

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2018 December 12

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## **POST-CaNE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP® ONTARIO CLINICAL LEAD**

### ***Recommendation***

*It is recommended that the Board of Health:*

- 1. Receive Report No. 075-18 re: “Post-CaNE Nurse-Family Partnership® Ontario Clinical Lead” for information; and*
- 2. Endorse Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) as the hiring agency for the Ontario NFP Clinical Lead cost-shared position, within its role as the Ontario NFP license holder.*

### **Key Points**

- The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based home visiting program targeting young, low-income, first time mothers. Implementation of NFP will continue in five Ontario health units beyond the Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) pilot.
- Post-CaNE implementation of NFP in Ontario requires a full-time Community Health Nursing Specialist (NFP Ontario Clinical Lead), with costs shared by Ontario health units implementing NFP.
- As the NFP license holder in Ontario, MLHU is well-positioned to function as the hiring agency for this position.

### **Background**

The Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an intensive home visiting program for young, low-income, first-time mothers. The NFP has been evaluated in three randomized controlled trials in the US which have demonstrated positive effects on the outcomes of pregnancy, children’s subsequent health and development, and parents’ economic self-sufficiency.

In 2015, the Middlesex-London Health Unit launched the Canadian Nurse-Family Partnership Education (CaNE) Project in Ontario with funding from the Ontario Local Poverty Reduction Fund (LPRF) to develop, pilot and evaluate a Canadian model of education for public health nurses and managers responsible for delivering the NFP program.

During the pilot, MLHU (as the lead CaNE agency) seconded a “CaNE Provincial Clinical Lead” from The City of Hamilton, Public Health Services. The Provincial Clinical Lead was responsible for developing and coordinating the CaNE education in collaboration with the NFP international consultant from the University of Colorado, in addition to providing NFP implementation support at the designated sites. This position was funded by the LPRF grant and contributions from health units participating in the CaNE pilot.

## **NFP Implementation in Ontario Beyond 2018**

The CaNE pilot will conclude on December 31, 2018, however, implementation of the Nurse Family Partnership will continue in Ontario while awaiting the outcome of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in British Columbia which is testing the effectiveness of the Nurse-Family Partnership program in a Canadian context. Results of the RCT are expected in 2021.

Post-pilot implementation of the NFP requires participating health units to budget for individual and shared costs, with MLHU's budget allocation in PBMA proposal #1-0015 recently approved by the Board of Health. Part of the planned shared costs include salary and benefits for a full-time Nurse-Family Partnership Ontario Clinical Lead, which is a position required for successful implementation of NFP.

Currently, two NFP licenses are held in Ontario. Post-CaNE, MLHU will be the Ontario NFP license-holder, with Memorandums of Understanding in place with all other NFP-implementing public health units in the province (City of Toronto (Public Health Division); Regional Municipality of York, Public Health Branch; Niagara Region Public Health; and City of Hamilton, Public Health Services).

As the NFP license holder for Ontario, MLHU is well-positioned to be the hiring agency for a permanent full-time Community Health Nursing Specialist (NFP Ontario Clinical Lead). The role of the CaNE Provincial Clinical Lead will be expanded post-pilot to that of an advanced practice public health nurse; the designation of Community Health Nursing Specialist will reflect the level of skill, expertise and responsibility required.

### **Next Steps**

With endorsement from the Board of Health to function as the hiring agency for the Community Health Nursing Specialist (NFP Ontario Clinical Lead), MLHU will promptly proceed with required recruitment procedures to ensure this shared position is filled by January, 2019.

This report was prepared by the Healthy Start Division.



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