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DATE: October 28, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

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**OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the planning and development of the Peel Children and Youth Initiative (PCYI).

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- PCYI will provide over-all leadership for joint planning to strengthen supports and services for children and youth from zero to 24 in Peel.
- The responsibility for PCYI will transfer from the Steering Group to a Board of Directors supported by the United Way of Peel Region in June 2010.
- Annualized funding in the sum of \$303,000 is required to support this initiative. The Steering Group is requesting \$110,000 (36.3 per cent) from the Region.
- The funding for the PCYI will be presented as a proposed base budget adjustment as part of the 2010 budget process.
- The additional \$193,000 (63.7 per cent) will be provided by other funders, including Trillium, the Province of Ontario, and United Way of Peel.

**DISCUSSION****1. Background**

PCYI will be a diverse collaboration of private, public and voluntary organizations, coalitions, and collaboratives, with a commitment to the well-being of children and youth in Peel from zero to 24. It will focus on joint planning, community capacity building, and partnership development to strengthen the efforts of children and youth, families, parents, mentors, communities, neighbourhoods and organizations, to support children and youth to reach their full potential.

**a) Peel Children and Youth Steering Group**

Currently a Steering Group is actively creating a new collaborative community capacity and partnership building organization in Peel. The Steering Group for this initiative has representatives from all sectors of the child and youth community: education, recreation, neighbourhoods, immigration, community capacity building and funding, health, social services, mental health, youth justice, developmental services, early learning, child care and child welfare. The representatives from key community collaboratives are Success by 6 Peel, Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network, Peel Planning Group, Peel

October 28, 2009

**PEEL CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE**

Newcomer Strategy Group, Youth Justice Co-ordinating Committee, Student Support Leadership Initiative, Ministry of Children & Youth Services, and Children and Youth Planning Group. This work has been informed by two community forums in May 2009 and September 2009 where a total of 84 different community organizations had input into the development of the Initiative.

The plan is for the Steering Group to transfer the leadership and responsibility for PCYI to a Board of Directors supported by United Way as its sponsoring organization by June 2010. Subsequently it is expected that the initiative will become a separate organization during the next two to three years. The United Way is the sponsoring organization for the development of PCYI, and will work co-operatively and in partnership with the Peel Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel as the lead organization for funding requests, to ensure appropriate accountability is maintained.

**b) Success By 6 Peel**

Success By 6 Peel is a non-profit community collaborative that is committed to enhancing positive child development in the early years of life from zero to six years of age. It is a community-based partnership with United Way of Peel, and consists of more than 50 partners in the business, education, early learning and child care, recreation, health services, social services and government sectors. It has been the intention of Success By 6 Peel to move towards a broader planning context, beyond the age of six.

PCYI will achieve this intention through the comprehensive mandate to integrate services for children and youth zero to 24. PCYI will build on the work of Success By 6 Peel. Throughout the development of PCYI, opportunities for efficiencies and integration will be identified. Once PCYI has established its initial organization and has completed its strategic plan (anticipated by December 2010), a plan will be designed to ensure the full utilization and efficient use of the staffing and dollars assigned to PCYI and Success By 6 Peel.

**2. Proposed Direction**

In 2010, it is being proposed that the Region of Peel support the funding request in the sum of \$110,000 (36.3 per cent) to the Peel Children and Youth Initiative. It is proposed that in the start up phase funds will be used for:

- development of the strategic plan;
- implementation of operational plan;
- creation of a comprehensive communication strategy;
- establishment of a plan for youth involvement;
- monitoring through Results-Based Accountability Framework;
- partnership development across all sectors; and
- supporting the integration of services.

The PCYI proposal will be presented as a base budget adjustment as part of the 2010 budget process.

The additional \$193,000 (63.7 per cent) will be provided by other funders, including Trillium, Province of Ontario, and United Way of Peel.

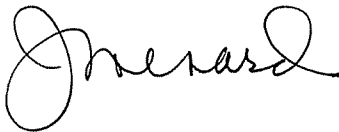
October 28, 2009

**PEEL CHILDREN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE**

**CONCLUSION**

It is recognized that families do not operate within an age grouping. Children, youth and their respective needs grow and evolve along a continuum; therefore they require a range of integrated services to support them.

Support for PCYI represents a significant step forward in municipal collaboration to show demonstrated support to the community for children and youth zero to 24 years in Peel. This aligns with the objectives of our Human Services Plan and provides an opportunity to engage our future decision makers in Peel.



Janet Menard  
Commissioner of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Swarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services