
REPORT TITLE: **Designation and Provincial Funding for Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit**

FROM: Nancy Polsinelli, RD HBS Sc MPA, Commissioner of Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the designation and Provincial funding of the Transitional Behavioural Support Unit at Peel Manor be endorsed; and**
- 2. That the 2023 and 2024 Long Term Care operating budget be amended to include an additional \$1,027,200 million in expenditures fully funded by provincial pilot funding, provided through Ontario Health Central Region, for the operation of the Transitional Behavioural Support Unit at Peel Manor; and**
- 3. That the Transitional Behavioural Support Unit at Peel Manor be operationalized in accordance with the requirements of the designation and staffing plan.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In December 2021, Peel Region submitted a funding proposal to the Ministry of Long-Term Care for the first Transitional Behavioural Support Unit in the Central West Region.
- This unit will provide specialized support in a safe and secure environment to meet the needs of individuals with a diagnosis of dementia who experience complex expressive behaviours that are not able to be safely and effectively managed in other long term care homes.
- Initial funding was received in the amount of \$580,124 in January 2023 to make the required preparations and physical changes to the space; the funding expired March 31, 2023. This was endorsed by Regional Council on February 23, 2023 (Council Resolution 2023-107).
- Peel Region will now receive Provincial funding and designation effective November 29, 2023 to March 31, 2024 to fully operationalize the Transitional Behavioural Support Unit at Peel Manor with the annual funding applications to the Province for subsequent years.
- There is no net budget impact from the increased funding as increased expenditures are required under the program.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Peel Manor Long Term Care Home has been serving the community since 1898 and has evolved into a long term care home for 177 residents. Given there are no behavioural

Designation and Provincial Funding for Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit

support units serving the Central West Region, Peel submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Long-Term Care in December 2021 for a 29-bed Transitional Behavioural Support Unit (TBSU) to be located at the new Peel Manor Seniors Health and Wellness Village and in the interim, a 26-bed TBSU at the existing Peel Manor site until the new build was fully operational. The vision for the TBSU is to create a modernized long term care unit to provide specialized, advanced dementia care for seniors in long term care and the community.

On January 13, 2023, Ontario Health Central Region providing initial funding in the amount of \$580,124 through the Local Priorities Fund to begin work on the interim 26-bed TBSU at the existing Peel Manor site. Regional Council endorsed this funding on February 23, 2023 which was presented in the Council Report titled ‘Long Term Care Funding Initiatives’. This funding was used to make several building modifications to enhance security, purchase the necessary equipment, train staff, and hire a project manager to oversee the ongoing project planning and implementation.

On November 30, 2023, Peel Region received Ministry of Long-Term Care designation (required under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act*) and Provincial funding to operationalize the interim TBSU at Peel Manor. The funding will cover all costs of operating the specialized unit and is effective immediately until March 31, 2024.

2. Findings

The health care system is facing a crisis and solutions to alleviate pressures are desperately needed. Transitional Behavioural Support Units are specialized units that provide a unique level of care to help long term care providers by providing an alternative level of care and to reduce pressures on the acute care sector created by emergency department transfers. Located in long term care homes, these units provide time-limited supports to individuals who can no longer have their behavioural care needs safely met in their current environment. Specialized care is provided through highly trained staff with enhanced knowledge and skill in supporting individuals presenting with complex responsive behaviours.

The TBSU at Peel Manor will provide comprehensive clinical assessment and treatment in a home-like environment while leveraging emotion-based care approaches to enhance the quality of life of the individuals cared for with responsive/expressive behaviours. The interdisciplinary team, family members, and the community will work collaboratively to achieve the goal of reducing the incidence and prevalence of the individual’s responsive/expressive behaviours so that they can transition to a lower level of care once they achieve their clinical goals.

a) The Community Need for a Transitional Behavioural Support Unit

The Central West geography is one of the fastest growing and aging regions of Ontario. Peel Region has seen unprecedented growth in the seniors’ population and with such an increase in the number of seniors, there will be an increase in complex health care needs including the need for specialized dementia supports. The Central West Region is experiencing the highest provincial projected change in the prevalence of dementia at 66 per cent between 2015 and 2025, compared to the provincial average of 29 per cent. Yet there are no Transitional Behavioural Support Units in the Central West Region despite the need and growing demand. The TBSU will enhance Peel long term care and local long term care homes’ access the appropriate level of care to stabilize individuals with

Designation and Provincial Funding for Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit

advanced dementia and responsive behaviours, and provide support to optimize their well-being, while alleviating pressures on hospitals.

b) Expected Outcomes

With over ten years of experience operating Spruce Lane, a Specialized Behavioural Support Unit, at our Sheridan Villa Long Term Care home, Peel is well equipped to operate the TBSU at Peel Manor. The model proposed will:

- Improve system flow with greater efficiencies by targeting individuals suffering from advanced dementia with associated behaviours that can be stabilized.
- Integrate emotion-based care as the foundation of care delivery to enhance individual experience and optimize overall wellbeing and clinical outcomes.
- Provide enhanced staffing models and collaboration with an interdisciplinary team (I.e., Behaviour Analyst, Behavioural Supports Ontario, Neurobehavioural Nurse Practitioner Team, Geriatrician/Geriatric Psychiatrist, etc.).
- Work with system partners to ensure integration with other care pathways and system supports in alignment with Ontario Health Teams to achieve coordinated and streamlined care.
- Increase family and caregiver engagement.
- Once the resident is stabilized in the TBSU, the dedicated Neurobehavioural Nurse Practitioner will work with the community Neurobehavioural team and other external partners to support discharge of the resident back to their receiving long term care home or other designated destination.

3. Proposed Direction

Upon endorsement from Regional Council, Peel staff will work with Ontario Health Central Region, Ministry of Long-Term Care, and Home and Community Care Support Services to finalize necessary steps to open the unit. Eligible individuals will be admitted and discharged in accordance with the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* and the accompanying regulations (Ont. Reg 246/22).

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The funding and approval of designation, like all other Specialized Behavioural Units in Ontario, is re-evaluated on an annual basis. Under section 216 (6) of the Regulation, the Director of the Capital Planning Branch of the Ministry of Long-Term Care can amend the terms and conditions of the designation. This is consistent with the approach of receiving base funding for Spruce Lane’s Behavioural Support Unit which received designation and temporary funding in 2010 and base funding on July 1, 2015.

BILL 112 RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS

Bill 112, the *Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023* will dissolve the Region of Peel, making the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and the Town of Caledon single-tier municipalities, effective January 1, 2025. The legislation provides for the establishment of a Transition Board to make recommendations on implementing the restructuring. Details of the transition are not known at this time and are to be addressed in future reporting to Regional Council.

Designation and Provincial Funding for Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit

While Bill 112 does not mention specific changes for long term care, the dissolution of Peel will likely change the governing entity that will support the five Regional Long Term Care homes as the Committee of Management. New funding and accountability agreements would be required with Ontario Health Central Region and the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ministry has provided a total funding allocation of \$1,027,200 to support Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit for the period November 29, 2023 to March 31, 2024. The funding is expected to cover the required increase in expenditures to implement the program during the stated period with no incremental net impact on the Regional tax levy. Funding for subsequent periods will be applied for in the new fiscal year.

This funding includes an amount of \$273,400 for start up costs such as training, oversight and modifications to the building to support the goals of the unit. The balance of the funding will support the operational needs of the unit including nursing, raw food and support services. The Ministry allocated a per diem rate of \$155.68 for 26 beds to determine operational funding during the pilot.

Council has already approved additional Full Time Equivalents for emotion-based care in the 2022 budget as part of the Peel Manor Butterfly units, thus not requiring any additional Regional budget requests.

Approval of designation has been received, along with funding information. The funding letter from the Ministry of Long-Term Care has not been received at this time. It is anticipated that the final funding confirmation be received shortly.

CONCLUSION

Peel Manor’s Transitional Behavioural Support Unit will contribute towards Peel Long Term Care’s complex care model and ability to provide emotion-based care to improve the lives of the individuals with the most complex needs, particularly with regards to dementia. As the first Transitional Behavioural Support Unit in the Central West Region, this unit will fill a critical gap along the care continuum and provide quality services for seniors within Peel and the Central West Region.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Ministry of Long-Term Care Funding and Designation Letter



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