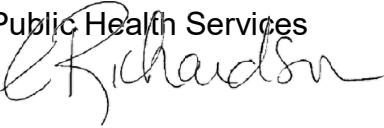




# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>DATE:</b>	July 5, 2022
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Residential Care Facility Update (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to inform the Mayor and members of Board of Health about work being done by the Housing Services Division and Public Health Services in cooperation and collaboration with Ontario Health, Central West Greater Hamilton Health Network – via the Residential Care Facilities Steering Committee.

## Background

Since the last Residential Care Facilities (RCF) update to the license conditions under Schedule 20 of the City of Hamilton's Licensing By-law (No. 07-170) in 2007, the needs for housing with supports have continued to change. There has been an evolution in the role of various types of facilities with respect to addressing the health care and housing needs of the community: Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) supporting people with more significant care needs, an insufficient supply of beds with various levels of care to support those who are unable to live independently, and increasing pressures in hospitals as these individuals are unable to be discharged causing them to look to other providers to address the identified gaps, including RCFs.

At the same time, the need for consistent, viable, supportive housing with some level of supports for vulnerable individuals have continued, if not grown. These changes have resulted in pressures within the supportive housing system that exceed what the original City of Hamilton Licensing By-law, Schedule 20 and Medical Officer of Health guidelines were meant to address. This evolving reality requires a new vision for the roles of the health care system and housing providers to work together to provide appropriate

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

housing with supports, including the role, function and oversight of housing with supports through RCFs.

### **Residential Care Facilities Steering Committee**

The COVID-19 pandemic has served to highlight the presence of the previously mentioned stressors and challenges in the health care system and in supportive housing. Health care providers that helped assess and care for residents of RCFs during the pandemic emergency response have been working with RCF operators through a committee facilitated by the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN). Both Housing Services and Public Health Services have representation within the steering committee and participate in these meetings.

The goal of the committee is to identify ways each RCF resident can gain access to and connect with required services and supports across the health and social services spectrum to promote an optimal quality of life. Additionally, the committee will work to inform a review of the model of care to support residents across the RCF continuum. A pilot project is underway at three RCFs linking primary health care and social services in a new way. As well, a study is being carried out that will help us all to better understand the current profile of RCF residents and their health care needs.

It is anticipated that this work will contribute to the re-alignment of those RCFs operating within the RCF Subsidy Program toward a Housing with Related Supports Model that is part of the 2022 Housing Services workplan, as well as further modifications to the Medical Officer of Health RCF Guidelines that were produced in accordance with Schedule 20 of the City of Hamilton's Licensing By-law. Staff will continue to update Council through the appropriate committee(s) as this work proceeds, which is anticipated to carry through into 2023.

Should you have any questions related to the above information, please contact:

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