



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof.
4. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting held on April 14, 2021 (on website).

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5. Emergency Services Department Report	3
6. Long-Term Care Report	7
7. Administration Department Report	17
8. Board of Health Minutes – March 30, 2021.	
9. New Business.	
10. Closed Meeting – None at time of mailing.	
11. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, June 16, 2021) and adjournment.	

NOTE: a) **County Council: Wednesday, May 26, 2021.**

- b) Submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Goal # 1: To inform the Federal and Provincial government on our unique needs so that Renfrew County residents get their “fair share”.

Initiatives:

- (a) Create s strategic communications plan**
- (b) Identify and advocate for issues important to the County of Renfrew.**

Strategic Plan Goal # 2: Fiscal sustainability for the Corporation of the County of Renfrew and its ratepayers.

Initiatives:

- (a) Commitment from Council supporting principles within the Long-Term Financial Plan**
- (b) Establish Contingency Plan to respond to provincial and federal financial pressures and opportunities beyond the Long-Term Financial Plan.**

Strategic Plan Goal # 3: Find cost savings that demonstrate our leadership while still meeting community needs.

Initiatives:

- (a) Complete community needs assessment**
- (b) With identified partners implement plan to optimize service delivery to the benefit of our residents.**

Strategic Plan Goal # 4: Position the County of Renfrew so that residents benefit from advances in technology, to ensure that residents and staff have fair, affordable and reasonable access to technology.

Initiatives

- (a) Ensure that the County of Renfrew is top of the list for Eastern Ontario Regional Network funding for mobile broadband**
- (b) Lobby for secure and consistent radio systems for first responders and government**
- (c) Put a County of Renfrew technology strategy in place.**

COUNTY OF RENFREW
EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

TO: Health Committee
FROM: Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services
DATE: May 12, 2021
SUBJECT: Emergency Services Department Report

INFORMATION

1. Naloxone Ontario Project [Strategic Plan Goal # 1]

The opioid crisis has reached epidemic levels and the impact on the County of Renfrew is worsening. One year ago, Paramedics responded to approximately one overdose per week. Two months ago, it was approximately two per week. Last month Paramedics responded to one overdose per day. This past week there have been multiple overdoses daily.

This crisis is impacting families, resources, and the economy, already vulnerable from the pandemic. The Service has coordinated a Paramedic subgroup to develop a strategic response using a project management approach.

Phase 1 has been completed, including an agreement signed by Chief Nolan, attached for information as Appendix ES-I, with the Renfrew County District Health Unit in application for a Naloxone (Narcan) kit supply through the Ministry of Health, Naloxone Ontario Project.

Phase 2 is underway working through the logistics of Naloxone supply and training for Paramedic staff. It is anticipated Phase 2 will be completed shortly and Naloxone kits will be available for distribution by Paramedics.

Phase 3 will include working towards the acceptance and usage of Naloxone by the community.

2. County of Renfrew AED Program [Strategic Plan Goal #3]

Attached as Appendix ES-II is an e-mail from the TC Energy (formerly Trans Canadian Pipeline) announcing funding approval for the County of Renfrew AED Program, in support of the Better Defibrillator Access initiative in the amount of \$10,000.

3. Vaccine Roll-Out [Strategic Plan Goal #4]

The continued goal of the Service is to address vaccination of vulnerable populations either through in-home vaccination or the drive-thru clinics. Outreach clinics for drive-thru and in-home vaccinations have been conducted in Barry's Bay, Eganville, Cobden, Deep River, Pembroke, as well as Renfrew in coordination with the Renfrew Victoria Hospital, and Arnprior, in coordination with the Arnprior Hospital and the Arnprior Family Health Team. Most individuals identified in this population group (housebound or chronic care) that chose to be vaccinated have received their first dose.

The Paramedic Service has now completed 1340 vaccines in Long-Term and congregate care (first and second dose), 264 drive-thru and 211 in-home vaccinations for vulnerable populations. Currently the Service is supporting local family health teams to vaccinate patients in the 61-65 cohort who have not received their first dose, and with partner agencies to vaccinate other vulnerable populations including mental health and special needs.

Vaccine Statistics provided by the Renfrew County & District Health Unit are included as information.

As of May 2, 2021 (Source: Renfrew County & District Health Unit):

- 36,965 doses have been administered at clinics organized by RCDHU, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, pharmacies in Renfrew County, or primary care
- 38% of Renfrew County residents aged 16+ have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine
- More than 80% of residents aged 70+ have received at least 1 dose of the vaccine

To date:

- Paramedics have administered 488 doses through either in-home vaccinations or pop-up drive-thru clinics across Renfrew County (Source: COVax, Vaccination Event= Paramedics- In Home/Drive Thru)
- 820 adults that receive chronic home care have had their first dose (Source: COVax, Reason for Immunization= Adult of Chronic Health Care). Note: this is likely an underestimation as many individuals that receive home care may have been immunized under other reasons such as “age priority”.
- 818 doses have been administered in partnership with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Source: COVax, Vaccination Event= Algonquins of Pikwakanagan).

4. March 31, 2021 Treasurer’s Report for Emergency Services/Paramedic Service

The Treasurer’s Report for the period ending March 31, 2021 for Emergency Services/Paramedic Service is attached as Appendix ES-III.

RESOLUTIONS

5. Ontario Health Team Application – Four Rivers

Recommendation: THAT the Health Committee recommend that County Council authorize the Warden to sign the finalized application from Four Rivers (interim name) Ontario Health Team as one of the participating partners to be submitted to the Ministry of Health. AND Further that the Warden be directed to provide a letter to the application partners congratulating them on the progress to date and expressing the need for governance to include municipal representation as a critical element of a future Ontario Health Team in the County of Renfrew.

Background

The Four Rivers (interim name) Ontario Health Team application is attached as Appendix ES-IV. The Four Rivers Ontario Health Team is responsible for improving patient health outcomes for a population of 331,822 people. This population accounts for people living in a variety of urban and rural communities attributed to the following three IC/ES networks: Queensway Carleton Hospital (N20), Kemptville District Hospital (N8) and Arnprior Regional Health Centre (N8). Most people attributed to this OHT reside in the western

part of Ottawa (276,782), accounting for 83 percent of the population. North Grenville (18,000), Arnprior (7,389), McNab/Braeside (4,755) and several other smaller communities make up the remaining 17 percent.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW
LONG-TERM CARE REPORT**

TO: Health Committee

FROM: Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care

DATE: May 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Department Report

INFORMATION

1. Bonnechere Manor Resident Statistics

Statistics	Feb 28, 2021	Mar 31, 2021	Apr 30, 2021
Population at end of Month	173	172	174
# of Female Residents	103	102	104
# of Male Residents	70	70	70
Vacant Beds at End of Month	7	8	6
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respite	96.63%* **	97.06%* **	97.23%* **
Resident Deaths	3	4	3
Resident Discharges	0	0	0
Resident Admissions	4	3	5

2. Miramichi Lodge Resident Statistics

Statistics	Feb 28, 2021	Mar 31, 2021	Apr 30, 2021
Population at end of Month	155	149	151
# of Female Residents	107	105	108
# of Male Residents	48	44	43
Vacant Beds at End of Month	11	17	15
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respite	95.34%* **	94.45%* **	93.61%* **
Resident Deaths	4	6	4
Resident Discharges	1	0	0

Statistics	Feb 28, 2021	Mar 31, 2021	Apr 30, 2021
Resident Admissions	5	0	6

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following is applicable:

*Suspension of occupancy target is in effect until August 31, 2021.

**The Respite Program has been temporarily placed on hold, converting the respite beds into long-term care beds.

3. **COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Long-Term Care**

- **Acute Care/Critical Care Capacity**

The Ministry of Long-Term Care issued a memo regarding additional changes to support hospital transfers to long-term care homes effective April 23, 2021:

- Modified isolation requirements for residents who are being admitted or transferred to a long-term care home (LTCH): latest evidence regarding incubation periods, which indicates that it is safe for the isolation period to be limited to negative PCR test at time of admission for fully immunized residents and reduced from 14 days to 10 days for partially immunized or unimmunized individuals.
- Confirmation of removal of temperature checks for both staff and essential caregivers (ECGs) upon arrival and departure.
- Temporarily waiving resident copayment for alternate-level-care long-term care patients who agree to move to a LTCH that is not their preferred Home. In the meantime, they will maintain their priority status on the waitlist of their preferred Home. Homes will be compensated for the loss of copayment revenue.
- Fully immunized staff are now permitted to work in more than one long-term care home. Existing restrictions on work locations will continue to apply to partially vaccinated and unvaccinated staff.
- Removal of Consent
On April 28, 2021 Minister of Health, Christine Elliott [announced](#) that the government has temporarily amended an [emergency order](#) to provide hospitals with flexibility to transfer certain patients whose doctors have determined no longer require hospital care to a long-term care home or retirement home,

without obtaining consent of the patient or their substitute decision maker (SMD).

The government has stated that while every effort will be made to speak with the person/family to obtain their consent, there may be rare situations where a transfer would be required regardless. The government maintains that hospitals may rely upon this order only when necessary to respond to a major surge event.

- **Legislation Enacted to Provide Paid Leave for Reasons Related to COVID-19**

On April 29, 2021, the Ontario government tabled and passed Bill 284, [COVID-19 Putting Workers First Act](#), 2021 (Bill). The Bill amends the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA) to provide eligible employees with up to three days of paid emergency leave in circumstances of absences relating to a designated infectious disease. Employers may be reimbursed for payments made to employees for the new paid leave by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). This leave covers a wide range of potential COVID-19 related absences such as:

- Is sick or may be sick with COVID-19
- Has a COVID-19 related mental health issue
- Is getting tested for COVID-19
- Is getting vaccinated for COVID-19 or has an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine
- Is self-isolating based on direction from a medical practitioner or public health
- Is taking care of a dependent who is:
 - Sick with COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19
 - Self-isolating due to COVID-19
- The paid leave days could be used all at once or separately, retroactive to April 19, 2021 and effective until September 25, 2021, when the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) expires.

- **Modified Restrictions**

On May 4, 2021, the government announced significant modifications to the restrictions in long-term care. However, as most of the changes are conditional upon the Stay-At-Home Order being lifted and/or fully

vaccinated residents/staff/essential caregivers (ECGs) – Homes in Renfrew County will have some time to implement given the Order is in place until at least May 19, 2021 and fully vaccinated means two weeks post second vaccination dose for staff and ECGs which will be approximately mid to end of June 2021 pending vaccine supply.

4. **Auditor General Special Report – Pandemic Readiness and Response in Long-Term Care**

The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario released a special report April 28, 2021 on [Pandemic Preparedness and Response in Long-Term Care](#) (LTC).

The report provides detailed observations on the following:

- Long-term care homes (LTCHs) ill-equipped to prevent or minimize COVID-19 outbreaks because of long-standing facility, staffing and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) issues
- LTC sector largely disconnected from rest of health care system
- COVID-19 pandemic response actions had unintended consequences on LTC residents and staff
- Delays, unclear communications and lack of enforcement by Long-Term Care Ministry hampered effectiveness of measures to contain COVID-19
- Ministry's oversight of homes before and during COVID-19 pandemic ineffective in addressing repeat non-compliance

This report is one in a series of six reports that the Auditor General's Office has published on Ontario's response to COVID-19. Other reports include Emergency Management in Ontario – Pandemic Response; Outbreak Planning and Decision Making; Laboratory Testing, Case Management and Contact Tracing; Management of Health-Related COVID-19 Expenditures; and Personal Protective Equipment.

5. **Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission**

On April 30, 2021, Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission released its Final Report, 322-page [report](#), publicly. The 85 recommendations in the report build on and supplement the matters

identified in the Commission's interim recommendations, and fall under the following categories:

- Pandemic Preparedness
- Addressing the Aftermath of COVID-19 for Residents and Staff
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Strengthening Health Care System Integration
- Improve Resident-Focused Care and Quality of Life
- French-Language Services
- Addressing the Human Resources Challenges
- Funding
- Increase Accountability and Transparency in Long-Term Care
- Comprehensive and Transparent Compliance and Enforcement
- Responding to the Commission's Report

Swift action will be required to modernize and strengthen the long-term care sector to prevent future outbreaks. The recommendations begin on page 221 of the [report](#). There is a lot to digest in this report and I will share further analysis but three key areas are noted:

- Owners should be involved in long-term care as part of their mission, rather than having motives that are driven by profit, as well as its recommendation for a new model of building homes that encourages the greater participation of not-for-profit organizations.
- The call to promote and fund person-centred models of care.
- Recommendation to increase the hours of care provided by allied health professionals above what is currently being planned for by the province, will go a long way to improve the quality of resident care.

6. Proposed Legislation to Regulate Personal Support Workers in Ontario

The Ontario government has introduced proposed legislation intended to strengthen health workforce accountability. If passed, the 'Advancing Oversight and Planning in Ontario's Health System Act, 2021,' would regulate personal support workers (PSWs), physician assistants and behaviour analysts.

More specifically regarding PSWs, the proposed legislation would:

- Establish a new legislative framework that supports consistency in education, training and standards of practice regardless of work setting or employment type.
- Create a new oversight body, called the 'Health and Supportive Care Providers Oversight Authority' for the registration of PSWs and would have defined roles, responsibilities and accountabilities more stringent than a registry and different than establishing a self-regulated health professional regulation following extensive consultation with the sector. We will keep Committee apprised.

7. AdvantAge Ontario Convention – May 5 and 6, 2021

Mayor Michael Donohue, Chairperson, Health Committee, Mr. Craig Kelley, Director of Property and Development, Mr. Ken Foulds, Consultant, Re/Fact Consulting and myself presented the County of Renfrew Senior's Housing Strategy at this year's AdvantAge Ontario Convention. With the convention being held virtually this year, it was an opportunity for the Management Teams of each Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge to attend providing sessions on human resource strategies, digital innovation, revolutionary approaches, the transformations made due to the Pandemic and many other topics. Additionally, Ms. Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General of Ontario and The Honourable Frank N. Marrocco, Lead Commissioner, Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission presented.

8. March 2021 Treasurer's Reports

The March Treasurer's Reports for each Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge are attached as Appendix LTC-I.

9. Annual Volunteer Recognition

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were unable to celebrate our Volunteers with the annual Volunteer Recognition dinners. This year on behalf of residents and staff each volunteer was sent a postcard expressing how we have missed them and encouraged them to advise us if they wish to continue as a volunteer at their respective Home given a year having passed since they were able to engage with the residents.

10. **Butterfly Approach Project Update**

Despite the Pandemic, I am pleased to advise Committee of the ongoing steps that have been taken to date with the implementation of the Butterfly Approach. It is important to note that any new process that is being introduced on the Butterfly Approach Home Areas of Pinnacle North at Bonnechere Manor and The Drs. Pan and Eng Dementia Care Home Area at Miramichi Lodge, that can be incorporated within our resources onto other Home Areas is being considered given the 'person-centred' approach is aligned with our mission, vision and values. Building blocks to date include:

- **Resident Engagement:**
Comprehensive resident history tool being developed as an opportunity to engage our resident's family and to promote all caregivers and volunteers knowing each resident. These histories form the foundation for:
 - Resident Life Stories
 - Creating meaningful/sense of attachment to residents and environment enhancements:
 - Individualized resident 'front' doors;
 - Memory boxes at front door;
 - Hallway vignettes; and
 - Common areas filled with meaningful 'stuff of life'.
- **Staff Recruitment and Ongoing Coaching and Support:**
 - Added staff person-centered self appraisal tool intended to measure emotional intelligence to interviewing process
 - Malton Village's 'The Fix' video included in orientation program to communicate our Homes' end goal
 - Adding appropriate person-centred language to every long-term care home job description
 - Baseline Work Life Survey completed
 - Staff Life Stories added to Butterfly Home Areas and other areas where feasible
- **Environmental Enhancements:**
 - Butterfly Garden created at entrance to the Butterfly Home as permanent art structure and ongoing fundraising initiative
 - Vibrant wall paint

- Individualizing resident room doors and camouflaging staff only access doors
- Ceiling vignettes: grant submitted to the Legion

The biggest building block we have had to defer related to COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting priorities is the comprehensive educational program that was just started at the time of the declaration of the Pandemic. It is our goal to restart the staff education in the fall of 2021 or winter of 2022 depending on the status of the Pandemic.

The May Butterfly Bulletins are attached as Appendix LTC-II.

RESOLUTIONS

11. COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

Recommendation: That the Health Committee authorize the Warden and the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the attached Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA) for the approved funding of \$990,000 for Bonnechere Manor and \$106,000 for Miramichi Lodge under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and submit to the Province by the deadline of May 12, 2021. AND FURTHER THAT County Council be so advised. AND FURTHER THAT the Health Committee recommend that County Council approve the reallocation of \$250,000 for the HVAC project in the approved 2021 Bonnechere Manor Capital Budget for the ongoing roofing project at Bonnechere Manor and \$106,000 from the approved 2021 Miramichi Lodge Capital Budget for the purchase of dishwashers, dryers, and flooring from the long-range 2022 Capital Project. AND FURTHER THAT the Finance and Administration Committee be so advised.

Background

Committee will recall that both Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge applied to the federal and provincial infrastructure funding for Ontario long-term care homes through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). I am pleased to advise that Bonnechere Manor will receive \$792,000 in federal funding and \$198,000 in provincial funding for a total of \$990,000 to

complete the updating of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Miramichi Lodge will receive \$84,800 in federal funding and \$21,200 in provincial funding for a total of \$106,000 to enhance the humidification system.

Further to this recent correspondence, the Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA), attached as Appendix LTC-III for Bonnechere Manor and Appendix LTC-IV for Miramichi Lodge, containing the terms and conditions governing this funding was provided with the requirement to indicate acceptance and agreement to the TPA no later than the end of business day on May 12, 2021. Therefore, staff recommend that Health Committee authorize the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk to sign the TPA to meet the deadline and that County Council be so advised. It is noted that the TPA still contains the original completion deadline of December 2021: the Province has advised that they will initiate corresponding amendments to the TPA.

It is also noted that the Federal Government has since extended the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream by two years to allow more time for organizations to complete their projects. This means an extension of the COVID-19 stream construction end date from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

Given that both of these upgrades were approved through the 2021 County of Renfrew Capital Budget approval process; it is recommend that priority items in the 2022 long range capital program for the approximate same dollar amount be moved forward to the 2021 capital budget:

- Bonnechere Manor proposes to reallocate \$250,000 from the 2021 Capital Budget of the approved \$520,000 for the chiller replacement, for the ongoing roofing project (\$222,000 was approved through the 2021 budget process). Given the HVAC and roofing are two large projects in 2021 this would leave \$270,000 of unused capital in 2021 which staff may come back to Committee with further proposals at a later date.
- Miramichi Lodge proposes to reallocate \$106,000 from the 2021 Capital Budget for the purchase of dishwashers (\$53,000), dryer replacements (\$30,000) and (\$23,000) of the \$60,000 budgeted in 2022 for the sheet flooring installation.

12. Long-Term Care Staff One Employer Rule during Pandemic

Recommendation: THAT the Health Committee recommend that County Council rescind the following direction adopted on April 23, 2020: 'THAT the County of Renfrew continue to require that Long-Term Care staff only work for one employer'.

Background

Committee will recall that, in response to the declared Pandemic in March 2020 and the identified risk of long-term care (LTC) staff transmitting COVID-19 by working in more than one location, a County of Renfrew directive restricted our LTC staff to a sole employer. This decision was made in advance of Ontario Regulation 146/20 coming into effect April 22, 2020 restricting LTC staff to work in a single location.

On April 23, 2021 Associate Deputy Minister, Erin Hannah advised Ontario Long Term Care Homes regarding a revision to regulation 146/20 allowing fully immunized Long-Term Care staff to work in more than one LTC home, health care setting or retirement home (unless otherwise directed by a local medical officer of health). Existing restrictions on work locations continue to apply to partially vaccinated and unvaccinated staff.

Staff recommend that the resolution limiting staff to work for only one employer now be rescinded. Widespread vaccination of residents, staff and essential caregivers in the long-term care sector has resulted in significant reductions in cases and outbreaks. As Committee is aware, Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge continue to require a two-step screening process with anyone coming into the Home who must pass the Provincial screening tool and receive a negative rapid antigen onsite test result.

COUNTY OF RENFREW
ADMINISTRATION REPORT

TO: Health Committee
FROM: Paul V. Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
DATE: May 12, 2021
SUBJECT: Department Report

RESOLUTIONS

1. Network 24 Ontario Health Team Application

Recommendations: THAT the Health Committee recommend to County Council that the Chief Administrative Officer be approved to participate in the meetings of the Network 24 Ontario Health Team.

Background

Committee is advised that the final Network 24 OHT application was received by the Ministry of Health and is attached as Appendix I. Attached as Appendix II is the Network 24 communique written for our stakeholders.

The Network 24 Application Coordinating Working Group will be meeting regularly every 2 weeks to continue to explore the complex information and processes involved in moving towards a collaborative governance structure and have asked the County Chief Administrative Officer to participate in these meetings to ensure a more comprehensive lens on the health system. The working group feels it is a time of discovery and education and the hope is to be able to collate and present the information to the multitude of partners so some decisions can be made. The group recognizes the importance of county services on the health system, namely Emergency Services, Long-Term Care and Community Services and the team would benefit from having a County staff representative participate in these meetings.