



Office of the Commissioner  
Community and Health Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Katherine Chislett, Commissioner of Community and Health Services  
Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

Date: April 1, 2020

Re: Procurement of Services for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

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### **This memorandum relates to the above noted report and recommends alternate language due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic**

On [March 12, 2020](#), Committee of the Whole received the Procurement of Services for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program report which seeks approval to extend an agreement with Golden Care Dental Services Inc. to provide general dental services to low income seniors eligible for the Ontario Seniors Dental Program. The report also seeks authority for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to enter into service agreements with dental service providers until September 30, 2020 provided the Ministry of Health funds all related costs. The length of time for these service agreements would depend upon how long it takes for the Region's other four clinics to be operational.

### **Following submission of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program report to Committee of the Whole, Public Health suspended clinical dental services and further program development**

On the advice of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario and Dr. David William, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health has suspended all elective clinical dental and treatment services for Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program clients. Clients with emergency dental conditions are being referred to specific Public Health Units who meet the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario's specification for emergency services.

**Staff have terminated the existing agreement with Golden Care Dental Services Inc. and recommend entering into a new agreement to allow the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program to continue with the implementation of interim services and program development post COVID-19 Pandemic**

Staff recommend Council:

1. Replace clause 1 of the Procurement of Services for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program report with the following wording:

Council authorize an agreement between the Region and Golden Care Dental Services Inc. to provide clinical dental care service for eight months, expiring on December 31, 2020, at a total cost of \$608,166 excluding Harmonized Sales Tax.

2. Replace clause 2a of the Procurement of Services for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program report with the following wording:

Council delegate authority to the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to procure interim dental services and to execute related agreements as follows:

- a) Contracts may only be awarded by the Commissioner up until and including December 31, 2020

The cost increase of \$54,240 reflects the longer period of time covered and increasing clinic time from two to three days per week. This cost will also be managed within the approved funding allocation from the Ministry.

**Resumption of clinic operations and further program development activities is dependent upon recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Currently, the program is providing essential services by monitoring client calls and referring client with emergency conditions to appropriate services. All further program development activities have been placed on hold due to the redeployment of Public Health staff to assist in COVID-19 efforts and Regional direction to defer non-critical procurement and recruitment of staff processes.

Staff anticipate the COVID-19 Pandemic response may also delay the completion of x-ray equipment installation at 9060 Jane Street in the City of Vaughan and clinic enhancements at 17150 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket. Delays are also expected in approval of Ministry of Health capital funding for four remaining projects to enhance current dental clinics at 4261 Highway #7 East in the City of Markham, 50 High Tech Road in the City of Richmond Hill and 9060 Jane Street in the City of Vaughan and the new build at the Link in the Town of Georgina.

For more information on the memo, please contact Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74012.



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Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



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Dr. Karim Kurji  
Medical Officer of Health



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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

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