

BRIEFING *Note*

Meeting Date: May 29, 2014
Action: Decision
Topic Item 14.0 - Increase in Behavior Supports Service base funding

Purpose:

To recommend an increase in funding for the Behavior Supports Ontario (BSO) program operating in Long-Term Care Homes across the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network in relation the recent expansion in long term care capacity.

Recommendation:

THAT, the WWLHIN provide an additional \$39,000 in annualized base funding to St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, for the Behavior Supports Ontario (BSO) program beginning in the 2014/2015 fiscal year, pending confirmation from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding funding availability.

Background Information:

The Behavioral Supports Ontario (BSO) Initiative was created in 2011 to enhance services for older adults with complex and predictable responsive behaviors associated with cognitive impairments such as dementia, or other neurological conditions, mental health and addictions, wherever they live – at home, in long-term care, or elsewhere.

In the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network, funding is provided to each of the 35 Long Term Care (LTC) Homes for specialized Behavioral Support positions for Nurses (Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurses) as well as Personal Support Workers. Funding is distributed across the LTC Homes for these positions, proportional to the number of beds that each home has. The current base budget for BSO is \$1,846,200.00 which provides support to all of our LTC beds in the system.

Success Story: “*Have You Seen the Children*”

“Helen was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Dementia and came here to live in October 2009. She was very involved in most activities and made many friends but as time progressed Helen noticeably lost most of her short term memory. Some days, especially in the evening hours, Helen would start to get anxious. At these times she was often seen walking around with her walker telling anyone she saw that she was looking for the children. “Have you seen the children? Do you know where the children are? I’ve lost the children”. At first staff tried reality orientation, assuring Helen that there were no children here and that she lived in long term care. When that did not settle her, they tried telling Helen that the children were at home with their mother or were in bed sleeping. As Helen’s dementia progressed the search for the children became a great source of distress and it became more and more difficult to redirect Helen. Helen was extremely agitated and could get very loud/upset as she was looking for her children; staff were frustrated and other residents often became unsettled. It was at this time that the BSO team was asked to get involved.

Because of the fact that she was looking for the children the BSO Team thought that perhaps they would try giving Helen a doll and see how she responded. Her daughter Mary was given information about doll therapy and agreed to trial this as a care strategy.

Helen was given one of our beautiful weighted dolls which looked to be about 3 months old. Helen loved her doll. It soon became her constant companion and her “responsive behaviors” were no longer present. She even took the doll home with her for a Christmas visit to her daughters and upon her return, her daughter shared some photographs with the staff - all of Helen’s gifts were doll items: clothes, blankets and even a beautiful new coat for the doll! It was after Helen passed away that staff learned that over the course of Helen’s life, she had been a foster mom to 72 children. This was the reason that this doll had brought such a great comfort to Helen in the last months of her life.”

New Long Term Care beds

In April 2013, 28 new Long Term Care beds were added to the system at Hilltop Manor in Cambridge, ON. In 2014, an additional 68 Long Term Care beds were added to the system via Hilltop Manor for a total of 3918 total beds in the system. In order to provide BSO service to these new beds at the same level as existing services, additional funding is required.

The BSO program in Waterloo Wellington has been recognized provincially as a leading program in behavior support services in long term care. Our model is unique in that it is a decentralized service through supporting each of the long term care homes in building capacity and supports to meet the unique needs of each of their residents. Given the significant positive impact for residents and alignment with the system strategy, it is recommended that additional funds be dedicated to ensuring this service is expanded alongside long term care capacity expansion.

Next Steps

With approval from the LHIN Board, staff will communicate funding decisions by letter to the appropriate providers.