



Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: February 25, 2025
Originated By: Lisa Follitt, Manager of Planning and Development
Title: Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative – Request for Funding Support

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

The Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC), operating under the Bonnyville Primary Care Network, is a long-standing initiative in the Bonnyville community that has provided essential mental health support youth aged 6 – 17 dealing with ADHD, anxiety, and depression.

The BCAMHC was receiving funding from Recovery Alberta, one of their key funding partners, has recently informed them that they will not be renewing their contract with BCAMHC. The annual contribution of \$67,700 will cease as of March 31, 2025. Recovery Alberta has indicated to BCAMHC that they acknowledge the program's success, Recovery Alberta has determined that it no longer aligns with their mandate – Recovery Alberta focusses on prevention and early intervention rather than addiction and recovery services.

DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS

The BCAMHC has been receiving annual funding from the M.D. in the amount of \$25,000 for a five year term (from 2020 to 2024).

This situation has far-reaching consequences:

- Primary care providers, many of whom lack specialized training in your mental health and medication management, will face an increased burden without adequate capacity to absorb these patients.
- Youth and families without primary care providers will be left with no option but to seek help through walk-in clinics or emergency departments, straining an already overburdened healthcare system.
- A well-utilized, effective community program that has provided critical early intervention for nearly a decade will be lost due to a funding gap of \$67,700, as set out in their letter of request dated February 3, 2025 and attached as Appendix A to this RFD.

To address this urgent issue, BCAMHC has applied for the Federal Grant: Mental Health Initiatives, which could provide \$500,000 over four years, allowing BCAMHC to expand their services.

Attached for Council Consideration:

- Appendix A – Letter from the BCAMHC
- Appendix B – Email Confirming Funding Request

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Building a Prosperous and Sustainable Community

REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

n/a

COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING

Half of the cost from the Town of Bonnyville - \$33,850

Half the cost from the M.D. of Bonnyville - \$33,850

Source of funding option:

Community Action Grant Reserve

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The applicant will be notified in writing of Council's decision.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION

THAT Council approves the funding request from the Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC) in the amount of \$ _____ to be funded from the Community Action Grant Reserve.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. THAT Council approves the funding request from the Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC) in the amount of \$ _____ to be funded from the Community Action Grant Reserve.
2. THAT Council denies the funding request from the Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC).
3. THAT Council refers the request from the Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC) for funding support back to Administration for additional information regarding _____ and to bring it back to a future meeting of Council.
4. THAT Council accepts the request from the Bonnyville Child & Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative (BCAMHC) for funding support as information.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Bonnyville Child and Adolescent Mental Health Collaborative.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A - Bonnyville CAMHC Funding Support Letter.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 10, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Lisa Folliott

Stephanie Severin