



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance and Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 February 12

LOCALLY DRIVEN COLLABORATIVE PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT – PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO (PHO)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance and Facilities Committee review and make recommendation to the Board of Health to endorse the Board Chair to sign the Agreement Form for the Locally Driven Collaborative Project as it relates to receiving \$75,000 funding from Public Health Ontario.

Key Points

- Public Health Ontario provides up to \$75,000 in funding for “locally driven collaborative projects” which are research studies.
- Middlesex-London will be one of three lead agencies for a proposed research study that will aim to identify areas of focus regarding mental health promotion for children and youth.
- This research study will provide direction to Public Health Units which is relevant, evidence-informed, and based on the experiences of research participants.
- Healthy growth and development is an Ontario Public Health Standard within the Child Health section.
- After this study, public health units will be in a better position to move forward with actions to meet the need for mental health promotion in children and youth.

Background

Mental health is an important component to healthy growth and development of children and youth. Ontario Boards of Health have a responsibility to provide programs and services that focus on the healthy growth and development of children and youth.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) provides funding to local health units to collaborate and perform research studies. In 2013, several Ontario health units collaborated and applied for \$75,000 to operationalize a research study that aims to focus on child and youth mental health promotion. The funding approval letter is attached as [Appendix A](#).

Role of the Health Unit

The research study called, “Supporting Ontario Public Health Units to Promote the Mental Health of Children and Youth”, aims to identify areas of focus regarding mental health promotion for children and youth. A qualitative research design will be used to meet these goals, because it will allow the researchers to gather first-hand information from Public Health Units, mental health organizations and provincial ministries.

The Health Unit will be one of three leads for this research study. Health Unit staff members will work in partnership with Hamilton Public Health Services and Thunder Bay District Health Unit to complete this research study along with nine other public health units and two mental health agencies. Funding of \$75,000 has been approved by Public Health Ontario and the money for this project will flow through the Middlesex-London Health Unit. The project will begin March 2014 and finish March 2015. The Agreement Form for this project is attached as [Appendix B](#).

This report was prepared by Mr. John Millson, Director of Finance & Operations, and Ms. Christine Preece, Manager- Family Health Services.



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