



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

- Ontario Works
- Child Care
- Social Housing
- Land Ambulance

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) / LAND AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for Friday, August 15, 2003

Civic Centre, Korah Boardroom, 12:00pm

Present: D. Edgar (chair) N. DelBianco
City Staff: L. McCoy
DSSMSSAB Staff: K. Streich-Poser A. Nanne (notes)
Regrets: D. Amaroso L. Turco A. McRae

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, David Edgar at 12:25 p.m.

Review of the Minutes from the Thursday, June 12, 2003 Emergency Medical Services Committee.

The committee accepted the minutes.

CARRIED

Reports from the Director of Performance Standards:

Kim Streich-Poser distributed a matrix chart of current EMS / Land Ambulance issues and their current status. The information was reviewed and discussed by the committee.

- The Ministry of Health has yet to deal with the Ambulance co-payments issue. This topic will be discussed at the September NOSDA meeting in Kenora.
- All of the Severance pay due has been paid out.
- The Ministry of Health has asked that the Base Hospital report be rewritten
- The Judson Ambulance Supply Center will be closing in 2004. Chief Lynn McCoy commented that this should not have a dramatic effect on our local EMS / Land Ambulance supplies as they are already currently using a variety of sources. It has become policy that staff received three (3) price quotes before any purchase is made. David Stokes sent a letter to the government requesting alternative supplier information and prices. Mr. Stokes also requested a regularly updated specs list. There are a number of varying issues for the pros and cons of the closure of Judson.

Cross Border Land Ambulance Billings

Andy McRae supplied committee members with a report focusing on the "worst case scenario" for Cross Border Billing. In this scenario potential costs are very high. The DSSMSSAB Executive Committee has directed Andy to put the appropriate funds aside as a buffer for fear that this scenario becomes a reality. It has been suggested that Cross Border Billings be eliminated but there has been no movement on this issue.

The Executive Committee inquired about the possibility of Cross Border Billing monies being used to fund our own "transfer vehicle". Chief McCoy commented that we have been lobbying to get rid of some of these services rather than taking on extras. We could contract this service out but it may be best to wait for the Ministry of Health and their response to this issue before suggesting this solution to them.

First Nation's Billings update

The committee members received a copy of a letter sent to the Ministry of Health in June 2003. DSSMSSAB has yet to receive a response from the Ministry. Kim Streich-Poser has tried to contact Denis Fournier regarding this matter, but has not received a response from him either.

AMEMSO Annual Conference

The Annual AMEMSO Conference will be held in Niagara Falls in October 2003. Chief Lynn McCoy submitted the names of six (6) EMS personnel for exemplary and long service. He has not heard anything about their acceptance yet. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of making medal presentations at a DSSAB Board Meeting. Fire Chief McCoy would rather see the medals presented at a fire services event or even at the Fire Hall. Kim Streich-Poser suggested that the medal recognition could be a "good news" story published through the City Communications Officer.

First Response Teams - Agreements

The Goulais River First Response Team agreement has been updated and signed.

SARS Update

There really no change in the SARS issue and it appears as if everything is now calming down. SARS currently has a relaxed status.

Correspondence

A copy of a letter sent to Marg Wilcox regarding TWOMO was distributed to all committee members. Neil DelBianco asked if this letter was forwarded to Mr. Clement or anyone else and he was told that it may be best to give Ms. Wilcox a chance to respond to this letter before taking it further. Ms. Wilcox's only response to date states that they are looking into it this issue. Kim Streich-Poser asked what the committee feels the next steps are. This matter needs to be brought forward and discussed at the NOSDA meeting in September.

Reports from the Fire Chief:

Staffing Update

EMS currently has three (3) college students and nine (9) part-time employees which help to offset EMS / Land Ambulance over-time costs. The part-time employees are primarily used for covering sickness calls and the current financials do not accurately reflect the cost saving of these measures.

Maternity and Parental leave are a staffing factor right now with least two (2) persons planning to take maternity time in the upcoming year.

Fire Chief Lynn McCoy has noticed a dramatic decrease in sick leave time since EMS has transferred over to Fire Services.

Emergency Response Vehicle – Status

A new Emergency Response Vehicle has been ordered and will be ready in the fall. There is a four (4) month turn around time for Ambulances.

Fleet Replacement Schedule

Fire Chief Lynn McCoy recommends and supports the Fleet Replacement schedule which will be presented at the August DSSMSSAB Board August meeting. Lynn McCoy asked that EMS Committee Chair David Edgar present the Fleet Replacement Schedule to the DSSMSSAB Board as he will be away on holidays at that time. The Fleet Replacement Schedule proposal needs to be accepted by the DSSMSSAB Board as they must approve all purchases over \$10,000. Mr. Edgar agreed to present the Schedule the Board.

2004 Budget – Expenditure Reduction Plan

The committee discussed the Expenditure Reduction Plan for 2004. EMS / Land Ambulance currently ensures that all capital expenditures are properly processed.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting (November 2003)

The next EMS / Land Ambulance Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at Noon.

Adjournment

David Edgar adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.