 Committee Report

# Report LTCR-CM-20-17

**To**: Chair Burley Members of the Long Term Care Committee of Management

**From**: Lynne Johnson, Director of Long Term Care

**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2017

**Subject: Behavioral Support Transition Unit**

**Status**: Recommendation adopted by Committee of Management as presented per Resolution CM11-17; Endorsed by Committee of the Whole September 28, 2017 per Resolution CW212-17; Endorsed by County Council October 12, 2017 per Resolution CC55-17;

## Recommendation

1. **That report LTCR-CM-20-17 regarding a Behavioural Support Transitional Unit at Lee Manor be received; and**
2. **That Staff be directed to proceed with the proposal submission, within the allocated funding envelope, to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the development of a 16 bed Behavioural Support Transitional Unit at Lee Manor; and**
3. **That Staff be directed to make application to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to place 14 beds in abeyance.**

## Background

In May 2016, Lee Manor was recommended by the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) as a site for the development of a Behavioural Support Transitional Unit (BSTU). Since that time, the LHIN board has approved the permenant designation of a 16 bed BSTU and committed to the provision of enhanced resources to support the population within the specialized unit.

The purpose of this specialized unit is to support the needs of residents with responsive behaviours, reduce Emergency Room transfers and to reduce hospital bed pressures. There are currently 6 funded BSTUs in the Province and in the South West LHIN, beds will be developed in London and Grey County.

Over the past year, staff have toured other long term care homes with a Behavioural Support Unit, participated in the provincial BSTU Collaborative and reviewed research and literature on best practices for dementia and responsive behaviour care.

Information has been shared with the staff and Union, Resident Council and Family Council and presentations have been made to the Behavioural Supports Ontario Cooperative, Grey Bruce Health Coalition and Long Term Care Committee to inform, gauge support and receive input into community needs.

A proposal has been developed for submission to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care seeking designation as a specialized unit. The team that provided input into the proposal included representatives from the:

* LHIN,
* Grey Bruce Health Services,
* St Joseph’s Health Care London,
* Home and Community Support Services and
* a Long Term Care representative

### Characteristics of the Transitional Unit Population

With poorly managed behaviours, the person may be a risk to themselves or others, co-residents are afraid and frustrated with the behaviours and the person often ends up in the hospital for an extended stay.

Clients who are identified for consideration for the BSTU may currently be residing in a long term care home, community, or hospital. Regardless of where they live, these individuals will be exhibiting or at risk of exhibiting heightened responsive behaviours that cannot be managed in their current environment. In some cases, the person may be in the hospital and need an opportunity to transition into an environment that is more similar to their preferred discharge environment. The BSTU beds are transitional in nature, allowing clients to receive stabilization and then be repatriated back to the originating community or long term care home.

Prior to admission to the BSTU, the client will already be connected to a range of professionals and supports that are actively trialing treatments and strategies to stabilize and improve behaviours.

### Transition

To establish a 16 bed resident home area, Lee Manor will be required to reduce their current long term care bed capacity by 14 beds. It is recommended that an application be submitted to place the beds in abeyance (BIA). The BIA could possibly be considered for use in redevelopment or returned to the ministry to support the movement of private long term care beds into the area. It is important to note that the South West LHIN, including Grey County, has more long term care beds than many other areas of the province and this can be challenging for private operators as they seek approval to transfer beds into the area to support redevelopment plans. The BIA application needs to be submitted to the LHIN for review and recommendation to the Ministry. The normal abeyance term is up to 5 years however this time frame can be lengthen or shortened as determined by the ministry.

Once Lee Manor receives specialized unit designation from the Ministry, the home will be closed for admissions allowing the beds to vacate through attrition. Any residents waiting for admission to another home will be a higher priority for placement and Home and Community Care (formally CCAC) will work with residents, families and the home to transition people. It is anticipated that this process could take 6 months. On the date that the designation is effective, funding for the BSTU will start and there will be an additional 3 months to transition any residents remaining in the 16 beds who are not candidates for the BSTU.

### Next Steps

The LHIN has set aside $900,422 for the BSTU at Lee Manor to enhance annualized base funding and support some 1 time costs. Staff are working to complete a budget that will account for the increase in budget and downsizing of beds. Final financial and staffing analysis is being completed as part of the application submission to the MOHLTC.

## Financial/Staffing/Legal/Information Technology Considerations

The purpose of a transitional unit is to provide support for individuals whose behaviours are unmanageable in their current setting. The BSTU team will work to discover the things that trigger behaviours and create new approaches that may help reduce responsive behaviours in a safe, comfortable environment.

There are not many Behavioural Support Transitional Units in the province. The LHIN recognized the need for one in Grey County which will support people who require this level of service to access care in an appropriate setting. By having access to the proper programs and services, hospital beds will be available for those who need them and people will have access to the care and services they require.

With the implementation of the specialized unit, there will be a reduction of 14 long term care beds. The reduction is offset by the ability to provide a service for people with responsive behaviours that is not currently being met. The budget is being developed to account for the loss in revenue related to the reduction of beds and include the funding enhancement to cover costs associated with the unit. We do not anticipate a funding shortfall with making this change.

Approval is requested to:

* submit the application for specialized unit designation within the LHIN funding envelope for the BSTU, and
* submit a request to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to place 14 beds in abeyance.

## Link to Strategic Goals/Priorities

Goal 3- Deliver Excellence in Governance and Service

The provision of a Behavioural Support Transitional Unit within Grey County will serve residents locally and support the Integrated Health Service Plan in reducing hospital transfers and hospital bed pressures.

## Attachments and Background Information

None

Respectfully submitted by,

Lynne Johnson
Director of Long Term Care

Director Sign Off: Lynne Johnson