

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Council Report

Report Number HS2018-003

Date: September 25, 2018
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Title: Grant Program for Medical Services

Author and Title: Rod Sutherland, Director of Human Services

Recommendation(s):

RESOLVED THAT Report HS2018-001, Grant Program for Medical Services, be received; and

THAT the a Decision Unit be included in the 2019 Operating Budget for an increase of \$36,000 to the Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative to develop and deliver a Family Physician Professional Development program.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of February 13, 2018, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2018-075

RESOLVED THAT Report CS2018-004, **Coboconk Medical Centre Update**, be received; and

That Council direct staff to investigate the cost of erecting a permanent facility for the provision of Medical Services in Coboconk; and

That Council direct staff to investigate the development of a Grant Program for the purposes of supporting the provision of Medical Services throughout the City; and

That current leases for medical practices be renewed on a year to year basis until such time that council has opportunity to consider a possible grant program.

This report addresses the direction of the third paragraph of the resolution.

Current (2018) City funding to KLHCI includes \$65,488 for operating costs as well as a \$20,000 allocation to the City's Doctor Recruitment Reserve. Annual allocations to the reserve are based on Council direction to maintain the reserve balance at approximately \$100,000. Reserve funds are requested by KLHCI as new Return of Service Incentive agreements are executed with family physicians as they are recruited. There have been 36 family doctors recruited since 2003. KLHCI is a registered non-profit, charitable organization.

The City also contributes annual funding (\$106,698 in 2018) to the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) to support two full-time Nurse Practitioner positions, one in Lindsay and one in Kirkfield. The Lindsay site is leased privately by the VON while the Kirkfield site at 1027 Portage Road is leased from the City at approximately \$790/month. VON is a national, non-profit, charitable organization.

Financial support to two private practice physicians has been provided through the provision of space at no charge in the City-owned Coboconk and Kirkfield Medical Centres. Previous Council reports (CS2018-004, CS2018-006) have addressed the issue of this provision of space and Ontario's Municipal Act restrictions on bonusing. The City is requiring all medical practitioners leasing or occupying City owned space to pay fair market value effective 2019.

Due to the condition of the Coboconk Medical Centre building, the City has been paying for a portable centre building at that location. The annual cost of that portable is approximately \$37,000.

Rationale:

A Grant Program for Medical Services currently exists in effect through separate funding streams to KLHCI, VON and up to 2018 by way of no-cost use of City-owned space in the Kirkfield and Coboconk Medical Centres for two private practice physicians.

The existing funding to the KLHCI for operating costs and the Doctor Recruitment Reserve as well as the Nurse Practitioner funding to VON are recommended to continue. Both were endorsed to continue by Council through the Core Service Review process in 2015-16.

The City's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Director of Community Services and Director of Human Services met with representatives of the Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative (KLHCI) on March 8th and May 4th, 2018 to review medical services and doctor recruitment needs.

Through these discussions and through their May 15th annual update to Council, the KLHCI has identified opportunities to enhance the retention of family physicians within the City. An equitable and efficient way to support family doctor retention is through an ongoing professional development or education program for family doctors. By offering a series of regular education events, the KLHCI could support all local family doctors in maintaining and increasing their skills. These sessions would be co-ordinated locally to improve education opportunities and support retention success.

Funding of \$36,000 would provide for approximately 12 education sessions for all family doctors in the City. A benefit of this approach is the equitable access for all family doctors. No one doctor receives a higher benefit than another based on their practice type, location or facility. There are currently 41 family physicians practicing in the City.

As stated by members of the KLHCI, incentives that benefit only specific doctors, such as reduced leasing costs, are not supported by them as they create inequities. Private practices are privately owned, for-profit businesses that benefit financially from these incentives.

It is recommended that the City shift its financial support of no-cost use of space arrangements for individual medical practices to a City-wide, family physician professional development program and that funding in the amount of \$36,000 be included in the 2019 Operating Budget for consideration as a Decision Unit. The funding, if approved, will be administered by KLHCI as part of their Family Doctor Recruitment and Retention program. The KLHCI will be asked to report annually to City Council on the program and its outcomes.

A presentation to City Council was scheduled for September 18, 2018 by the Coboconk, Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce regarding the Coboconk

Medical Centre. The Directors of Community Services and Human Services, along with KLHCI members, met with the Chamber representatives along with representatives of the Coboconk Medical Centre Trust on September 4th, 2018. In a discussion regarding medical services and doctor recruitment and retention efforts, all groups were in general support of shifting away from a program that financially benefited only two family physicians to a program that can benefit all family physicians in the City.

Other Alternatives Considered:

There could be a multitude of options for a grant program. The recommended option builds on the existing community expertise and capacity of KLHCI to provide an equitable application across the City for all family physicians.

Council could choose not to pursue an additional grant program for a family physician education program, maintaining current funding support to KLHCI and VON. As previously reported, the City cannot continue to provide City space to a private, for-profit business at less than fair market value.

Financial Impacts:

The annual cost of the recommended education program through KLHCI is \$36,000. As noted, the current leasing cost for the temporary portable in Coboconk is approximately \$37,000 per year, a cost fully borne by the City at present.

With Council's current direction requiring market value or cost recovery payment for City-owned space, a lease for this space would recover that cost, primarily offsetting the cost of the education program.

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

Medical services, including family doctor recruitment and retention, relate directly to the City's strategic goal of An Exceptional Quality of Life, and specifically to the objective of Improved Wellness, Well-Being and Community Health.

Consultations:

Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative
Director of Community Services

Department Head E-Mail: rsutherland@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Rod Sutherland