



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Long-Term Care Physician after-hours coverage and on-call coverage

From: Megan Garland, Director of Long Term Care and Senior Services

Date: September 5, 2024

Report Number: LTC-2024-011

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The provincial government provides long-term care homes funding for payment to physicians providing after-hours on-call. Both homes receive \$15,532 annually, which means that physicians receive \$42.55 per day for coverage.

The provincial allocation for Gateway Haven will need to be supplemented by County levy contributions in an amount of approximately \$21,000 annually to ensure the coverage required under the Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2023.

Background/Analysis:

Under the Fixing Long Term Care Act, 2023, the Medical Director is responsible for ensuring after-hours coverage and on-call coverage which means coverage from 1700 hours to 0700 hours Monday to Friday, and 24-hour coverage on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

The provincial government provides long-term care homes funding for payment to physicians providing after-hours on-call. Both homes receive \$15,532 annually, providing \$42.55 per day for coverage, per home.

Gateway Haven

The previous Medical Director provided all after-hours/on-call coverage for Gateway Haven. However, the current Medical Director has indicated the need to make alternative arrangements for this coverage. Making alternative arrangements are challenging, due to local physicians being overextended, managing multiple roles within the healthcare system and the financial compensation not being commensurate with compensation in comparable sectors in health services.

Staff have collaborated extensively to explore various strategies and solutions with local physicians, Ontario Health, our hospital partners, and the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team to address the challenges of securing appropriate after-hours physician coverage.

Despite these collaborative efforts and the willingness of our partners to support, the consistent barrier that we can address is the financial disadvantage faced by physicians. Similarly, another local long-term care facility faced similar challenges and has decided to supplement its funding to address the issue.

Considering this, a service agreement has been reached to supplement the funding by up to \$100 per day, providing an additional \$57.45 per day. This adjustment will result in an annual increase of \$20,970 to ensure adequate physician coverage at Gateway Haven.

Brucelea Haven

The Walkerton Emergency Physician Group (a group of covering physicians) provide the after-hours coverage and on-call coverage to Brucelea Haven. The physician group will receive the provincial funding of \$15,532 annually.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The additional in year costs for 2024 will be managed with surplus.

Adjustments will be made to the 2025 budget to accommodate the increase.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Long-Term Care and Senior Services team have consulted with Corporate Services on the development of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Strategic Goals

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer