



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Submitted by: Cindy Howard – General Manager, Finance and Community Services and Deputy CAO

Joe Winsor – Manager of Social and Children's Services

Subject: Increase to Nurses' and Homemakers Services

BACKGROUND:

Governed under the Nurse's and Homemaker's Services Act and Regulations, these services are provided to eligible clients in Middlesex County by ParaMed Home Health Care. The Homemakers and Nurses Services program provides services, such as light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation to low-income individuals in the community who require assistance with household daily living. Continuity of care is highly important to the residents receiving homecare services, which contributes to why the County has continued to have ParaMed provide these services since 2003.

ANALYSIS:

Traditionally, ParaMed increases the hourly rate for the above services annually and notifies the County of the increased rate and the effective date.

In October 2022 ParaMed increased their PSS rates to \$35.19 from \$31.44. The \$3.75 increase is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Effective August 1st, 2023, Paramed has indicated the PSS service rate will increase to \$41.21 (including the \$3.75 base wage increase, which is 100% Ministry funded). This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacting the demand for, and availability of, care providers across the care continuum from hospitals, long-term care homes to home care. Paramed is facing incredible challenges securing staff to provide care and competitive pressures have driven wage rates higher over the last several year. To ensure Paramed has the capacity to provide quality care to their clients they require skilled care givers and therefore they deem it necessary to increase their PSS rates. Currently 4 individuals are receiving services through this program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The approved 2023 Budget for Homemakers and Nurses is \$5,610. The program is funded 80% from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The approved budget can accommodate the requested increase.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Cultivating Community Vitality 	Advance a diverse, healthy, and engaged community across Middlesex County	• Promote and support community wellness • Innovate social and community services • Attract, retain, and engage youth in our community • Champion and encourage active transportation and public transit opportunities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve the PSS rate increase from the current amount of \$31.44 to the requested amount of \$41.21.