

**Subject:** Proposed Pelham Mental Health Walk-in Clinic for Youth**Recommendation:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-0130 – Proposed Pelham Mental Health Walk-in Clinic for Youth;**

**AND THAT Council approve a Pathstone Mental Health Walk-In Clinic for Youth and direct staff to establish said clinic at the Meridian Community Centre in partnership with the Fenwick Lions Club, Fonthill Lions Club, the Kinsmen Club and the Pelham Library commencing September 2021;**

**AND THAT Council direct Staff to work with local Service Clubs; private donations and fundraising for annual support to sustain the said Clinic;**

**AND THAT Council direct any shortfall be a considered in the 2022 Operations Budget deliberations.**

**Background:**

Pathstone Mental Health is currently offers a once per week drop-in clinic for youth in eight area municipalities. This program is currently operating in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Welland, Niagara Falls, Thorold, St. Catharines, Lincoln, Grimsby and by video only in Niagara-on-the-lake. This report is being presented to Council for consideration to open a drop-in clinic at the Meridian Community Centre (MCC) beginning in September 2021.

**Analysis:**

Since the pandemic began evidence has shown an increase in the number of youth suffering from mental health issues. Pathstone Mental Health is a lead agency and community-based organization whose mission is to provide innovative and effective treatment for all children in Niagara diagnosed with mental health issues.

#### Proposed Pelham Walk-in Clinic:

- One day a week clinic at the MCC (half of the Kinsmen Room)
- Tuesdays from 11:30am – 7:30pm
- Commencing September 7, 2021 – December 28, 2021 – Cost \$5,000
- Continuing annually in 2022.... Annual cost estimated at \$20,000
- Rental fees waived for use of the Room
- Drop-in Clinic Free for use
- Youth can use any clinic across the Region, no need to be a resident to use a particular clinic
- Pathstone Counsellor on site one day per week
- Access to video-counselling therapy Monday – Friday

#### **Financial Considerations:**

In most cases across the Region these Clinics are funded by the Municipalities, or by private donors. In Pelham's case this proposed Clinic would be an unbudgeted item for 2021. Therefore, Staff have reached out to local Service Clubs and agencies for assistance to make this happen. In speaking to the Service Clubs we have learned that in some cases the Clubs have not met during the pandemic, let alone fundraised. And in other cases Clubs have been meeting and have been actively fundraised throughout the pandemic.

To this end, Staff are pleased to inform Council that between the Fenwick Lions, Fonthill Lions, Kinsmen Club and the Library there is a commitment that would cover the \$5,000 to commence the Clinic in September – December 2021. If there is a minor shortfall, funds could come from the Town's Municipal Grants.

It is very important that if the Clinic commences in September the Town is able to continue offering the service. Therefore, Staff has requested an annual commitment from the Services Clubs for the upcoming year. This is being considered by the Fenwick Lions, Fonthill Lions, the Kinsmen Club and the Rotary Club. Prior to the 2022 Operating Budget being approved Staff should know the annual Service Club commitment. The remainder of the \$20,000 cost for 2022 could come from private donations, fundraising efforts and lastly 2022 Operating Budget.

#### **Alternatives Reviewed:**

Do not offer a Mental Health Walk-In Clinic for Youth in the Town of Pelham

**Strategic Plan Relationship: Build Strong Communities and Cultural Assets**

It is important to show Pelham is a caring Community that provides equal care and supports to its youth as neighbouring municipalities do.

**Consultation:**

Kim Rossi, Pathstone Mental Health

Amy Guilmette, Pelham Library

Teresa Quinlin, Director of Corporate Services & Treasurer

**Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Pathstone Mental Health through Walk-In Clinics

**Prepared and Recommended by:**

Vickie vanRavenswaay, RRFA

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**Prepared and Submitted by:**

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Chief Administrative Officer