



Staff Report

Peterborough Regional Liaison Committee

To: Chair and Members of Committee
From: Randy Mellow, Chief of Paramedics
Date: February 11, 2021

Subject: PAR 2021 002 Ontario Health Community Paramedic Funding Opportunity

Recommendation: Be it resolved that Peterborough Regional Liaison Committee receives Report PAR 2021-002 Ontario Health Community Paramedic Funding Opportunity, for information.

Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding current Community Paramedicine (CP) Programs in Peterborough County and City, the funding sources, partnerships and target population.

Background

Community Paramedicine programs are a proven cost-effective option for the delivery of healthcare in the Province of Ontario. They are innovative and agile, with the flexibility to adapt to changing pressures affecting access to care. This was evident by their success in reducing Emergency Department visits and reducing 911 calls. The exceptional value of CP programming has been showcased recently in the rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic, immediately filling the gaps in the health care system by conceptualizing, training, and testing potential COVID-19 patients within days of being requested.

CP paramedics have proven they are well positioned and proficient at integrating and collaborating in the healthcare system and responding to the changing needs within their communities.

Recognizing the valuable role of CP programs to the residents of the community, PCCP has continued to seek fully funded opportunities to support such programming. This objective has been further supported the County Strategic & Operational Plan priority “Housing: Investigate opportunities for community-based paramedicine programs”.

Staff Report

Analysis

PCCP has currently secured funding for three (3) separate and unique CP Programs. Each program is supported through differing funding sources and serves specific target populations through program specific partners. A brief summary of each program is provided below:

1) Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP):

In partnership with Peterborough Police, Forecast and Peterborough Aids Resource Network (PARN), a grant application was submitted and approved for federal funding secured for 31 month implementation of a Substance Use and Addiction Program (SUAP) which launched October 2020.

Reflecting the local Four Pillar Peterborough Drug Strategy framework (Harm Reduction, Treatment, Prevention and Enforcement) this team will operate under a collaborative leadership model of project partners who understand that the issues and harms associated with substance use are complex and pervasive across sectors and lives.

Through this federal funding PCCP has deployed a Substance Use and Addictions Program Paramedic (SUAPP) assigned to work within the collaborative SUAP team made up of Fourcast & the Peterborough Aids Resource Network (PARN) members. The goal is supporting persons who are identified by Paramedics, Police or identified community partners, where they have attended an overdose/poisoning. The SUAPP will be part of an integrated team that provides assertive community engagement, interventions, system navigation and advocacy for those referred to the program. The SUAPP will provide addiction treatment and system navigation expertise within the SUAP team model that is targeting a reduction in overdose deaths and enhancing connections to service pathways. The SUAPP, as a team partner, will be responsible for facilitating and coordinating access to community mental health and addiction services as well as other services that support a person's choices related to substance use, or other areas of identified support needs

2) High Intensity Support Program (HISP):

On November 5, 2020, as of result of Provincial investment in Home and Community Care, Ontario Health East announced that it had received \$2,804,700 in one-time funding to support Community Paramedic (CP) program expansion in 2020/21. The funds have been designated for distribution to each of the 15 Paramedic Services in Eastern Ontario ensuring each Paramedic Services has enough funding to support 1.0 Community Paramedic and weighting the remaining funding towards communities with higher intensity needs.

For Peterborough County/City the funding allocation is \$197,000 or 3.0 FTE.

Staff Report

This allocation is one-time funding with a current end date of March 31, 2021, however, Ontario Health East has indicated strong support for seeking future base funding for continued CP programming.

As a result of this funding opportunity, LHIN Home and Community Care will work closely with Paramedic Service partners to ensure that Care Coordinators identify clients within the target population that would benefit from CP services.

The target population for the program includes:

- High Intensity Supports at Home Program patients requiring supplemental CP services, beyond home and community care. High Intensity Supports at Home Program patients refers to Alternate Levels of Care (ALC) patients in acute care hospitals with long-term care home discharge destination discharged to home care.
- Seniors/others with similar needs in the community at high risk of hospital admission and becoming designated ALC, including individuals experiencing frequent hospital re-admissions, and those recently discharged who are at risk of hospital re-admission.

3) Peterborough OHT (OHTCP):

The Peterborough Ontario Health Team has committed to implement a new model of organizing and delivering health care that better connects patients and providers in their communities that will improve patient outcomes. The Integrated Coordinated Care (ICC) model of care is new to the Peterborough region, and mirrors the best practice model in existence at St. Joseph Health Centre and Southlake Regional Health Centre. Through the initialization of the ICC program model, patients, families and their care network will experience enhanced transitions across their health care journey continuum. One record, one story, one care plan will be foundational to the model supporting seamless transitions and comprehensive communication.

In year 1, through a network of health care providers the Peterborough Health Team ICC program will focus on caring for frail medically complex elderly patients who need multi-service home and community care, with/without COPD and/or CHF in the mid-to-late stage of their disease in two intake areas: 1) as they transition from hospital to home, and 2) as they are identified through the family health teams. Transition Navigators will be based both within PRHC and the Family Health teams providing patient and caregiver centered assessments, working with the ICC team in their care planning to establishment of a support plan for the patient in their homes.

With funding through the Peterborough Ontario Health Team, PCCP will provide CP Staff 56 hours per week to support in-home visits with patients and will assist in the facilitation

Staff Report

of communication and collaboration between hospital, primary care, paramedics, community support agencies and the service provider organization.

Current funding for the Peterborough OHT CP program is secured until March 31, 2021.

In addition to the programs described above, PCCP currently remains active in fully funded, but temporary, CP programming related to COVID-19 testing. Funded through the PRHC Assessment Center, the testing center located at the Northcrest Arena continues to operate 5 days per week with additional paramedic staffing available for in-home COVID-19 testing.

Financial Impact

Costs associated with the program are completely offset by revenue. Sustained base Provincial funding remains a key priority to ensure continued delivery of this important service to the residents of Peterborough City, County and First Nations Communities.

Anticipated Impacts on Local and/or First Nations Communities

This program will benefit residents of the County, City and First Nations Communities.

Link to County of Peterborough Strategic Plan Priorities

To provide high quality services to residents, businesses and Townships.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Responsibility |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry & Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Development |

In consultation with:

1. A/CAO, Sheridan Graham
2. Commander Emergency Management and Ops Support , Craig Jones

Communication Completed/required:

N/A

Attachments

N/A

Respectfully Submitted,
Original Signed by:
Randy Mellow
Chief of Paramedics

Staff Report



For more information, please contact
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