



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2016 December 08

---

## **CANADIAN NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP EDUCATION (CaNE) PROJECT CONTRACT**

### ***Recommendation***

*It is recommended that the Board of Health:*

- 1. Receive report No. 070-16 re “Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) Project Contract” for information; and*
- 2. Approve the signing of the contract, which contains contractual provisions that require the contract to be executed under Colorado State law.*

### **Key Points**

- The Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) project, funded by the Local Poverty Reduction Fund and in-kind contributions, is underway.
- This important project will offer the most vulnerable families in Middlesex and London a chance to break the cycle of poverty.
- One of the contracts required with partners in Colorado, USA, must be executed under Colorado law.

### **Background**

The purpose of the CaNE project is to develop, pilot, and evaluate a Canadian model of education for public health nurses and supervisors responsible for delivering Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), in a small number of Ontario public health units. This project will:

- Create a public health nursing workforce that is clinically competent to deliver NFP;
- Establish a sustainable model of NFP nurse education that can be efficiently delivered to nurses in a wide variety of geographical locations; and
- Improve pregnancy outcomes, birth outcomes, parenting capacity, and maternal achievement in education and employment.

The CaNE project involves a number of partners, including: 1) NFP International Community and the Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health, University of Colorado, Denver, CO (consultant); 2) McMaster University, Hamilton, ON (lead researcher); 3) City of Hamilton, Public Health Services (clinical lead); and 4) Middlesex-London Health Unit, City of Toronto (Public Health Division), Regional Municipality of York, and Public Health Branch (educational participants and NFP implementers). A newly-formed Provincial Advisory Committee includes additional partners.

Numerous contracts are being finalized and/or have been developed to formalize the partnerships required to accomplish the objectives of this initiative.

## **MLHU Policy Regarding Contractual Services**

The Nurse-Family Partnership program is proprietary, and as such, our use of this program has required a contract with University Physicians, Inc., a Colorado non-profit corporation established by the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado to serve as the fiscal and business agent for the University of Colorado School of Medicine and its faculty members. This contract contains the following non-negotiable statement:

*“This contract is expressly made subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Colorado. Contractual provisions required by such laws and regulations but not having been set out herein, are hereby incorporated by this reference as though expressly set out in full.”*

MLHU Board Policy 1-080 (Contractual Services) states that all contracts will include a “statement that the law of Ontario is the applicable law.”

Retention of a lawyer in Colorado on behalf of the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) was contemplated, however, this would be costly and the risk for MLHU associated with this statement and/or contract is considered to be low. In the assessment of MLHU staff, the main risk is related to maintaining confidentiality of proprietary NFP materials. MLHU plans to take specific steps to ensure that materials are used appropriately.

### **Conclusion/Next Steps**

It is recommended that the Board of Health approve this contract in order to allow MLHU to proceed with this important work.

This report was prepared by Heather Lokko, Director, Healthy Start.



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