
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Health System Integration Committee Term of Council Summary Report**

FROM: Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an overview of the mandate and outcomes of the Health System Integration Committee and outline the future direction of the committee to support health system priorities in the next Term of Council.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Health System Integration Committee (HSIC) was established during the 2014-18 Term of Council to provide advice and direction for the Region of Peel to achieve greater integration with the rest of the health system.
 - In the 2018-22 Term of Council, HSIC has continued to cover a breadth of different topics and facilitated important discussions and dialogue about health system policy issues relevant to Regional health programs and priorities.
 - While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted HSIC, the Committee met a total of four times during this Term of Council and addressed several policy issues including provincial health system transformation, public health and emergency health services modernization, development of local Ontario Health Teams, advocacy for Peel's Adult Day Services programs and other supports for seniors, as well as mental health and addictions system funding.
 - As the 2018-22 Term of Council concludes, there are important opportunities for HSIC to build on the new relationships the Region has developed with local Ontario Health Teams, Ontario Health Central Region and other collaborative health system partnerships nurtured as part of the Region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In the next Term of Council, HSIC will work to redefine the focus of the committee and advisory membership to advance health system collaboration and integration, influence system transformation and partner on coordinated advocacy opportunities.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Health System Integration Committee (HSIC) was established by Regional Council on April 9, 2015, under Resolution 2015-221. While HSIC (also referred to in this report as the "Committee") evolved out of discussions related to the future of the former Emergency and Protective Services Committee (EPSC), Council recognized the need for broader

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discussions about how Regional health programs should further integrate with the rest of the health system.

Guided by a council-endorsed mandate in the 2014-18 term, HSIC has since served as an important forum for health system partners across Peel and various levels of government to come together to discuss and explore the capacity and system issues facing the health system in Peel. Key outcomes from HSIC discussion and direction since 2015 have included:

- Approval of Regional response to the consultations that supported the development of the *Patients First Act* (passed Dec 8, 2016).
- Input on Regional policy discussions and initiatives, including those related to Transhelp, psychological health and safety, and supportive housing.
- Direction on key policy issues to guide the ongoing redevelopment of the Peel Manor Long Term Care Home into a Seniors Health and Wellness Village and advocacy for provincial funding.
- Identification and continued direction for advocacy efforts regarding two mental health and addictions advocacy priorities (funding and system integration).
- Direction for ongoing ambulance dispatch reform advocacy.
- Presentations by senior provincial staff regarding progress on health-related advocacy priorities, including mental health and provincial dispatch reform.
- Direction with respect to advocacy related to public health modernization.
- Advocacy for additional adult day services program funding.
- Updates on Health System Transformation including the creation of Ontario Health, dissolution of Local Health Integration Networks, and establishment of local Ontario Health Teams (OHTs).

As HSIC has progressed into the 2018-22 Term of Council, it has continued to cover a breadth of different topics and facilitated important discussions and dialogue about health system policy issues relevant to Regional health programs and priorities. In response to health system transformation under the current Provincial government and emerging issues of importance for the Region, the advisory membership on HSIC during the 2018-22 Term of Council has evolved to include executive leadership from Ontario Health Central Region (which serves Peel) and the local area hospital partners. These partners have played an important role in providing advice and direction around how the Region can integrate and coordinate health service delivery with the rest of the system, including collaborative response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Committee Activities and Outcomes

Over the course of the 2018-22 Committee term, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact on Peel's health system, including pressures placed on the Region's own health services as well as the Committee's advisory membership. As a result, HSIC has experienced several meeting cancellations between 2020-22.

HSIC has met a total of four times during this Term of Council and has addressed several policy issues including provincial health system transformation, public health and emergency health services modernization, development of local OHTs, advocacy for Peel's Adult Day Services programs and other supports for seniors, as well as mental health and addictions system funding. Appendix I provides a list of the Committee meetings to date, highlighting the topics discussed and the outcomes achieved.

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As the 2018-22 Term of Council nears its end, today's meeting marks the fifth and final meeting of HSIC and presents an important opportunity to influence the course of the committee in the next Term of Council.

a) Ongoing Advocacy Priorities of the Health System Integration Committee

While HSIC was originally established as a policy Committee, its mandate has evolved over time, with an increasing focus on advocacy and integration activities. This evolution has been a natural extension of the Region's role within the local health system and a by-product of productive policy discussions at HSIC.

Should Council decide to continue with HSIC's mandate, advocacy and integration could continue as priorities given the Region's role in health system transformation and the emerging partnerships through the development of OHTs. It is anticipated that provincial health system transformation may resume as pandemic response moves into a new phase and following the 2022 Provincial election in June.

Future policy discussions with the Committee's advisory membership and other system partners will become increasingly important in addressing pre-existing and new system needs including:

- Ongoing efforts to operationalize and enhance integrated care for vulnerable populations, including seniors and homeless populations;
- Advocacy for equitable funding allocations for local health services in Peel;
- Potential modernization of health services (such as emergency health services and public health) in a post-pandemic context; and,
- Greater transition and restructuring of the local health system under Ontario Health Central Region and the three local OHTs.

In addition, with a provincial election in June 2022, the Committee could play an important role in informing and guiding Regional advocacy and policy directions that pertain to health services. A new provincial government or renewed mandates under the existing government could shape new priorities and policy directions for health services in Peel.

b) Updating the Terms of Reference and Advisory Membership in the New Term of Council

The HSIC terms of reference need to be updated to reflect the evolving nature of the advisory membership given ongoing health system transformation. As the Committee prepares for a new Term of Council, there will be opportunities to consider additional advisory members to represent all three local OHTs and additional opportunities to engage other health system partners in an advisory capacity to delegate on issues on an *ad hoc* basis (e.g., representation from the mental health and addictions sector should this be a focus of a future meeting). Staff will support updates to the terms of reference once the new Committee membership is established in the next term.

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3. Opportunities for HSIC in the Next Term of Council

Going forward, HSIC can continue to play an important role in informing opportunities to strengthen collaboration, engage with local OHTs and collectively address health system priorities such as supporting vulnerable populations including seniors, those with mental health and addictions challenges, social determinants of health and other emerging issues.

Ongoing health system transformation, and the creation of local OHTs with a mandate for collaborative health system planning has created new opportunities for integration of Regional services with the broader health system that were not previously in place when HSIC was created. During the 2018-22 term, the Region has built a strong relationship and connection with the Central West OHT and continues to strengthen its relationship with the other two local OHTs serving Peel (Mississauga and Hills of Headwaters Collaborative OHTs) as they evolve.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has also accelerated the pace at which the Region is building and strengthening partnerships with other local health system partners, such as the Community Response Table (CRT), primary care, Community Safety and Well-being and other system tables. While these collaborative tables shifted to focus on COVID-19 response, it is anticipated that they will continue to evolve and influence future system collaboration and integration.

The Region's role with local OHTs and its ongoing role in supporting COVID-19 response (as described in the accompanying report to HSIC on May 5th, 2022, titled, "Health System Transformation and the Regional role in Ontario Health Teams") suggests that the Committee can play an important role in identifying and mobilizing on opportunities for the Region. Going forward, the Committee can continue to play an important role in informing opportunities to strengthen collaboration, engage with local OHTs and collectively address older adults, those living with mental health and addictions challenges, precariously housed, and other priority populations.

CONCLUSION

The Health System Integration Committee continues to be an important catalyst in advancing health system collaboration and integration by influencing system transformation and advancing advocacy opportunities. As the 2018-22 Term of Council comes to a conclusion, leadership from Council and the Committee is expected to play an important role in advancing Regional health system priorities and addressing ongoing challenges that face Peel residents in the next Term of Council.

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Summary of Health System Integration Committee (HSIC) meetings in the 2019 – 22 Term of Council

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