



## MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

REPORT NO. 046-14FFC

TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 November 6

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### **PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM – BASE FUNDING INCREASE**

#### ***Recommendation***

*It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee make recommendation to the Board of Health to approve the \$177,342 additional 100% funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to reduce assessment and treatment waitlists for children in the Preschool Speech and Language program.*

#### **Key Points**

- In October the Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced additional funding of \$177,342 to address both assessment and treatment waitlists.
- As of the end of June 2014, the Middlesex-London Health Unit had 184 children waiting for an assessment, and a further 120 children waiting for treatment.
- The additional funding would provide services to 250-300 additional children.

#### **Background**

The Board of Health budget was approved on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 which included \$1,482,315 for the delivery of the 100% Ministry of Children and Youth Services funded Preschool Speech and Language (PSL) program.

#### **Additional Funding**

In October 2014, the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services, announced an increase investment in Ontario's Preschool Speech and Language program in the amount of \$6.9 million over two years to reduce assessment and treatment waitlists. The administrative letter announcing the increased funding is attached as [Appendix A](#). As the lead agency for the PSL program in the Thames Valley region, the Middlesex-London Health Unit has been allocated an increase of \$177,342 to \$1,659,657 to reduce waitlists and wait times. A template report is due to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 indicating our plan to spend the increased funding by March 31, 2015.

PSL programs have not received a base funding increase in over 8 years. Due to funding pressures, the Board of Health approved a reduction of 0.2 FTE for Speech Language Pathologists in the 2014/15 budget. At the end of June 2014 there were 184 children waiting for an initial assessment and 120 children waiting for intervention services.

With this additional funding, we plan on working with our current contracted service provider agencies to hire both Speech Language Pathologists and Communication Disorder Assistants. With this funding it is anticipated we will be able to provide services to 250-300 more children.

This report was prepared by Mrs. Debbie Shugar, Manager, Screening, Assessment and Intervention, and Mr. John Millson, Director of Finance & Operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie', is positioned below the text of the report's preparation.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health