



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MEMORANDUM**

TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR, J. LEHMAN

RE: ITEM FOR DISCUSSION 8.5 – PROPOSED BARRIE HEALTH ACCORD

DATE: August 10, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to outline the background, rationale, and intended next steps for the proposed Barrie Health Accord. This initiative would provide a framework and be the first step toward an investment in alternative service delivery models that will address the root causes of emergency calls, transports, and treatment.

In late 2019, I initiated discussions with the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), and the CEO of Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), to potentially collaborate on future planning so we can start shifting investment in health care upstream, to address the root causes of population health conditions that are driving demand for emergency services and emergency treatment. Addressing root causes is also the core objective of the ShiftGovernment Project, and has been an objective of many government programs as well as other individual initiatives. However, to this point, no collaborative effort has been initiated across the local health care sector and related institutions to address the determinants of health.

It is my opinion that a substantial investment in the determinants of health should be made alongside planned major investments in acute care (hospital expansion). As well, there is a need for further investments in other care facilities which can take pressure off acute care by providing a more specialized environment (such as long term care, residential addictions treatment, inpatient mental health beds, hospices, and supportive housing).

Our population growth will result in a dramatic increase in the demand for health care, as the Barrie area population is set to roughly double over the next twenty years, as well as the impacts of our aging population. What if we could proactively allocate a modest percentage of our investments to develop programs that address and deal with the determinants of health? Smart care is not only acute care, but alternative and preventative care. Making this change means by starting to agree to also fund alternative and preventative care as levers we can utilize to finally start shifting the system. This is very much in line with the Health Unit's consistent advice to municipalities regarding the way to build healthier communities.

Further, over the past few years, the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan has been in development by Council's Committee, with the support and leadership from the Barrie Police Service and the City of Barrie. While the driver for this plan was Provincial legislation regarding safer communities, as the Committee has done its work and as the project has proceeded, the plan has rightly begun to focus on the social determinants of health such as housing, employment, and access to treatment. Clearly, these are some of the same root causes that are being considered to address upstream in health care. With the Committee at an important inflection point (now beginning community consultation), it is a good time to align this initiative with the broader health care sector in a co-ordinated planning approach.

To date, there have been informal discussions with the leadership at the five organizations proposed to sign the Health Accord: Simcoe County, RVH, SMDHU, Barrie Police Service, and the City of Barrie. All will be bringing the proposed Accord to their respective Boards/Councils for discussion, The Barrie PoServices Board unanimously endorsed the Barrie Health Accord on July 23, 2020 by approving the motion noted in Appendix "A" to this memo.



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I firmly believe that if we have an approach that actively and collaboratively involves all the major organizations in our community, we will be able to tackle root-cause issues, shift our focus from a reactive environment to a proactive one in a way that is efficient and sustainable, and contributes to the long term wellbeing of our community. The Health Accord is the critical first step that commits the five most significant public sector organizations to this purpose, and begins the work that needs to be done to shift spending upstream. The motion for Council's consideration consists of a simple statement of principle and a motion that would be approved by the five Boards/Councils.

Appendix "A"

Barrie Health Accord

Whereas as the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie:

We believe community health is about achieving well-being in all aspects of life;

We believe that fighting root causes with upstream investment is the path to long term sustainability;

We believe that improving the health of our community takes decades, therefore we need to think generations ahead in order to achieve community health, safety, and well-being; and

We believe a collaborative and co-ordinated plan for investment in the health and safety of our City will result in efficient deployment of resources.

Therefore be it Resolved that the following Health Accord be adopted and as the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie:

1. We commit to working together over the next decade in a collaborative, coordinated effort to build a healthier and safer community by making sustainable investments in the determinants of health;
2. We commit to participating in a community-wide planning process to co-ordinate these investments;
3. Once developed jointly, we commit to pursuing these project priorities across our organizations; and
4. We commit to setting measurable outcome metrics, and transparently reporting them to the community.