

Hamilton's Adult Day Services



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Hamilton
A good place to be



St. Joseph's Villa
Adult Day Program



November 6, 2012

Ms. Donna Cripps, Chief Executive Officer
& Mr. Jim Borysko, Advisor, Health System Performance
HNHB LHIN
264 Main Street East
Grimsby, Ontario L3M 1P8
Sent via Email: donna.cripps@lhins.on.ca, jim.borysko@lhins.on.ca

Re: Risk of Elimination of Adult Day User Fee Subsidy for Hamilton ADS Program Participants

Dear Ms. Cripps and Mr. Borysko:

As Co-Chairs of the Hamilton Adult Day Service Network, we are writing to inform you of the potential risk of loss of a present source of subsidy of ADS fees for many low-income seniors and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities attending Hamilton Adult Day Programs. If this subsidy is lost, many marginalized Hamilton residents will not be able to afford to attend an Adult Day Program after December 31, 2012.

Last week we became aware of a City of Hamilton Community Services Department Benefit Eligibility Division Report (CS12020 (b) that included the recommendation to eliminate funding of Adult Day Program User Fees by the City Of Hamilton due to cutbacks in provincial funding. This report was presented to City of Hamilton Emergency and Community Services Committee members on November 1, 2012.

City of Hamilton Community Services presently funds up to \$15.00 per day of Adult Day Program user fees for low-income seniors and ODSP recipients that are deemed eligible. The Adult Day Services user fee recommendations can be found on pages 7 of both the main report and appendices. The full 29 page report can be viewed at:

http://www.hamilton.ca/NR/ronlyres/D45B913C-9E43-497A-805F-F4EB36A762E1/0/Nov01EDRMS_n374577_v1_6_1_Report_12009_ECS.pdf

City staff rationale for this recommendation of eliminating the ADS fee subsidy includes:

- Primary Funding is provided by the MOHLTC via the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) to service providers in the community
- Community providers can apply for increased funding for users unable to pay their user fee as part of their 3 year budget submission which is due 2013 (no guarantee that additional funding will be provided)

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A Hamilton Adult Day Services delegation presented to Hamilton Emergency and Community Services committee members at the November 1st meeting due to our concerns of the significant negative impact that this recommendation, if approved by City Council, will have on many of our clients, caregivers and programs,

We clarified for Council members that Hamilton ADS Programs have a 0% budget increase in HNHB LHIN funding for the 2012- 2013 and 2013 -2014 fiscal years. We also notified members that the recent 4% or \$14.7 million in community funding through the MOHLTC was for new or expanded services and has already been allocated within the HNHB LHIN.

This City of Hamilton Community Services Department Benefit Eligibility Division Report and recommendations are to be added to the agenda of the City of Hamilton November 7th, 2012 General Interest Meeting for further review and discussion.

We are notifying the HNHB LHIN of these events given the negative effects that the loss of this subsidy would have on many participants, caregivers and Hamilton Adult Day Programs. Depending upon the Hamilton ADS Program location site, **3% to 43%** of current program participants would be unable to continue attending an ADS Program. This is very disturbing news, especially given that we know that income, social support networks, personal health and coping skills are significant social determinants of health that can be strengthened through participation in an Adult Day Service Program.

In addition to the negative effects on participants and caregivers, the elimination of subsidy of Hamilton Adult Day Program user fees will create a significant revenue loss for many Hamilton Day Programs creating the need for immediate restructuring and probable layoffs of staff. Furthermore, our ability to meet client numbers and units of service in Q4 according to our present 2011 – 2014 M-SAA will be affected. This raises additional concerns as we fear this could also impact our overall MOHLTC funding managed through the HNHB LHIN.

We would ask that you please share this correspondence with the appropriate parties within the HNHB LHIN and MOHLTC. In the interim, we will inform you when a decision has been reached by City of Hamilton Council regarding the Adult Day Program User Fee subsidy issue.

Sincerely,

Trish Balardo,
Executive Director, SAM Program
Co- Chair, Hamilton ADS Network

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