

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**  
**Community Human Services**  
**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services  
**Date:** September 8, 2020  
**Subject:** Ontario Health Team Update

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This report is for the information of Council.

**Background**

Following the 2018 provincial election, the government moved forward on their promise to improve the health care system and end hallway medicine in part through the introduction of Ontario Health Teams. Historically, health care services and health care providers have provided mandated programs and services, typically funded all or in part through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care, with limited coordination and collaboration between agencies. Through Ontario Health Teams, the government plans to integrate care delivery and funding, which will enable patients, families, communities, providers, and system leaders to better work together, innovate, and build on what is best in Ontario's health care system.

On July 18, 2019, Chatham-Kent received notification of a successful self-assessment and an invitation to complete a full Ontario Health Team application. On October 7, 2019, Council passed the following motion:

“Whereas the goal of the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team is to bring together health care partners from all sectors, including hospital, home and community care, primary care, long-term care, and community support agencies to provide seamless, fully coordinated care for patients, while creating a more efficient health care system, and

Whereas the vision of the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team is “Achieving the best health and well-being together”, and

Whereas by endorsing the submission of the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team application, Council is agreeing to participate in ongoing discussions aimed at clearly identifying ways partner organizations can continue to co-design a local health care system with improved access to care and system navigation for patients, families, caregivers and the community, and

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Whereas, all partner agencies will continue to function within their own governance structure, therefore

Be it resolved that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent endorse the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team full application for consideration by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and that the Municipal Clerk and Chatham-Kent Mayor be authorized to sign the necessary documents.

And that the Manager of Legal Services shall approve any contractual or other legal documents arising from the proposal.”

Chatham-Kent’s application was successful and on December 7, 2019, the Ministry of Health officially announced the Chatham-Kent Ontario Health Team (CKOHT) as one of the first 24 OHTs in the province. Year one for all Ontario Health Teams was scheduled to begin on April 1, 2020 and the CKOHT began working on its year one plan, developing 30, 60, 90, and 180-day deliverables for 2020. Then COVID-19 hit and the work of the OHTs across the province quickly transitioned to dealing with the pandemic, collectively and individually in each partner organizations.

There are 15 local health agencies working together as partners in the CKOHT:

- Alzheimer Society Chatham-Kent
- Canadian Mental Health Association Lambton-Kent
- Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- Chatham-Kent Community Health Centres
- Chatham-Kent Family Health Team
- Chatham-Kent Hospice
- Erie St. Clair Behavioural Supports Ontario
- Erie St. Clair LHIN Home and Community Care
- March of Dimes Canada
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- St. Andrew’s Residence
- Thamesview Family Health Team
- Tilbury District Family Health Team
- TransForm Shared Services Organization
- Westover Treatment Centre

### **Comments**

One of the first deliverables for the CKOHT was to develop a formal collaboration agreement between partner organizations. This work began before the pandemic and was finalized in early summer. The collaboration agreement has been signed by all partner agencies. The document governs how team members will work together to achieve the CKOHT vision of “Achieving the best health and wellbeing together”. Team members have committed to the guiding principles of Respect and Dignity, Empathy and Compassion, Accountability, Transparency, and Equity and Engagement. The document further outlines how future decisions on the integration of services will be

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accomplished. Moving forward there will be further project specific agreements that will require legal review and potentially further Council direction. Legal Services has reviewed the Collaboration Agreement and the Mayor and Clerk have signed the agreement.

The CKOHT has continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic. Not surprisingly, for several of the last six months the focus was COVID-19. The collaboration and partnerships created by the CKOHT allowed for quick and nimble responses to COVID-19 in Chatham-Kent including but not limited to partnerships between public health and EMS, mobile COVID-19 testing throughout the community, primary care arrangements for agricultural temporary foreign workers, local response to long-term care and retirement homes, and sourcing of needed personal protection equipment.

As the CKOHT partners continue to provide needed programs and services throughout the community in what is now recognized as the new COVID-19 way of doing things, the CKOHT has embarked on plans for moving forward. The CKOHT will be hiring a CKOHT Transformation Executive Lead who will develop and implement initiatives to advance integrated care and partnerships across the CKOHT partners. The position will be housed initially with Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. The CKOHT has completed all Ministry required documentation including Collaborative Decision-Making requirements. Provincial funding will be provided to assist the CKOHT in moving forward with Year One Implementation Plans.

On Friday September 11, 2020 the CKOHT will participate in a strategic planning exercise to review pre-pandemic year one plans, determine what remains relevant and adjust accordingly. The CKOHT Year One population remains adults (55+) with at least one of the following: heart failure or angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dementia, or diabetes.

The CKOHT takes a quadruple aim approach focusing on the following four key areas:

- Patient Experience – Improve the patient experience for older adults to top ranking regardless of measurement scale used
- Population Health – Improve health outcomes and quality of care for older adults
- Better Value – Reduce overall costs of care for older adults across the continuum
- Care Team wellbeing – Improve the experience of the care team across the continuum

Current Year One targets:

- Improve the rate of avoidable emergency department visits by 5%
- Improve the rate of hospitalization for ambulatory care sensitive conditions by 10%
- Improve communication and patient transitions between care settings
- Adopt a digital first approach and monitor the percentage of CKOHT residents digitally accessing their health information

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As the CKOHT resumes regular meetings, and work on project deliverables begins, updates will be provided to Council.

### **Consultation**

There was no consultation required in producing this information report.

### **Financial Implications**

Partner agencies come together in consultation and collaboration through in-kind staff time directed towards the project.

Moving forward CKOHT allocation of costs are to be guided by principles of equitable allocation. Financial contributions and methodology of cost allocation will be reviewed annually.

Prepared by:

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