




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	February 1, 2023
SUBJECT:	Catholic Family Services Program Closure (Ward 14)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 14
SUBMITTED BY:	Angela Burden General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities
SIGNATURE:	

City staff were formally notified last week of Catholic Family Services, (CFS) decision to cease operations effective April 30, 2023 citing a lack of financial viability and resources necessary to adequately perform their operations.

CFS is a social services agency that operates St. Martin's Manor Early Learning Centre and works with a range of clients to provide other services including counselling, case management, community connection and education programs. CFS is funded primarily by provincial ministries who have committed to keep the funding in Hamilton. The ministries will partner with new providers in Hamilton to provide the ministry-funded programs.

St. Martin's Manor Early Learning Centre is a licensed child care program for 40 children which is governed under the Child Care and Early Years Act and licensed by the Ministry of Education, (MEDU), and one of the licensed agencies funded through the City of Hamilton's Children and Community Services Division (CCSD).

CCSD staff are actively working with families impacted by this closure on an individualized basis to help clients secure alternate child care arrangements at another child care program to ensure continuity of child care. CCSD also provides financial assistance to families to support the costs of child care through the fee subsidy program. Families receiving fee subsidy at St. Martin's Manor Early Learning centre will continue to receive subsidy and will not need to pay more for child care in choosing an alternate program when the program closes on April 30th. City staff from the Fee Subsidy program are contacting these families to support them in locating alternate child care.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Additional programs and services provided to clients of St. Martin's Manor Early Learning Centre by public health services and CCS include the Healthy Babies Healthy Children, (HBHC) and Nurse Family Partnership, (NFP) programs, the Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program and Home management. These city-delivered programs follow the client and are not facility dependent so will continue without being impacted.

Under the Act, St. Martin's Manor Early Learning Centre is required to return their license to MEDU when operations cease on April 30, 2023. If a new provider is interested in operating a licensed child care program at this location, then they will be required to apply for a new license to operate a licensed child care program through MEDU.

The City of Hamilton, in its role as the Consolidated Service System Manager, is responsible for planning and funding the licensed childcare system in Hamilton including the Canada Wide Early Learning and child care, (CWELCC) initiative. The Children's and Community Services Division, (CCSD) commits to work with a new provider if they choose to apply for a license through the MEDU licensing system.

Resources for families:

- **Health Connections Phone Line:** 905-546-3550 * Speak with a Public Health Nurse who can provide information regarding community supports and services (for pregnant individuals and parents with children up to age 6) that are available and assist with linking families to services (Including Healthy Babies Healthy Children/Nurse Family Partnership, prenatal and parenting programs and supports)
- **Home Visiting:** supports through the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and Nurse Family Partnership programs. Access by calling Health Connections: 905-546-3550
- **Growing Together:** A Community Education Guide for Parents, Youth and Children (<https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/mcmaster-childrens-hospital/family-resources>)
- **Youth Pregnancy Care Pathway:** <http://ypcp.ca/hbwc/carepathway>
- **Ontario Works:** provides temporary financial and employment assistance for people who are in financial need. Email: OntarioWorks@hamilton.ca
Phone: 905-546-4800 or toll free at 1-855-999-8729
- **Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP)** program works with young parents to provide support in navigating a return to secondary school, adult education or alternative education options to complete secondary school (Grade 12). The LEAP program also encourages and enhances parenting skills through community involvement, activities, and referrals. **Phone:** 905-546-3088

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SUBJECT: Catholic Family Services Program Closure (Ward 14) - Page 3 of 3

- **Home Management program** works with individuals and groups in supporting them to be successful in the areas of budgeting, household management, coping with housing issues, basic nutrition, menu planning and meal preparation, parenting, goal setting, problem-solving, time management, stress management, self-esteem and more. **Phone:** 905-546-4804

Should you require further information, please contact Brenda Bax, Acting Director Children's Services and Community Services Division at (905) 546-2424 ext. 4120 or via email at Brenda.Bax@hamilton.ca

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None