

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services
Public Health

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Teresa Bendo, Director, Public Health
Date: August 28, 2020
Subject: Provincial Initiative School-Focused Public Health Nurses

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The hiring of five temporary 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurses for up to two years be approved.

Background

On July 30, 2020 the Government of Ontario announced an investment of \$50 million to hire up to 500 additional school-focused nurses in public health units to provide support to schools and boards as part of the safe re-opening of schools plan.

On August 11, 2020 CK Public Health received notice from Dr. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario, confirming the funding of an estimated four additional FTEs to hire school-focused public health nurses in Chatham-Kent. The Ministry recommended that public health units begin their recruitment processes for these nurses immediately due to the urgent need to support school boards.

Additionally, Dr. Williams has indicated that these positions will be for a duration of two years and are 100% funded by the Ministry.

On August 14, 2020, the Director, Public Health provided notice to Council regarding this initiative and CK Public Health's intention to begin recruitment immediately. The recruitment is expected to be completed by the end of September.

On August 25, public health units received a request from the Ministry to complete and submit, daily, a spreadsheet tracking the progress of the Health Unit's recruitment of these four positions.

On August 28, CK Public Health received notice confirming funding for 1.0 FTE to hire an additional school focused public health nurse. With this additional funding, five school focused public health nurses will be hired.

Comments

These nurses will perform an expanded role by providing support for:

- the development and implementation of COVID-19 health and safety plans;
- infection prevention and control;
- surveillance, screening, and testing;
- outbreak management and case and contact management; and
- communication and engagement with parents and local communities.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

There was no consultation required in producing this report.

Financial Implications

This initiative is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health.

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Attachment: None

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