



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 16-241**

To: Mayor and Member of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing and Social Services
Date of Meeting: July 12, 2016
Subject: Agreement for Dental Services with Kingston Community Health Centre

Executive Summary:

The inability to afford necessary dental services can have a significant impact on the quality of life for those living in poverty. Housing and Social Services Department and Kingston Community Health Centre (KCHC) are proposing to enter into a partnership to increase available health benefits to Ontario Works recipients as well as dental services to low income individuals and families living within the City of Kingston.

It is proposed that through the referral of Ontario Works recipients to KCHC for dental care the resulting revenue would allow KCHC to substantially increase the number of low income, non-insured individuals able to receive dental services at no cost. Increasing access to low income residents and Ontario Works recipients will help meet the objectives of the community's Poverty Reduction Initiative and Council's strategic goal of a liveable City through continued revitalization of the north end.

The committed costs for services provided by KCHC to Ontario Works recipients would remain within the existing Ontario Works budget for Discretionary Benefits, and would include a negotiated price in accordance with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) dental fee schedule and a renewable contract.

Recommendation:

That Council authorize the Commissioner of Community Services to enter into a contract agreement with Kingston Community Health Centre to provide dental services to Ontario Works recipients residing within the City of Kingston, including necessary language confirming that the purchased services from Kingston Community Health Centre enhance and focus on health

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services in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Act, 2001 section 110 and Ontario Regulation 603/06; and

That Council direct staff to make appropriate changes to procedures to reflect the necessary prioritization for the referral of Ontario Works recipients residing within the City of Kingston for dental services to Kingston Community Health Centre; and

That Council pass this resolution required by clause 6(1)(b) of Ontario Regulation 603/06 confirming that the dental services provided by Kingston Community Health Center are for the provision of social and health services; and

That in accordance with Section 110 (3) of the Municipal Act, 2001, the By-Law, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 16-241, be presented and given all three readings, to provide financial or other assistance at less than fair market value or at no cost to any person who has entered into an agreement to provide facilities under this section, on which municipal capital facilities are located; and

That Council authorize the Commissioner of Community Services or her delegate to review and approve, for execution by the Mayor and Clerk, all documents and agreements related to this report, as required, and to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services; and

That Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute all documents and agreements related to the funding allocations outlined in this report as approved by the Commissioner of Community Services or her delegate.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Denis Leger, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not Required

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Options/Discussion:

As the Service Manager for the City of Kingston and the County of Frontenac, the Housing and Social Services Department administers benefits to Ontario Works (OW) recipients on behalf of the Province. It should be noted that the population serviced includes the dependent adults of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients/spouses as well.

The provision of dental care to social assistance recipients is an OW Discretionary Benefit, and as such it is the responsibility of the Service Manager to determine funding allocations. Eligible benefits are cost shared with the Province in accordance with the prescribed provincial cost sharing formulae. Discretionary benefits are part of the provincial upload of Ontario Works costs which will be 100% uploaded to the province by 2018. The Province currently caps discretionary benefits at \$10 per case per month (based on combined OW and ODSP caseloads). Any amount spent above this amount would be the sole responsibility of the City of Kingston therefore benefit allocations are closely monitored to ensure the City spends within the provincial allocation.

This funding currently pays for the following discretionary benefits for clients: dental, vision, funerals, health and well-being, newborn/child benefits, Assistive Device Program co-payments, psychological assessments, and other discretionary benefits. The current benefit amount for dental care for OW adults and ODSP dependent adults with an active OW Participation Agreement is \$350.00 per person per calendar year, up to the maximum provincial funding. It is important to note that if all OW clients requested to use their \$350 discretionary dental benefit in any given year, not all benefit requests would be approved as funding would be exhausted. The Ontario Works Program Manager and Housing and Social Services Director have the discretion to approve overages for additional dental services from any surplus OW Discretionary Benefit funds. Overages for additional dental services have been and continue to be approved on a case by case basis and depending on individual situation.

The engagement in a contract with KCHC will allow the City to purchase dental services in accordance with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) fee schedule, rather than at the considerably higher rates established by the Ontario Dental Association. Private dental practitioners are under no obligation to provide services to social assistance recipients at the reduced rates set out in the MCSS fee schedule. The preferential pricing opportunity offered through an agreement with KCHC will result in OW discretionary benefit funding savings for dental services and clients still receiving approved dental services. Additional client requests for OW discretionary funds will be able to be approved while still keeping within the provincial maximum funding allocation by entering into this agreement. The agreement will also allow for OW Case Managers and management staff to work with KCHC to better prioritize when overages should be approved for OW clients such as dentures and more significant dental work. This is an area where OW staff have little expertise and it is difficult to work with multiple dentists to fully determine when overages should be approved and to determine that the City is being quoted an appropriate price for the additional dental work.

In addition to providing more affordable dental care services to OW and ODSP recipients, KCHC currently offers dental care services to low income uninsured individuals and families as revenue allows. KCHC will be receiving provincial funding for the next three years to continue to provide affordable dental care for working low income individuals. City and KCHC have explored

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ways to work together to maximize the provincial funding and increase the number of individuals that can access affordable dental care. Discussions with KCHC have identified that approximately one-third of OW recipients accessing dental benefits currently receive dental care services from KCHC. An increase in the number of OW patient referrals to KCHC will enhance revenue for the clinic and enable KCHC to increase the volume of low income uninsured patients served. KCHC anticipate that the number of uninsured patients served will double through this additional OW revenue. It is anticipated that the number of non-insured individuals would increase from 350 to 730 on an annual basis. KCHC is currently in the process of hiring additional dental professionals to handle this increased volume from both low income uninsured patients and OW clients. KCHC has evaluated the historic volume of dental services required of OW clients and has confirmed they will be able to provide service for all clients.

Movement toward exclusivity of service provision will also enhance the Service Manager's ability to streamline the benefit process and create internal efficiencies in the administration of dental benefits. Further to this, expanding the partnership with KCHC through the referral of OW recipients for dental care will connect individuals and families to other services available at the Centre such as medical care, addiction and mental health services, Better Beginnings for Kingston Children, while encouraging access to health services and social development which is an objective of the adopted Rideau Heights Regeneration Strategy.

Accessibility to affordable dental services is a necessary element for low income persons to be able to maintain good health and well-being, and increase their employability. It is essential to the goal of poverty reduction as identified in the community Poverty Reduction Initiative while also meeting the goal of the Ontario Works program to have individuals successfully gain employment.

Staff do expect that some opportunity for Ontario Works clients to choose a different dentist from KCHC will still be necessary due to the nature of OW clients and their needs. The Service Manager area is large so it will be necessary to still permit County OW clients to access dental services in the County. Additional exceptions in the agreement may also include allowing clients to finish work with their existing dental service or to access more convenient and cost efficient services with their existing dentist. This report seeks approval from Council to enter into an exclusive contract with KCHC but as referenced above the agreement will need to build in flexibility for client circumstances similar to other benefit and employment program policies that the OW program currently delivers and ensures compliance with.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

The recommendation to purchase dental services from KCHC supports objectives of the community's Poverty Reduction Initiative, the social pillar of the Kingston Sustainability Plan, and Council's endorsement of the Rideau Heights Regeneration Strategy.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 2 of Ontario Regulation 603/06 prescribe municipal facilities provisioning social and health services as eligible municipal capital facilities and as such, allow for the purchase of dental services from KCHC.

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Notice Provisions:

Not applicable.

Accessibility Considerations:

Copies of this report are available in alternate formats.

Financial Considerations:

The City of Kingston is allocated approximately \$1.2M annually in Ontario Works discretionary benefit funding. Funding is based on \$10 per case per month (based on a combined Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program caseload). Currently this funding is cost shared with the Province with the provincial share at 94.2%. By 2018, this will be 100% uploaded to the Province. This funding pays for the following discretionary benefits for clients: dental, vision, funerals, health and well-being, newborn/child benefits, Assistive Device Program co-payments, psychological assessments, and other discretionary benefits. The agreement would not direct additional funding to KCHC requiring a budget amendment but would focus on referring and directing existing Ontario Works discretionary health benefit funding to KCHC. It is anticipated that the annual amount could be up to \$300,000 on a yearly basis based on the monthly average spent on dental care in 2016.

Contacts:

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Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing and Social Services 613-546-2695 extension 4957

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Katie Clarke, Manager, Ontario Works Program Delivery

Heather Mitchell, Supervisor, Ontario Works Program Delivery

Alan McLeod, Senior Legal Counsel, Legal Services Department

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A Municipal Capital Facility By-law

BY-LAW NUMBER 2016-

**A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF A
MUNICIPAL CAPITAL FACILITY WITH KINGSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE
AT 263 WELLER AVENUE, KINGSTON, ONTARIO**

PASSED: XXX XX, 2016

WHEREAS Section 110(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001 proves that the council of a municipality may enter into agreements for the provision of a municipal facility for public use with the provision of social and health services and may pass by-laws providing financial or other assistance at less than fair market value or at no cost to any person who has entered into an agreement to provide facilities under this section, on which municipal capital facilities are located; and

WHEREAS paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 2 of Ontario Regulation 603/06 prescribe municipal facilities provisioning social and health services as eligible municipal capital facilities; and

WHEREAS the Council has approved that the City of Kingston (the "City") enter into a contract (the "Contract") with the Kingston Community Health Centre (the "KCHC") for the purchase of dental services for Ontario Works recipients in accordance with the Ministry of Community and Social Services dental fee schedule; and

WHEREAS Council is desirous of entering into an agreement with the KCHC for the provision of municipal capital facilities at the Premises;

The Council of the City of Kingston HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The City of Kingston is authorized to enter into agreement under section 110 of the Municipal Act, 2001 with the KCHC for a municipal facility with public use with the provision of social and health services on the Premises, in accordance with O.Reg. 603/06 (the "Agreement").
2. This by-law shall be deemed repealed:
 - (a) If the Owner ceases to own the Premises without having assigned the Agreement to the new owner of the Premises;
 - (b) If the City or its successor in law ceases to accommodate on the Premises the provision of social and health services;
 - (c) When the Contract, or any renewal or extension of the Contract, expires;

(d) If the Contract, or any renewal or extension of the Contract, is terminated, for any reason whatsoever; or

(e) If the Agreement is terminated for any reason whatsoever.

3. Sections 1 and 3 of this by-law shall come into force on the day that the by-law is enacted.

4. Section 2 of this by-law shall come into force on the day that is the latter of:

(a) The day the Agreement is entered into by the City and the KCHC; and

(b) The day the Contract is entered into by the City and the KCHC.

GIVEN FIRST AND SECOND READING this day of , 2016.

GIVEN THIRD READING this day of , 2016.

CITY CLERK
JOHN BOLOGNONE

MAYOR
BRYAN PATERSON