



The County of Peterborough
Joint Services Steering Committee

To: Chair and Members of Committee
From: Troy Speck, CAO
Date: September 12, 2019

Subject: Off-load Delay Meeting Report
Recommendation: Receive for Information

Background

At its meeting of February 14, 2019, the Joint Services Steering Committee (JSSC) received a report from Peterborough County/City Paramedics regarding the 2018 Ministry of Health & Long Term Care Land Ambulance Service Review. Subsequently, the JSSC adopted the following resolutions:

- a) **That the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care Land Ambulance Service Review 2018 and Presentation be received for information; and,**
- b) **That staff convene a meeting with regional MPP's, City, County and Peterborough Regional Health Centre staff to discuss the ambulance service and off-load time challenges.**

In response to item b) of the resolution, a meeting occurred on May 17, 2019 with the following the following individuals:

M.P.P. David Smith (and staff)
Mayor Diane Therrien
Councillor Keith Riel
CAO Troy Speck
Brenda Weir (PRHC V.P.)
Chief Randy Mellow (PCCP)

M.P.P. David Piccini (and staff)
Warden J. M. Jones
CAO Sandra Clancy
Dr Peter McLaughlin (PRHC President)
Dr Nancy White (PRHC, Chief of Staff)

M.P.P. Laurie Scott was invited and unable to attend.

The meeting agenda included:

- 1 - Discussion off-load delays and impacts on Paramedic Service Delivery
- 2 - Comprehensive impacts of local healthcare system issues on the Paramedic Service

3 - Consideration of potential mitigation strategies such as community paramedicine in reducing calls for service.

4 - Addition to the agenda: Provincial Government announcement of Land Ambulance Funding freeze.

Analysis

Agenda items 1 – 3:

During the meeting, a detailed discussion occurred with both the Paramedic Service and PRHC providing analysis of the impact and theorised causal factors associated with the significant off-load delay situation experienced. These factors include items such as demographic information (aging community), hospital space and lack of available long-term care space.

The discussion also included description of numerous efforts by PRHC to improve patient flow and efforts by PCCP to attempt to mitigate call volume growth such as the “Is your Urgency an Emergency” program and its partnership with the Peterborough Family Health Team and 211 program.

Community Paramedicine Programs were discussed which, if funded, could alleviate pressures. While PCCP does not receive funding specific to Community Paramedicine, these programs are currently funded by the Province in some regions.

In response to off-load delay discussion, M.P.P.’s Smith and Piccini requested the following:

1 - PRHC provide greater detail regarding patient capacity and/or bed shortage issues.

2 - PCCP provide cost and benefits analysis on Community Paramedicine Program to be provided to the Minister for consideration.

Agenda item 4:

The May 2019 Provincial announcement of Land Ambulance funding freeze was tabled for discussion.

Detail was provided specific to recent municipal investments to expand Paramedic Services in response to rising call volume and offload delay. The discussion included details of strategies implemented by the Paramedic Service such as deployment adjustments and efficiency measures, which ultimately delayed need for enhancement. The delay of service enhancement now resulting in the ill-timed alignment of funding freeze.

CAOs expressed concern that potential funding freeze leaves enhancements unfunded by the Province.

In response, M.P.P. Smith and Piccini requested that the County & City provide detailed information regarding factors driving need for service enhancement along with a

description of efficiency measures put in place to-date. The requested materials were stated to be intended to present a case for re-consideration for funding.

Financial Impact

No additional costs are anticipated

Anticipated Impacts on Local and/or First Nations Communities

None

Link to County of Peterborough Strategic Plan Priorities

Improved Essential Infrastructure

Financial Sustainability and Fiscal Responsibility

In consultation with:

1. CAO Troy Speck, County of Peterborough
2. CAO Sandra Clancy, City of Peterborough

Communication Completed/required:

Consideration for funding to include cost of enhancements and possibility for Community Paramedicine Program

Attachments

Correspondence Letter and Report

Respectfully Submitted,
Original Signed by

Troy Speck
CAO, County of Peterborough

Sandra Clancy
CAO, City of Peterborough

And

Randy Mellow
Chief of Paramedics

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