

## **AMO Health Transformation Task Force**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Context:**

Municipal governments and District Social Service Administrative Boards (DSSABs) play important roles in the health care and public health systems: co-funding it, delivering services, and employing professionals of vital services such as public health, land ambulance, community paramedics and long-term care homes. Municipalities also help fund hospitals. In addition, municipal governments and DSSABs are stepping in to fill the gaps by funding health services to help clients served by municipal human services, primarily vulnerable populations including Indigenous residents, low-income Ontarians, and the under-housed.

Municipal services also play an important role helping people to access the health care system, population health and the social determinants of health. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted the health system in Ontario and has brought to light longstanding concerns about many health services, as well as sparked an increased priority for transformation by government in the health and public health systems.

AMO's Health Transformation Task Force builds on AMO's ongoing health advocacy and will continue to inform AMO's advice to the provincial government on future transformation of health services in Ontario. This may include transformation of the public health system, long-term care sector, community paramedicine, social determinants of health, and Ontario Health Teams, among other health system topics. Of primary concern is increasing municipal subsidy of health services using the property tax base when these should be more appropriately funded by provincial revenues.

#### **Purpose:**

The Health Transformation Task Force is established for the purpose of informing AMO's advocacy strategy and positions on health policy and transformation issues in Ontario.

#### **Mandate:**

The Health Transformation Task Force will work toward the goal of strengthening the health care and public health systems in Ontario. This will be achieved by informing a proactive advocacy approach to the provincial government about future directions for these systems. This will include examination of municipal health services such as public health, long-term care, emergency health services and community paramedicine as well as other relevant community health interests. Examples are access to health care, functioning of Ontario Health Teams and mental health and addictions services. The task force will articulate ways that health transformation initiatives can

contribute meaningfully to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous People. Further, the role of digital government will be considered as an enabler of health transformation.

The Task Force will play a role to advise both the Board and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Team (on a confidential basis) on matters relating to health matters.

The Task Force will provide a forum for municipal representatives to develop strategic policy advice. The Task Force will focus on integrated approaches to develop high level strategic positions that support municipal governments and provide instructive feedback and recommendations to the provincial government.

The Task Force, where appropriate and needed, will also serve as a forum for dialogue between municipalities and relevant provincial ministries on matters relevant to the mandate. The focus of these discussions is to provide the municipal perspective on (policy, funding, and program delivery decisions). This includes implications on residents and municipalities as a whole.

### **Membership:**

Membership will include municipal representation at the level of elected officials and senior staff decision makers who reflect different size, type, and geographic locations of Ontario's municipalities. Members may also be drawn from other organizations where there is a potential to align advocacy and communications work in a manner that is consistent with AMO's policy priorities. Designation will not be allowed. Other attendees will include guests from relevant stakeholder groups and sector partners.

The Chair may establish working groups as needed with different members to advise the task force on specific matters where technical subject matter expertise is required. These working groups will be chaired by the Vice Chair, or AMO staff in their absence.

### **Chairs of the Task Force:**

The Chair of the Task Force is Gary McNamara (Mayor, Tecumseh) and Aina Deviet (Councillor, Middlesex County, Mayor Middlesex Centre and AMO Executive Board member) is Vice-Chair. Both will assist in alignment with the AMO Board's strategic objectives and liaison. In the absence of the chairs, AMO staff will assume Chair duties. The agenda will be developed by AMO staff and approved by the Chair. Meetings will take place as required at the call of the Chair.

### **Duration:**

The Task Force will meet on an ongoing basis for one year, at which time the duration may be extended at the discretion of the Chair for another year.

### **Meeting Frequency:**

It is expected that the Task Force will meet a minimum of four times annually and more frequently as needed at the discretion of the Chair.

**Integration:**

In presenting its work to the AMO Board, the Task Force will consider how best to integrate and present its advice in a way that complements the work of other AMO Task Forces and AMO policy priorities.