



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 November 7

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## **2013 – 2014 100% MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM BUDGETS**

### ***Recommendation***

*It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee review and make recommendation to the Board of Health to approve the following 100% Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services Program Budgets, attached to Report No. 17-13C as Appendix A, B, and C, respectively:*

- 1. 2013-2014 budgets for the tykeTALK: Preschool Speech and Language Program (Thames Valley):*
- 2. Infant Hearing Program (Southwest Region); and*
- 3. Blind Low Vision Program (Southwest Region)*

### **Key Points**

- The preliminary program grants for the tykeTALK, Infant Hearing, and Blind Low Vision programs are \$1,482,315, \$835,886, and \$158,702 respectively.
- The level of funding is the same as the previous operating year.
- All three programs are funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services and operate on an April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> fiscal year.

### **Background**

The tykeTALK program is one of 32 provincial preschool speech and language initiatives across the province of Ontario. The program focuses on the prevention, early identification and treatment of speech and language problems in children from birth to school entry age. The preschool speech and language initiatives, which commenced in November 1998, are funded 100% by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). In April 2000, the Health Unit became the Lead Agency for the Thames Valley program.

The provincial Infant Hearing Program was announced in December 2000. This program consists of universal hearing screening for all babies, and if a hearing loss is confirmed the program initiates a follow-up audiological assessment to confirm hearing loss in babies who fail the initial screening and communication development and supports for infants and their families.. The Health Unit is one of 12 Infant Hearing Programs across the province and covers the regions of Middlesex-London, Huron-Perth, Oxford, Elgin-St. Thomas, Sarnia-Lambton and Grey Bruce Owen Sound. The Infant Hearing Program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

The provincial Blind Low Vision Program was established for the purpose of providing an integrated, family-centred system of services that provide early intervention supports and services for all babies born blind or with low vision and for those preschool aged children who are identified with, or develop blindness

or low vision in early childhood. The Blind Low Vision Program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

All three of these programs operate on an April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> fiscal year.

### **2013-2014 Preliminary Budgets**

The budget process is different from the Cost-Shared Program in that the MYCS provide preliminary grant amounts to health units early in the operating year. The respective budgets are developed based on the preliminary grant amounts communicated. The tykeTALK, Infant Hearing and Blind Low Vision Program received the same level of funding as the previous year. That is, the tykeTALK, Infant Hearing, and the Blind Low Vision Program received 2013-2014 preliminary grants of \$1,482,315, \$835,886 and \$158,702 respectively.

The projected budgets for 2013-2014 for tykeTALK, Infant Hearing Program, and the Blind Low Vision are attached (Appendices [A](#), [B](#) & [C](#)).

The following program changes are being proposed to meet the 2013-2014 preliminary grant:

#### Preschool Speech and Language - tykeTALK

- Decreased Speech-Language Pathologists resources to families through managed vacancies. Wait lists may increase.
- Transfer 0.1 FTE of the Manager position to the Infant Hearing program.

#### Infant Hearing Program

- Reduced weekend program in hospitals (\$7,000). This means babies born and discharged on the weekends will require having their hearing screening performed at a community clinic.
- Reduced Auditory Verbal Therapists resources (\$18,457). To mitigate the reduced service, Speech-Language Pathologists are being provided additional training to assist families.

#### Blind Low Vision Program

- Elimination of the Family Support Worker position (\$13,052). Families requiring support to adjust to a visually impaired child will need to seek support from a social worker in their community through a local social service agency.

This report was prepared by Ms. Debbie Shugar, Manager, Family Health Services, Ms. Diane Bewick, Director, Family Health Services, and Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance and Operations.



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