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**Subject:** Approval of 2020 Public Health Program Audits

**Report to:** Public Health and Social Services Committee

**Report date:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020

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## Recommendations

1. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses and the annual reconciliation return for the Public Health General Programs for the year ended December 31, 2019 (Appendix 1 and 2), **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses for the Infant & Child Development Services (“ICDS”) program for the year ended March 31, 2020 (Appendix 3) **BE APPROVED**;
3. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses and questionnaire for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (“HBHC”) program for the year ended March 31, 2020 (Appendix 4 and 5) **BE APPROVED**;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
5. That report PHD 04-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region’s Audit Committee for information.

## Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to obtain approval of the audited schedules of revenues and expenses and annual reconciliation return in accordance with the provincial requirements.
- In previous years, the ICDS and HBHC programs financial results had been reported to the Ministry using a December 31 year end (for each year). The current year schedule of revenue and expenses (“financial schedule”) and the annual reconciliation return have been reported as of March 31 in order to align with the reporting date of the respective Ministry, as per Ministry direction in 2019.
- As a result of the reporting date change, the HBHC and ICDS financial schedules as of March 31, 2020 contain 15 months of financial data (January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020). For both programs, subsequent financial schedules will contain 12 months of data with the fiscal year running April 1 to March 31 (in alignment with the Ministry).
- As per Financial Reporting and Forecasting Policy (C-F-020), other financial statements or schedules performed for Ministry funding purposes, will be recommended for approval to Council by the standing Committee with oversight of

the program. Upon approval by Council, the department Commissioner, or delegated authority, and the Treasurer will be authorized to sign the auditor's representation letter to obtain the auditor's signed report. The approved statements will then be forwarded to Audit Committee for information.

## **Financial Considerations**

The schedules of revenue and expense ("financial schedules") and annual reconciliation returns have been prepared in compliance with legislation and in accordance with the requirements and policies stipulated by the corresponding Ministry.

Draft copies of the financial schedules, annual reconciliation return and questionnaire for the periods ended December 31, 2019 and March 31, 2020 are attached as Appendix 1-5.

The financial schedules are prepared specifically for the purposes of meeting the requirements as outlined in the service agreements with the respective funding Ministries. The financial schedules have been prepared in compliance with legislation and in accordance with the requirements and policies stipulated by the corresponding Ministry.

The financial schedules for Public Health Department are a Ministry requirement as noted in the audit reports for each of the respective programs as follows:

### Public Health General Programs:

"The schedule is prepared to assist the Regional Municipality of Niagara in complying with the financial reporting provisions of the Guidelines (Public Health Accountability Agreement effective January 1, 2019 between the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and The Regional Municipality of Niagara). As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose."

### Infant & Child Development Services:

"The schedule is prepared to assist the Program to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the agreement between the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose."

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children:

“The schedule is prepared to assist the Program in complying with the financial reporting provisions of the agreement dated January 1, 2018 between the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.”

**Analysis**

The program audits were completed by the Region’s external auditors, Deloitte. The auditors have indicated that, based on their review, nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that this information is not, in all material respects, in accordance with the respective Ministry requirements identified.

The recommendation for approval of audited schedules performed for Ministry funding purposes rests with the Committee to which the department responsible for the funding reports. Upon approval by the Committee, these schedules are referred to Audit Committee for information. Then the department’s Commissioner and Treasurer will be authorized to sign the auditor’s representation letter to obtain the auditors signed report.

Below is a summary of the results of the audited financial schedules:

- Public Health General Programs – the program has no funds returnable for the reporting period ended December 31, 2019 as the Region has expended all allocated funding. The grant receivable of \$344,798 is a result of timing of cash flow from the Ministry and should be received from the Ministry once the program results are reviewed.
- Infant & Child Development Services – the program has no funds returnable for the reporting period ended March 31, 2020 as the Region has expended all allocated funding.
- Healthy Babies, Healthy Children – the program has no funds returnable for the reporting period ended March 31, 2020 as the Region has expended all allocated funding.

These financial schedules are subject to minor wording changes once schedules are finalized.

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

The audited financial schedules and annual reconciliation return are a Ministry requirement and therefore no alternatives are available.

## **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

Providing formal financial reporting to Council and the public supports the Council Strategic Priority of Sustainable and Engaging Government.

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

None.

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### **Recommended by:**

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### **Submitted by:**

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*This report was prepared in consultation with Beth Brens, CPA, CA, Manager, Program Financial Support.*

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Public Health General Programs – Schedule of Revenue and Expenses

Appendix 2 - Public Health General Programs – Annual Reconciliation Return

Appendix 3 - Infant & Child Development Services – Schedule of Revenue and Expenses

Appendix 4 - Healthy Babies, Healthy Children – Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

Appendix 5 – Healthy Babies, Healthy Children - Questionnaire