



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 September 04

STI CLINIC REVIEW – SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance and Facilities Committee receive Report No. 036-14FFC re “STI Clinic Review – Sole Source Procurement” for information.

Key Points

- The Health Unit is committed to ensuring that evidence-informed client-centered services and programs are provided as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- The STI Clinic review will be procured through direct negotiation with a single vendor having specialized expertise, per the Health Unit’s procurement policy.

Background

The Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Clinic operates on a drop-in basis, and provides a safe, non-judgemental atmosphere where clients can have open discussions about sexual health. A health card is not required. Testing and treatments are provided at no charge for clients and their partner(s). Emergency contraception is available at an affordable price. The STI Clinic is open two evenings and one morning each week. Currently, there are four physicians regularly providing health services at our STI Clinic, in addition to Public Health Nurses and Clinical Team Assistants on the Sexual Health Team.

STI Clinic Review

The Health Unit will be undertaking an independent review of how the STI Clinic operates with the view of ensuring services provided are client centered, based on evidence and performed as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Health Unit will be engaging the services of Epirus Consulting Inc. to conduct the review. The review will include the following tasks:

- Interview relevant MLHU staff
- Access and review sampling of client charts
- Assess and review epidemiologic yield, in consultation with the OHCDSh epidemiologist
- Provide support during the development of environmental scan questions for use by STI Clinic staff in a broader clinic review
- Review best practices for STI Clinic services

The Health Unit will retain all ownership and rights to the data and reports as a result of conducting the review.

Rationale for Sole Source Procurement

In accordance to Procurement Policy, the requirement for competitive bid solicitation for contracts over \$10,000 may be waived in such circumstances under joint authority of the relevant Director and the Medical Officer of Health. For contracts valued under \$50,000, an information report must be submitted to the Board of Health detailing the rationale supporting the use of a single source.

A search for consultants in Ontario who could provide this service was conducted through public health networks, and only one qualified company was identified. While there are other approaches that could and have been considered toward the completion of this work, these options would substantially increase the time and likely increase the costs required to produce the final deliverable. Epirus Consulting Inc. has been chosen because:

- It has significant experience within public health practice;
- It knowledgeable about the OPHS requirements;
- It has the expertise to assess public health physician practices;
- It is available to complete the review in a timely manner.

Links to Other Projects

In consultation with the Acting Director and a program evaluator from OHCDHS, the Sexual Health Team manager and team members are engaging in an evidence-informed planning process. It is expected that the recommendations from this process will be available by the end of 2014, to inform the team's 2015 operational plan. This STI Clinic Review by an external consultant will complement the planning work of the team, and augment the capacity of the team to complete the overall review by December 2015.

Anticipated Costs

Epirus Consulting Inc. will provide the services of Matthew Hodge, an experienced Public Health and Preventive Medicine specialist, to complete the review. It is anticipated to take 10 days to complete at a cost of \$13,560 inclusive of HST.

A second expert in the field will be providing comments and verifying the process and results of the review completed by Epirus Consulting Inc. Costs related to this will be nominal.

Conclusion/Next Steps

The Health Unit is required to provide evidence-informed client services and programs as efficiently and effectively as possible. The STI Clinic review will be procured through direct negotiation with a single vendor having specialized expertise. The review completed by Epirus Consulting Inc. will be used to inform a broader planning process that will result in the identification of recommendations to enhance our sexual health programs and services.

This report was prepared by Heather Lokko, Acting Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease, and Sexual Health Services.



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