the current situation and is supportive of the change in order to allow for optimal patient care within the City of the Kawartha Lakes and to allow for more patients to have primary care within the City of the Kawartha Lakes from the Lindsay site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Liz Loftus", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Liz Loftus
Director Home Care
South East District
VON Canada