



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES for Monday, January 10th, 2005

THOMPSON Boardroom, 3rd Level, Civic Centre at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: S. Butland J. Curran
CITY STAFF: L. McCoy A. McRae
DSSMSSAB STAFF: K. Streich-Poser A. Nanne (notes)
REGRETS: D. Edgar

S. Butland called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Review of the Minutes from the October 20, 2004 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) / Land Ambulance Committee meeting.

The committee reviewed and accepted the previous minutes.

First Response Team Grant Requests

K. Streich-Poser discussed the First Response Team Grant Requests brought forward for 2005. L. McCoy, D. Stokes and K. Streich-Poser held a meeting to review the requests and presented the EMS committee with a chart listing various grant request items and suggested appropriate grant levels. K. Streich-Poser would like to have the committee endorse the chart and have future requests approved based on this guideline.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the EMS Management Team (Fire Chief, EMS Manager) and the Director of Performance Standards use these guidelines as approved by the EMS Committee to review and approve the requests made by the First Response Teams. The EMS Committee will be kept apprised of the approvals at regularly scheduled meetings.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:

In order to expedite the approval process, the following guidelines have been developed for review and approval of the committee.

ITEM	APPROVAL LEVEL
1. Fuel for First Response Vehicle	100%
2. Certification and Safety testing of vehicle	50%
3. Insurance Costs for First Response Vehicle	50%
4. Regular Maintenance and Repairs of Vehicle	50%
5. Defibrillation Training and Certification for Team Members	100%
6. Equipment associated with Defibrillation	100%
7. Dispatch Costs	Not to be covered
8. Clothing	Not to be covered
9. Extra Medical Equipment not listed for First Response Program or for approved Defib. Program	Not to be covered
10. Enhanced Communication Equipment outside of what is provided by CACC/SSM Fire	Not to be covered

D. Edgar was apprised of the chart last week as it directly affects many of his constituents. J. Curran asked what would happen if an item, that is not included in this list, be brought forward. K. Streich-Poser and L. McCoy both agreed that the EMS Committee would be consulted should this occur. Both S. Butand and J. Curran agreed and approved the process.

ADDAS Conversion

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care controls the ADDAS data. The ARIS Dispatch Data Access System (ADDAS) is the provincial database that is used for producing the Cross Border billing statistics. At this time the EMS agents are not allowed to access this information. There have been a number of problems installing the ADDAS into the Sault Ste. Marie offices and the Ministry of Health is aware of the problems. They continue to work to rectify the problem. As a result our response time information will be unavailable until this ADDAS system works and the CACC (Central Ambulance Communication Centre) can no longer provide the data. We remain confident and comfortable with our current response times but are unable to access the information to support this claim.

Fed-Med Equipment Funds

K. Streich-Poser directed committee members to the letter received from Malcolm Bates regarding funds available for diagnostic equipment. Since we have already purchased

some of the equipment covered by the grant, we will now apply for 50% funding. Purchases from 2004 and 2005 are both eligible for the grant funding.

Cross Border Billing

K. Streich-Poser provided a summary of recommendations as well as copies of a draft report supplied to other DSSAB's regarding the cross border billing issue. The report suggests that a standardized cost be applied for all Cross Border calls and that the Ministry of Health provide adequate funding for this.

After last December DSSMSSAB board meeting, K. Streich-Poser discussed this issue with the Sudbury-Manitoulin DSSAB. They were confused by the probability of the Sault Ste. Marie EMS vehicles being dispatched to their jurisdiction for a call just as we were. There does not appear to be any logic behind such an occurrence.

Aweres First Response Team Termination

As of December 26th, 2004 the agreement between the DSSMSSAB and the Aweres First Response Team was terminated. Aweres asked if that they could keep some of the First Response items in their inventory. K. Streich-Poser stated that since we no longer have a legal or contractual agreement with Aweres, these items could be used as first aid items rather than strictly First Response material. She would like to recommend that we look at donating, or selling, the assets to the Aweres Local Services Board. This will negate any legal attachment. L. McCoy would rather see the assets used in a good cause rather than put in storage and not used at all.

First Nations Billing (Update)

The DSSMSSAB carries out Emergency Medical Services to both Batchawana and Garden River reserves however, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term funding for these areas is given to the Algoma DSSAB. The Ministry of Health has voiced a desire to change this system but was hoping to use ADDAS and other systems as a basis for sorting this matter out. Since these systems are not yet working properly, changes have been delayed.

J. Curran asked what the approximate dollar figure for First Nations Billings is and wanted to know if it involved big dollars. K. Streich-Poser responded that there are a variety of ways to look at it. For example there is a cost per call basis or as a block of calls. We cannot control the calls or refuse a call regardless of what funding (if any) is being provided.

Other Business

L. McCoy informed committee members that EMS will continue with their training program and that a Critical Thinking training seminar will take place in 2005. It will enhance the skill set of the paramedics employed with the Sault Ste. Marie EMS.

L. McCoy also reported that the two EMS vehicles purchased last year, have very large fuel tanks and that there have been problems with the performance of these vehicles. Ford has been contacted about this problem and offered a remedy. L. McCoy stated that if this doesn't help to fix the problem then he would be seeking restitution from Ford.

Next Meeting

The next EMS Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, April 7th 2005 at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.