

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2016 November 17

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2016

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 067-16 re: Summary Information Report for November 2016 be received for information.

Key Points

- [Harvest Bucks](#), a vegetable and fruit voucher program coordinated by the Health Unit, had a successful fourth year and was supported by strong community partnerships. Program expansions for 2016 include adding the Downtown Strathroy Market, the first Middlesex County location, and the Old East Village Grocer, a community social enterprise.
- The report, Improving Safety of Active School Travel through Decreasing Traffic Speeds, summarizes a literature review and policy scan that was completed to identify effective measures for reducing traffic speeds in school zones, an identified barrier to active school travel.
- The Ministry of Child and Youth Services has released Implementation Guidelines/Markers for both Coordinated Services and Integrated Rehabilitation; local tables are developing Terms of Reference for their Steering Committees, with a phased 2-year implementation for Integrated Rehabilitation to begin in 2017.
- A modified version of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) was conducted on a pre-existing food skills program on the Reproductive Health Team (RHT), resulting in downstream, midstream and upstream planning being developed in tandem, and enhancing internal and external collaborations related to addressing food insecurity.

Harvest Bucks

Based on *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* recommendations, 89% of Middlesex-London residents do not eat enough vegetables and fruit. [Harvest Bucks](#), a vegetable and fruit voucher program coordinated by the Health Unit, helps to increase local access to and consumption of vegetables and fruit while promoting community connectedness through the farmers' market experience. In 2015, \$31,160 Harvest Bucks were distributed by 21 community programs to 908 London households with \$25,810 (83%) redeemed. The Harvest Bucks 2015 infographic is attached to this report as [Appendix A](#). Program expansions for 2016 include adding the Downtown Strathroy Market, the first Middlesex County location, and the Old East Village Grocer, a community social enterprise of ATN Access for Persons with Disabilities Inc.

Improving Safety of Active School Travel through Decreasing Traffic Speeds

Active school travel (AST), such as walking or cycling to and from school provides children with up to ten opportunities a week to become more physically active. Local School Travel Planning (STP) data determined that parents and youth identify high traffic speeds and associated safety concerns as a top barrier to walking or cycling to school. A literature review and policy scan was completed to help determine the most successful interventions to reduce traffic speeds around schools, as well as the interventions currently used by municipalities in the Thames Valley region. The report ([Appendix B](#)) summarizes the results of this review as well as the implications for improving and increasing students' use of Active School Travel (AST), which is the objective of the Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) partnership of Elgin-St. Thomas, London, Middlesex, and Oxford.

Ontario Special Needs Strategy (SNS) Update

This multi-Ministry SNS, to improve services for Ontario's children and youth with special needs, includes:

- A new standard developmental screen for preschool children
- Coordinated family-centred service planning for children and youth with multiple and/or complex needs
- An integrated approach to the delivery of rehabilitation services (speech-language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy) for children and youth from birth to school exit

Proposal development tables for the Thames Valley Region for both Coordinated Services and Integrated Rehabilitation began meeting in December 2014. The proposals for Coordinated Services and for Integrated Rehabilitation were submitted on June 2015 and October 31, 2015 respectively. It is anticipated that MCYS will send a Letter of Agreement to the recommended local Coordinating Agency by December 2016.

Implementation Markers have been released by the Ministry to support the Coordinating Agencies as they plan for and implement Coordinated Service Planning. Integrated Rehabilitation is targeted for 2017-2018, with a phased implementation including transition of services among providers, provincial policy changes and inter-ministerial funding transfers to support new local service delivery models. The local steering committee is currently developing administrative protocols and documents to support the local plan, which focuses on creating integrated, regionally-based therapy teams. Preschool speech and language services from birth to school entry will continue to be delivered by tykeTALK, with school boards assuming responsibility for these services after school entry.

Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) - Reproductive Health Team Food Skills Program

The RHT Food Skills program was created to increase food literacy skills and consumption of fruit and vegetables. It is focused on women living in low income households who are of reproductive health age and are or may become pregnant. The program is a collaboration with community partners, co-facilitated by a Public Health Dietitian and a Public Health Nurse. It consists of eight skill building sessions. Evaluation of the pilot outlined positive short term outcomes ([Appendix C](#)) and further evaluation of longer-term impacts was completed through participant focus groups ([Appendix D](#)).

In 2015-2016, a modified version of the MOHLTC's HEIA was conducted on this program in an effort to identify potential enhancements. Unintended negative and positive impacts associated with the program were identified, and have led to enhanced opportunities for internal and external collaborations to advance food security efforts. By utilizing the modified HEIA processes, several evidence-informed strategies have been proposed to enhance program effectiveness at the downstream, midstream and upstream levels. An MLHU planning document outlining strategies to address food insecurity has been created and will be utilized to seek further collaborations among relevant key stakeholders to continue to advance this work. The proposed strategies are reflected within high level activities identified in this month's Report No. 063-16.

Members of the Reproductive Health Team presented "Combining the MOHLTC HEIA and NCCMT Methods & Tools to Achieve an *In Tandem* Approach to Advancing Health Inequities' at the [OPHA Fall Forum 2016](#)"



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