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MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	87
COUNCIL MEETING	1978 12 11

RE: CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOME CARE PROGRAM

Following is a report from the Medical Health Officer regarding the Home Care Program.

The Municipal Treasurer has reviewed this matter and advises that he would anticipate no problems with respect to the changes that are proposed in this report.

The Home Care Program is totally funded by the Provincial Government. The funding includes reimbursement for administration. The amount is equivalent to 3% of the salaries and benefits for all employees who are assigned to the program. Claims are submitted and paid on a monthly basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Medical Health Officer be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

1978 DECEMBER 01

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

RE: CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOME CARE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the transfer of responsibility to the Burnaby Health Department for these functions, previously carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Health Home Care staff, be approved, in accordance with the recommendations made by Dr. Benson, Assistant Deputy Minister Public Health Programs, and endorsed by the Metropolitan Board of Health.
2. THAT the Treasury Department be authorized to proceed with the accounting and payment of accounts relative to the Home Care Program.

REPORT

When the Victorian Order of Nurses became the Home Care Nursing Service in the Health Department in 1976, the program was set up with a centralized function in the Metropolitan Board of Health. The Metropolitan Board employed a Nursing Coordinator and Nursing Consultant, a Rehabilitation Consultant, and four clerical people. The collating of budget, statistics and the establishment of uniform policy was carried out by the Metropolitan Board staff.

In March of this year it became apparent that some of these Metropolitan functions had become redundant. During ensuing months various possible courses of action were discussed. Having reviewed Metropolitan staff function it was recommended by Dr. Benson, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Health Programs in Victoria, that there should be a shifting of the Metropolitan responsibility back to the municipalities. This involves very little change in Burnaby.

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Specifically the recommendations are as follows:

1. The responsibility for the Home Care Program will be transferred to the Municipal Health Department and the administration will be under the direction of the Medical Health Officer.
2. Budgets will now be submitted directly to the Ministry of Health, Victoria instead of via the Metropolitan Board. (This is a 100% provincially funded program.)
3. The Municipality will act as an agent of the Ministry of Health in paying bills for homemakers, drugs, etc. for the Hospital Replacement and Home Care services and will be reimbursed by the Province. Formerly this was done by the Metropolitan Board.
4. Money will be made available to create a senior Physiotherapist/ Occupational Therapy position in Burnaby - there are three physiotherapists on the Home Care Staff who have previously received professional supervision and in-service from the senior Metropolitan Board physiotherapist. An additional half-time clerical position will be made available to the Municipality for the additional administrative functions which will now be carried out locally i.e. validating bills, collating statistics, etc.

These recommendations, if adopted, should present no problems to the Burnaby Health Department. The Program had evolved towards this in the last two years.

There has been considerable discussion over the past few months regarding the timing of this change. Clarification of personnel matters have resulted in delays. Some of the Metropolitan staff will be transferred to the City of Vancouver.

It is now proposed that the transfer date should be 1979 January 01 at the beginning of the new budget year.

I am requesting that (1) Council approve the transfer of those functions previously carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Health Home Care staff, to the Municipality, this remaining a 100% provincially funded program.

(2) Approval be given to proceed with making arrangements for cheque signing through the Municipality, the creation of a Senior Physiotherapy position and the addition of a half-time clerk to the Home Care Program as recommended by the Provincial Government.

Sally Henning

S.L. Henning, M.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.P.(C)
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SLH: kmf