

## Request for Decision

### Rayside-Balfour City of Lakes Family Health Team Clinic

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Nov 18, 2013
Report Date	Wednesday, Nov 06, 2013
Type:	Managers' Reports

### Recommendation

WHEREAS, at the October 21, 2013 Community Services Committee meeting, further information was requested regarding the progress of the City of Lakes Family Health Team (FHT) Rayside-Balfour site, and;

WHEREAS in 2012, the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) allocated capital funds to address immediate building maintenance requirements at the former town hall in Rayside-Balfour, being roof repair and mould removal, building design costs moving forward, and;

WHEREAS in 2012, the CGS allocated \$650,000 in the Capital budget for the Municipal portion of the renovations required for the future site of the FHT in Rayside-Balfour, and;

WHEREAS confirmation from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is still pending;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury request that the MOHLTC respond to the unique and immediate needs of the CGS's underserviced community by further distributing provincial share of capital (\$650,000) funds that would allow the CGS to complete the fourth site of the City of Lakes FHT at the Rayside-Balfour location, and;

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury forward the motion to the MOHLTC and the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

### Finance Implications

Funding of \$100,000 for the building design, and \$190,000 for repairs to roof and mold remediation for the Family Health Team, was approved within the 2011 operating and 2012 capital budgets.

#### Signed By

##### **Report Prepared By**

Sherri Moroso  
Community Development Co-ordinator  
*Digitally Signed Nov 6, 13*

##### **Division Review**

Real Carre  
Director of Leisure Services  
*Digitally Signed Nov 6, 13*

##### **Recommended by the Department**

Catherine Matheson  
General Manager of Community Development  
*Digitally Signed Nov 6, 13*

##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Doug Nadorozny  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed Nov 9, 13*

## **Background**

The City of Lakes FHT was established in 2007 as a non-profit corporation following funding approval from the MOHLTC for a four-site operation. FHT partners include the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Health Sciences North and the CGS. The FHT is an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals working collaboratively to provide comprehensive primary health care services to the residents of the CGS.

In the first six years of operation, the City of Lakes FHT opened three of four clinics in the areas of; Sudbury, Val Caron, and Walden. These sites provide primary care in a clinical setting for twelve family physicians, eleven inter-health professionals and a team of clerical/administrative staff. The FHT currently serves 16,500 patients and is continually growing. The total number of citizens in the Rayside-Balfour area is 14,424 which covers Chelmsford, Dowling, Azilda, and Levack/Onaping. The formula used to calculate primary care needs is estimated to be one practitioner to 1,380 patients based on population base. This would translate into the community of Rayside-Balfour requiring four new family physicians for the area. It should also be noted that there are currently 5 family physicians practicing in the area and are planning on retiring in the next two years.

In 2012, Council approved funding in the amount of \$650,000 as partnership funding for renovations estimated at 1.3 million. Council also approved building design costs of \$100,000 and the repair to the roof and mold remediation at a cost of \$190,000.

### **City of Lakes Family Health Team Update**

The CoLFHT is committed to the addition of a fourth site within the City. The CoLFHT is working in partnership with the City on a joint proposal for the Ministry for the fourth site to be located in Rayside Balfour. The checklist which must be done for the application to the Ministry has been started. The CoLFHT is also working very closely with the City's physician recruiter in making recruitment a priority.

### **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Update**

The original proposal submitted to the MOHLTC in 2005 recognized the need to deliver primary health care to the Chelmsford area. The area of Rayside-Balfour is currently underserved, and there is a need for more primary care clinicians for that particular area. Recently information was received from the Ministry indicating that all programs funded by the MOHLTC must be revisited to assist with budget reductions. As a result, there is limited opportunity to seek new funding (not only for FHTs but for a range of government programs). The community has identified a need for primary health care services in Rayside-Balfour.

### **City of Greater Sudbury's Physician Recruitment Update**

At present, there are several components of the CGS Primary Care Recruitment Program which have a direct application to FHT sites. Incoming physicians may qualify for the following:

FHT Incentive (\$10,000) - this one-time incentive is offered to family physicians (new to CGS) who agree to join the City of Lakes FHT.

Chelmsford Physician Recruitment Incentive Program – a valuable package of goods and services donated by Chelmsford business owners.

Despite these incentives and CGS staff's commitment to outline the family practice opportunities available in Rayside-Balfour, there have been relatively few prospective physicians who have expressed interest in this facility. This challenge is exacerbated because of the current uncertainty regarding the opening.

Council may wish to request options for a more focused recruitment approach for this initiative but should be aware that this will require a change in the Primary Care Recruitment Policy.

### **Building Update**

The CGS is moving forward with an RFP to secure an Architect to begin schematic designs on the former town hall building in Chelmsford. It should be noted that this would be at the City's own expense and without involvement or support from the MOHLTC.

In terms of the building itself and work completed to date, repairs have been done to the roof, drainage and an RFP has been sent out for a contractor for the mold remediation. An environmental consultant was hired and worked with staff in capital management to create a scope of work for the removal of the material in question.

### **Current Concerns**

- Aggressive funding cuts that have been identified by the MOHLTC.
- Lack of primary care giver interest in the Rayside-Balfour area. Most primary care givers are opting for offices in the city.
- Concern that the MOHLTC will not even consider funding the Rayside-Balfour site until the Valley site has reached its full staffing compliment for primary care.
- Physician recruitment dollars specific to Rayside-Balfour, may cause concern from other areas within the city when searching for of primary care givers.
- Concern that the MOHLTC may not equally fund this project at 50% as in past project.

### **Next Steps**

Mayor and Council recognize the need to further enhance the City of Lakes FHT by moving towards the opening of the fourth site in Rayside-Balfour. Currently, there are approximately 30,000 orphan patients within the CGS, with 8,970 within the Rayside-Balfour area itself. This report reinforces the City's commitment to enhance the delivery of primary care services to those areas most affected by family physician shortages.

The CGS urges the MOHLTC to prioritize its funding to the Rayside-Balfour City of Lakes FHT in order that this project can proceed. The City, given passing of this resolution will prepare architectural drawings at 100% expense to the CGS.