
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Overview of the Health System Integration Committee Terms of Reference and Opportunities for the 2022-2026 Term of Council**

FROM: Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an overview of the Health System Integration Committee Terms of Reference and opportunities for the Committee during the 2022-2026 Council term.

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 continued to cover a breadth of different topics and facilitated important discussions and dialogue about health system policy issues relevant to the Region's health programs and priorities.
 - The HSIC Terms of Reference approved by Regional Council is included as Appendix I.
 - Advisory membership in the Terms of Reference reflects ongoing local health system transformation and includes partners from Ontario Health Central Region and the three Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) serving Peel.
 - In the 2022-26 Term of Council, HSIC will be able to build on the new relationships the Region of Peel has developed with local OHTs, Ontario Health Central Region and other collaborative health system partnerships nurtured as part of the Region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic 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 to provide advice and direction around how the Region could further integrate and coordinate with the rest of the health system. Since then, HSIC has 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.

As HSIC continued into the 2018-22 Term of Council, it advanced important discussions and dialogue about health system policy issues relevant to Regional health programs and priorities including public health and emergency health services modernization, development

Overview of the Health System Integration Committee Terms of Reference and Opportunities for the 2022-2026 Term of Council

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. A report titled "Health System Integration Committee Term of Council Summary Report" was presented at the May 5, 2022 Committee meeting and provides a detailed overview of committee meetings during the Term of Council including key topics of discussion and outcomes achieved.

2. Opportunities for HSIC during 2022-2026 Council Term

In 2019, the Government of Ontario initiated a transformation of the provincial health system with the aim of creating a more integrated system that would organize and deliver health care in a new way. The focus of these system changes has been to increase access for clients/patients, help them to navigate the system more easily, and increase accountability. Among the changes was the dissolution of the 14 LHINs (including Central West and Mississauga Halton, serving Peel) and several other agencies, to create a centralized oversight agency called Ontario Health. Ontario Health has established five regions to cover the provincial geography and Peel sits within the Ontario Health Central Region, which is responsible for working with health service providers in Peel to facilitate primary care planning, lead regional health system planning, address issues that impact health equity and set a strategy for health human resources within the catchment area. Additionally, 54 Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) were established to integrate care teams and improve access to health services across the continuum of care. Peel is served by three of these OHTs- Central West, Mississauga Health and Hills of Headwaters Collaborative.

During 2018-2022, the Region co-led the development of the Central West OHT and continues to advance its participation in all three OHTs. Ontario Health Central and Peel's three OHTs have provided advice around integration and coordination of health service delivery and were key partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gaining direct input and advice from these system leaders as Advisory members at HSIC will directly benefit planning and integration of Regional services. Going forward, HSIC can provide important feedback on regional involvement in health system priorities, such as supporting vulnerable populations including seniors, those with mental health and addictions challenges and other emerging issues including, for example:

- COVID-19 pandemic response and system recovery
- Improving system access and patient/client flow
- Strategies for stabilizing health human resources
- Eliminating health inequities through coordinated response for underserved and priority populations

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, through the Community Response Table (CRT), Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Action Tables and other system tables. It is anticipated that these tables will continue to evolve and influence future system collaboration and integration, particularly as it relates to vulnerable populations, including seniors.

While local health system transformation was paused as a result of the pandemic, it is anticipated that these efforts will restart and accelerate early in the term of the provincial government, and policy discussions with our advisory membership and other system

Overview of the Health System Integration Committee Terms of Reference and Opportunities for the 2022-2026 Term of Council

partners may become increasingly important. Some examples of system-wide policy issues likely to re-emerge for discussion include:

- Modernization of Emergency Health Services and Public Health
- Restructuring of the health system including continued modernization of home and community care services
- Additional responsibilities and transfer of funding oversight from local providers to Ontario Health Teams
- Integration of care for vulnerable populations, including seniors
- Advocacy for equitable funding allocations for local health services

3. Council Approved Terms of Reference and Advisory Membership

Committee membership for the 2022-2026 term was approved at the December 8, 2022 Regional Council meeting and includes the Regional Chair (ex-officio) and six Regional Councillors as provided by the Terms of Reference. Advisory Members provide input regarding collaboration and integration opportunities and inform system level discussion around issues of integration and shared challenges around capacity. Advisory Membership has been updated to reflect the evolving nature of health system transformation.

The Council approved Terms of Reference, included as Appendix I, aligns with local health system transformation and includes representation from Ontario Health Central Region and the three OHTs. Also, given that hospitals are represented as members within OHTs, hospital related integration opportunities will be identified and represented through the OHT advisory members. Advisory membership is amended to reflect and align with the local health system transformation and is proposed to include:

- Chief Regional Officer, Ontario Health Central Region
- One Co-Chair representative, Central West Ontario Health Team Collaboration Council
- One Co-Chair representative, Mississauga Ontario Health Team Collaboration Council
- One Co-Chair, Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team

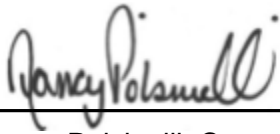
CONCLUSION

HSIC continues to be an important touch point in advancing health system collaboration and integration for the Region of Peel, identifying windows of opportunity to influence system transformation and partnering on coordinated advocacy opportunities. The Council approved Terms of Reference including Ontario Health Central Region and local OHTs positions the Committee to play an important role in advancing Regional health system priorities and addressing ongoing health system challenges that face Peel residents.

APPENDICES

Appendix I - Health System Integration Committee Proposed Terms of Reference

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Nancy Polsinelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Polsinelli" clearly distinguishable. It is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nancy Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services

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