

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWACARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWACARLETON

MEMORANDUM
NOTE DE SERVICE

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<p><u>Information Previously Distributed</u> To be listed on the Community Services Committee Agenda 21 May 1998</p>
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DATE 28 April 1998

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **PROPOSED SATELLITE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE IN
OSGOODE TOWNSHIP**

BACKGROUND

Since 1988, satellite sexual health centres have been an integral component of the Healthy Sexuality Programme. Originally, the satellite centres were located in selected high schools and shortly thereafter branched out into the community.

The goal of these satellite sexual health centres is to increase access to sexual health services particularly for youth who may experience one or several barriers with traditional health services. The centres operate a few hours each week and are staffed by public health nurses from the Sexual Health Centre. They offer youth the opportunity to seek information regarding sexual health issues or to discuss problems or concerns with a health professional. Clinical services are available on request and may include a sexual health exam, testing, purchase of contraceptives or comprehensive counselling regarding pregnancy management. Other issues or concerns voiced by youth are also addressed by the nurse and referred as appropriate.

The establishment of satellite sexual health centres has complimented the 27.5 hours of services provided weekly by the base clinic or Sexual Health Centre located at 179 Clarence Street in the Byward Market. Satellites sexual health centres are currently located in six locations throughout the region.

Program staff are continuously monitoring the efficacy of all the satellite clinics. Clinic attendance is reviewed monthly. The type of service requested and provided is also assessed. Liaison is established with other service providers offering complimentary youth services within the same community and collaboration is established both in delivery and promotion of services.

The Health Department is very pleased to have the opportunity to open a satellite sexual health centre for the youth of Osgoode Township and students of Osgoode High School.

In preliminary discussions held in the spring of 1997, the school and parent body both indicated interest and support for this initiative. There is no physical space to house such a satellite in the school itself. As a result, other possible locations were explored successfully.

PROPOSED LOCATION WITHIN OSGOODE TOWNSHIP

In the Osgoode/Metcalf clinic we will be looking at a multi-service model. Each partner in this service delivery system will have their respective roles and responsibilities. Optimally, we would like to see a seamless model of health care delivery where youth can obtain one stop shopping for all of their health concerns.

Services could include:

- Social services from the Youth Services Bureau worker already working with the Osgoode High School population;
- The school health nurse for general health promotion programming and assistance in the promotion of this new service;
- Sexual health services where public health nurses offer comprehensive counselling, education and clinical services to address the sexual health needs of the teen population; and
- Family practice services through a rotation of interested Osgoode Township physicians to address medical needs not met by any of the other service providers.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The partner in health (school nurse) for Osgoode High School identified in focus groups held with teens that sexuality is a major concern for this age group. Problems with access to services were also identified. Osgoode has a large teen population; however, the downtown Sexual Health Centre is not convenient for most adolescents living in a rural area.

Discussions with township officials, service providers, residents and youths have resulted in favorable responses. In early July 1997, staff from the Health Department met with township representatives regarding the establishment of a satellite sexual health centre in their community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Existing funds will cover the implementation and operation of this new satellite.

CONCLUSION

The partnership between the Ottawa Carleton Health Department and the Township of Osgoode provides an excellent opportunity to assist the community in promoting the sexual health of young people in that community. The proposed satellite sexual health centre represents yet another model by which we can offer efficient, inexpensive and seamless services within an existing community to improve the health of the young people of Ottawa-Carleton.

Approved by
Robert Cushman, MD, MBA, FRCPC