



# District of Sault Ste. Marie

## Social Services Administration Board

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

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES for Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Korah Boardroom, 3rd Level, Civic Centre at 12:00 p.m.

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

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The EMS / Land Ambulance Committee meeting was called to order by D. Edgar at 12:20 p.m.

#### OVERVIEW

K. Streich-Poser provided new EMS / Land Ambulance committee members, S. Butland and J. Curran, with background information regarding the committee. She reviewed the contents of the orientation binder and gave an introduction to Emergency First Response Teams and their role in the EMS structure. Fire Chief, L. McCoy informed committee members that although there is no legislative structure for the First Response Teams they are a necessity for the DSSMSSAB.

S. Butland inquired about our liability for the First Response Teams, to which K. Streich-Poser responded that we have insurance for this purpose. D. Edgar also pointed out that the First Response Teams are an extension of the Volunteer Fire Departments.

L. McCoy indicated that we are now "cutting the strings" and that we will no longer own the vehicles used by First Response Teams. J. Curran asked if money has changed hands between the DSSMSSAB and First Response Teams. He was informed that just supplies and equipment are provided at this time.

K. Streich-Poser presented her status report for committee members. This report gives an insight into current EMS issues and the actions that are taking place in respect to each matter.

The committee agreed that D. Edgar would remain chair of the EMS committee.

## **Review of the Minutes from the November 19, 2003 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) / Land Ambulance Committee meeting.**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted by the EMS / Land Ambulance Committee.

### **Report from the Director of Performance Standards:**

**First Nations Billings update** - K. Streich-Poser reviewed the First Nations Billing issue for new committee members. She informed them that the problem arose as a result of our close proximity to Garden River and the fact that our ambulances are regularly dispatched for calls in that area. The DSSMSSAB has not received funding for these calls, as the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care originally allocated funding for Garden River and Batchawana First Nations to the Algoma DSSAB. A business case was presented to the MOHLTC regarding the funding for this service. Since that time, Jack Cruikshank from the MOHLTC, agreed that we should receive funding for both Batchawana and Garden River. There is currently movement on this issue and the MOHLTC plans to meet with Algoma DSSAB to discuss the funding provided for First Nations service.

**First Response Vehicles** - K. Streich-Poser discussed the new Emergency First Response Team Vehicle Policy. A hard copy of the power point presentation prepared for the First Response Team information session scheduled later in the week was included in the committee orientation binder. Fire Chief Lynn McCoy informed new committee members about the Searchmont First Response Vehicle and the maintenance costs required for keeping it on the road. That situation led to the implementation of First Response Vehicle Policy. The committee reviewed the power point presentation copies.

A. McRae suggested that the Vehicle Policy be revised so that if no one bids on an available First Response Vehicle the DSSMSSAB have the ability to simply "store" the vehicle until a need arises rather than commit to selling it. Chief McCoy responded that this would only apply if we had room to store the vehicle. The DSSMSSAB is not out to make a profit on the bidding process but rather fill the needs of the First Response Teams for proper vehicles.

The First Response Team grant will be introduced to cover new costs incurred by owning their own vehicles, such as insurance or maintenance.

**Judson Closure** - K. Streich-Poser described the Judson Street Ambulance Supply Centre and the possible effects of the closure of this service. There was a January 23<sup>rd</sup> telephone conference held in an effort to lobby the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to keep the Judson Centre. The MOHLTC commented at that time that the Judson Street Store may not need to close but if it were to remain open it cannot operate as is. The MOHLTC suggested that Judson could remain operational but on a different scale. No other details or information has been released to date.

Judson was originally scheduled to close at the end of March 2004. L. McCoy feels that Judson is a "non" issue and that we will still be able to make purchases through other suppliers. DSSMSSAB, due to our relationship with the City of Sault Ste. Marie will be more adept at adjusting to the closure, where smaller centres may have a greater concern.

**Base Hospital Regionalization - Implications** - K. Streich-Poser gave background for the current Base Hospital issue. The Base Hospital reviews all paramedic calls and training. Dr. Hoogovens currently handles these duties through the Sault Area Hospitals.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced last fall that they are planning to regionalize the Base Hospitals but no other details or information has been provided at this time. S. Butland asked if moving Base Hospital service would be a detriment for the Sault to which K. Streich-Poser responded that it depends on the model that they set up for the new service. Until the DSSMSSAB receives more information we cannot be sure what the implications will be. L. McCoy feels that the changes have been proposed to save the tax payer money since the doctors are very expensive and each area has a different arrangement with their hospitals. The new system should equalize service and minimize costs. Committee members agreed that the DSSMSSAB cannot react yet because we don't know what the Ministry of Health is going to do.

**TWOMO Update** - K. Streich-Poser clarified what TWOMO (Territories Without Municipal Organization) is and the services provided to them through the DSSMSSAB. The Provincial Government must cover the municipal portion of the TWOMO area costs since there is no municipal structure to collect taxes in these regions. The MOHLTC has not reimbursed the DSSMSSAB for the costs yet. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has agreed to retroactive payment for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 but we have not yet received the funds totaling approximately \$241,000.

Other DSSABs have as much as 40% of their budget tied up in TWOMO accounts.

## **Reports from the Fire Chief:**

**Monthly Status Report - January 2004** - Fire Chief, L. McCoy reviewed his monthly status report with committee members. He explained that the report is composed according to the DSSMSSAB template. If the board ever wants the reporting structure changed L. McCoy has all of the information on file to provide more detail. Most of the terms used in the reporting are inherited from the MOHLTC.

**Staffing Update** - L. McCoy commented that EMS is always challenged for qualified staff and that paramedics are in short supply and big demand. He currently has two (2) full time paramedics on maternity and is diligently trying to reduce the number of sick days for EMS staff.

**MTO Site Development** - The MTO site was approved by City Council this week and the plans are moving ahead.

**Other** - Local EMS / Land Ambulance is moving ahead in preparation of the closure of the Judson Street Supply Centre. They are opening tenders today for the purchase of a new vehicle.

L. McCoy is preparing a report for City Council regarding EMS budget costs. Since the EMS is currently under contract with the DSSMSSAB it cannot cut costs without the approval of the DSSMSSAB.

### **Other Business**

L McCoy advised the Committee that he met with Searchmont Ski Hill management regarding the purchase of a defibrillator. He met with positive response to this matter.

There was discussion about Cross Border Billing. DSSMSSAB. Currently Algoma And DSSMSSAB have not billed each other for calls done in the other's jurisdiction. Financially, it could present a problem should billing occur. This is due to the fact that Algoma's cost per call is approximately \$800 more than ours. If Algoma needs to handle one of our calls they can bill us at their rate rather than ours - leading to higher costs that are beyond our control.

### **Next Meeting (May 2004)**

The next EMS / Land Ambulance Committee meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.