



EMBRACING THE HEALTH AND HEARTS OF THE COMMUNITY

September 22, 2019

Mayor and Council
45 Munsee Street North
P. O. Box 400
Cayuga Ontario NOA 1E0

Via Email

Request to have a delegation present to Committee in Council on October 8, 2019

Dear Mayor Hewitt and Councillors,

We are writing to request an opportunity to update Haldimand County Council on key developments in the local health care system which will impact the residents of our community.

Background:

In February 2019, the Ontario government introduced new health care legislation, the *People's Health Care Act 2019*, that paved the way for a significant overhaul of how the provincial health care system is planned, funded and organized. As part of the government's commitment of "ending hallway health care", the new legislation is meant to create an improved integrated care delivery system that would enable all publicly-funded health care service providers to become part of Ontario Health Teams (OHTs).

The Ministry defines an OHT as a group of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined geographic population. The intent of this model is to allow providers to deliver care more efficiently throughout the province. With this model, patients have the ability to receive all of their health care services from one Team, including primary care, hospital services, mental health and addictions services, long-term care as well as home and community care.

Under the new OHT model, providers will be expected to work together to decide how government funding is best used to improve health system performance, patient experience and population health. This system will fundamentally redesign relationships and accountabilities in the sector and require new partnership approaches.

In May 2019, a group of health service providers from Haldimand County collaborated to submit a self-assessment form to the Ontario Ministry of Health. This self-assessment outlined the group's intention to become an "Ontario Health Team" and provide more integrated health service to the residents of Haldimand County. The current members of the proposed OHT include:

- Alzheimer Society of Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Hamilton, Halton
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk Branch
- Edgewater Gardens Long-term Care
- Haldimand Family Health Team
- Haldimand War Memorial Hospital
- Midwives of East Erie
- Thrive Group (Capability Support Services)
- True Experience Supportive Housing & Community Work Program

The Haldimand Health Team is committed to addressing the priority needs of our population. In our proposal to government, the Team identified seniors as our priority target population that we would focus on in year 1.

The Ministry of Health reviewed the proposal for a Haldimand Ontario Health Team and has placed the Team in the "In Development" category. According to the Ministry's assessment, teams that are "In Development" are those that are close to being ready to submit a complete application to implement the OHT model. These Teams will receive active and targeted support from the Ministry on an ongoing basis.

In its communication with the Haldimand Health Team, the Ministry has encouraged the Team to broaden its partnerships to ensure a close working relationship between all organizations who play a key role in shaping the health outcomes for the local population. The municipality obviously has a major role to play in health service delivery and planning, and the OHT members would like to discuss the ways that the future OHT could partner with the municipality on improving care delivery and health outcomes for seniors in the County.

Summary of Proposed Presentation to Council:

We would welcome the opportunity to present to Haldimand County Council on October 9. Our presentation would focus on the following areas:

1. What are Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) and how do they change health care for residents of Haldimand County?
2. About the Haldimand County OHT: Who are we and what are we working towards?
3. What are the next steps? How will we work to ensure improved care for residents of Haldimand County? How will we work with other OHTs and other partners?
4. Discussion – How can the OHT work with the municipality to ensure efforts to realign care delivery results are successful?

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to the opportunity to present to you in-person on October 8, 2019.

Sincerely,



Michael Feraday, Co-Chair
Haldimand Health Team



David Montgomery, Co-Chair
Haldimand Health Team



Midwives of East Erie

