



PORT COLBORNE City of Port Colborne Healthcare Advisory Committee Addendum

Date: October 29, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Committee Room 3-City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

Pages

5. Presentations

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| *5.1 | Rory Bulmer, Assistant to Mayor and Council, City of Orillia | 1 |
| *5.2 | Austin White, RN, Public Health Nurse - School Health Division, Niagara Region Public Health | 4 |

Healthcare Advisory Committee-October 29, 2025

Case Study-City of Orillia

Background

In 2022, City Council developed four priorities based on feedback from the community. One pillar called “Things that mattered” was a focus on PCP recruitment. [Council Priorities 2022-2026 - City of Orillia](#)

By 2025, the mayor brought forward a report calling for additional focus on recruitment efforts and a working group was formed with the following structure:

- Four members of Council
- Their local physician recruiter
- Executive Director-OHT
- Some physicians would advise
- No members of the public
- Had an “unofficial” member that represented patient care.

The mayor had heard about a new model being used in Colwood, B.C. through the media and wanted to see if it was a feasible option.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/colwood-municipal-health-clinic-1.7416840>

The details of that model were:

- City pays the overhead cost of the clinic and physicians
- Physician salaries are then reimbursed by the province
- Taxpayers fund the support staff salaries
- Clinic would become cost-neutral after a few years in operation

The team had an aggressive timeline and met every Friday for three months. They explored barriers and feasibility. Some of the main concerns were that new graduates are generally not ready to run a business, and renovating existing infrastructure is too costly. The working group made the recommendation to Council to focus on increasing physician recruitment for several different reasons which included full cost recovery was unlikely. The decision was made that a city-funded model was going to be too expensive for taxpayers, and they decided to focus on the following solutions instead:

- Continue to fund physician recruitment
- They have a new hospital announcement coming that will attract talent
- They had a private organization come in as part of another model called “Managed Medical Clinic.” *This is the predominant model in the GTA

- The private company pays all the expenses for the business, and the physicians are sub-contractors who then pay a flat fee to operate out of the building
- They have two Family Health Organizations (FHO), both have after-hours, but it is for exiting patients only. Neither are co-located
- One unattached OHT clinic
- New privately managed clinic is opening soon

Overview

Orillia, Ontario, employs a hybrid healthcare model that combines a full-service hospital with integrated primary care services, aligning with the province's Ontario Health Team (OHT) framework. Here's an overview of the healthcare infrastructure in Orillia:

Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (OSMH)

- **Facility Type:** Full-service community hospital
- **Services Offered:**
 - 24/7 emergency department
 - Inpatient and outpatient care
 - Surgical services
 - Diagnostic imaging
 - Mental health and addiction services
 - Rehabilitation programs
- **Role in the Community:** OSMH serves as a regional hub for specialized care, supporting both Orillia and surrounding rural communities.

Couchiching Ontario Health Team (OHT)

- **Overview:** The Couchiching OHT is a collaborative network of local healthcare providers, including OSMH, primary care physicians, long-term care facilities, and community health organizations.
- **Objectives:**
 - Integrate services across the continuum of care
 - Enhance patient navigation and care coordination

- Improve access to primary care and community services
- Focus on population health and preventative care
- **Initiatives:**
 - Development of digital health solutions for seamless information sharing
 - Implementation of community-based programs targeting chronic disease management
 - Efforts to reduce emergency department visits through enhanced primary care access

Primary Care Services

- **Family Health Teams and Clinics:** Orillia hosts several family health teams and clinics that provide comprehensive primary care services, including chronic disease management, mental health support, and health promotion activities.
- **Walk-in Clinics:** Accessible for non-emergency medical issues, these clinics help alleviate pressure on the hospital's emergency department.
- **Community Health Programs:** Various programs focus on health education, prevention, and support for vulnerable populations.

Summary

Orillia's healthcare model leverages a full-service hospital complemented by integrated primary care and community services through the Couchiching OHT. This approach aims to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and patient-centered care to meet the diverse needs of the community.



School Health

Niagara Region Public Health

Support for School-Age
Children in Niagara

October 29th, 2025

School Health Team

- Serving 179 schools across Niagara Region
- Partnering with 4 school boards and multiple private schools
- Reaching more than 71,000 students annually
- 13 School Health Nurses providing clinical services in secondary schools
- 2 Health Promoters supporting health promotion in elementary schools
- Collaboration occurs at both the board and school levels to align with student and system needs



179 Schools
71,000 students



Program Goal

To improve the health and health equity of school-aged youth through health promotion interventions, one-on-one support and the implementation of the healthy schools framework.

Service Delivery



One-on-One Support

Nurses work in Secondary Schools to provide one-on-one supports to students to improve health and health equity.



School Staff, Parents, and Families

Our team partners with staff, parents, and families to promote the health and well-being of students.



Comprehensive School Health

Nurses and Health Promoters support the implementation of the Comprehensive School Health framework.



Comprehensive School Health

A Healthy School promotes the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the whole school community.

A Healthy Schools approach looks beyond the classroom to the entire school setting. It involves students, staff, parents, volunteers and community partners.

Together, they share ideas, plan and take action to help kids lead healthy active lives.

The Ministry of Education recognizes and endorses the Healthy Schools framework in [Foundations for a Healthy School](#).



Secondary School **One-on-One Support**

13 School Health Nurses provide one-on-one support in Niagara's secondary schools.

Each nurse is available in each school one to two days per week to optimize student health and well-being.

These services help ensure that students have access to health supports, connections to community resources, and guidance to make informed decisions about their health.



Early Identification

Nurses help identify emerging concerns such as stress, anxiety, or substance use early, before they become more complex.



Skill-Based Support

Students receive brief, practical support focused on building coping skills, problem-solving, and healthy decision-making.



Bridge to Ongoing Support

When additional support is needed, nurses connect students with appropriate school or community services to ensure continuity of care.

One-on-One Support

Through one-on-one support, nurses help students build coping skills, address health barriers, and connect to appropriate resources when needed.

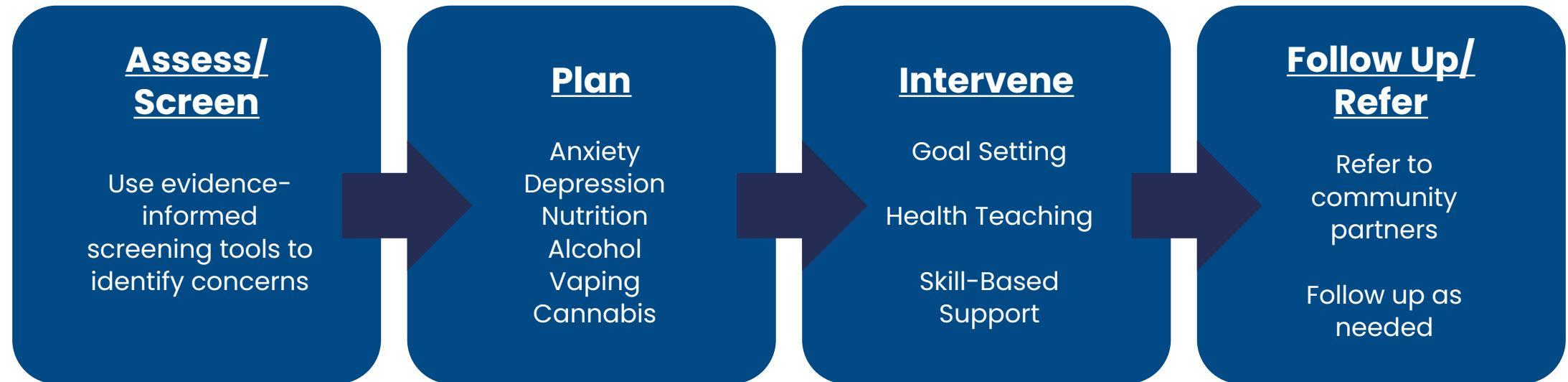
Common topics include:

- Anxiety, depression, and mental health
- Stress and coping skills
- Healthy Relationships
- Substance use
- Vaping
- Alcohol
- Vaccinations
- Healthcare navigation

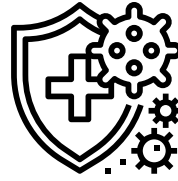
Care Pathways

Our School Health Nurses use standardized clinical pathways to guide assessment, screening, and support for students.

Nurses have the ability to screen for anxiety, depression, nutrition concerns, and substance use, including alcohol, vaping, and cannabis.



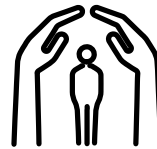
Other Supports



Vaccines

Partner with our Vaccine Preventable Disease Program to support the delivery of Grade 7 routine immunizations to all elementary schools.

Also support with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)



Tobacco Control/Vaping

Collaborate with our Tobacco Control Officers to conduct inspections and provide supports to 39 Secondary Schools with the goal of tobacco/vaping protection and cessation.



School Produce Markets

Collaborate with 12 Elementary Schools to help plan and implement school produce markets. Focus of Markets is to increase access to affordable produce, while educating students about food literacy, budgeting, health, and leadership.

Case Scenario

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Student is Caught Vaping



Nurse Collaborates with Tobacco Control Officer and School Admin



Nurse Offers Screening & Cessation Support



Connects Student to Ongoing Support



Nurse Follows up with Student

#HereForYouNiagara



Thank you

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Questions?



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Public Health Nurse
School Health Team
Niagara Region Public Health



Website

www.NiagaraRegion.ca/health/schools