



District of Sault Ste. Marie

Social Services Administration Board

5.2

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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE Draft Minutes for Wednesday, November 19, 2003 Civic Centre, Thompson Boardroom, Noon

PRESENT: N. DelBianco D. Edgar
CITY STAFF: L. McCoy A. McRae
DSSMSSAB Staff: K. Streich-Poser A. Nanne (notes)
REGRETS: D. Amaroso L. Turco

- **Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair David Edgar at 12:30 p.m.

- **Minutes from Last Meetings:**

The Minutes from the Thursday, August 15, 2003 and Friday, September 15, 2003 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) / Land Ambulance Committee meetings were accepted by the committee.

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

Kim Streich-Poser supplied a summary of all the current EMS / Land Ambulance issues for committee members. The chart was used as an information tool for the committee members. It summarized the status of current EMS matters.

1. First Nations Billings update

The DSSMSSAB submitted their First Nations Billing Business Case to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Kim received an email confirming the receipt of the business case and thanking her for the submission. The message also stated that the Ministry is looking at this issue. There has been no other response to date.

2. First Response Vehicles Policy

Lynn McCoy, David Edgar, Kim Streich-Poser and Andy McRae met to develop a First Response Vehicle strategy. Kim prepared and distributed a draft of the policy to other committee members. After being reviewed by the EMS committee, it was decided to bring the new policy and recommendations forward to the December Board meeting.

Dave Edgar discussed the yearly grant and the specific funding amounts. Fire Chief Lynn McCoy commented that the proposed policy report should suggest that the grant amount will be similar to the current expenses required to maintain the First Response Vehicles.

Kim spoke to David Stokes regarding the insurance and maintenance costs for the First Response Vehicles. Algoma Insurance quoted us approximately \$900 per year for insurance and maintenance expenses can typically range from \$500 to \$1600. David Edgar was concerned that the individual insurance and maintenance expenses could be more costly than if they were covered as a fleet.

It was agreed that DSSMSSAB does not want to create a situation with this policy here any of the First Response Team would be at risk of collapsing. Chief McCoy would like to see equality for all groups. The First Response Teams are a necessary part of the EMS System. The DSSMSSAB needs them to succeed and to continue to provide services.

The grant could ultimately reward good behaviors such as fund raising but will also offer the needed financial support. The First Response Vehicle Grant is available for the Teams with necessary accountability mechanisms in place. Lynn suggested that the original proposal be amended to include the necessary "accountability" such as a budget and quarterly reports. He also suggested that the approximate grant amount of up to \$3000 per team be included in the proposal for "discussion" purposes.

3. Judson Closure

The DSSMSSAB office has received a number of resolutions from other DSSAB's lobbying the government in opposition to the Judson closure. Kim wanted the Committee to be aware of the onslaught of correspondence regarding this issue. Lynn McCoy commented that there are very few alternative ambulance suppliers but he still doesn't feel that the Judson closure will affect us greatly. He said that the smaller centres might feel it more than we will.

Kim inquired about the regulation of the imposed standards for all vehicles. Currently Judson manages and supervises these issues. Lynn stated that each DSSAB might have to handle regulation independently. Lynn would rather see Judson remain open and continue to regulate everything but he is also confident that we will adjust to the closure if necessary.

Chief McCoy met with a Judson employee recently and he was given the impression that the Judson closure may not be inevitable due to the change in the Provincial Government. Kim observed that the DSSAB's might be taking advantage of the change in Government to voice their concerns. David Edgar agreed and stated that this may be a good time to voice our opinion as well.

Kim asked Lynn McCoy if the new costs incurred as a result of searching supply prices and additional administration would be downloaded to the DSSAB's as an extra expense. Lynn did not foresee this happening.

4. Base Hospital Regionalization – Implications

Kim received an email from Richard Armstrong, President of AMEMSO, last week and forwarded the message to Lynn. Mr. Armstrong has informed us that the Ministry of Health is planning to regionalize the Base Hospital program. The regional centre for Northern Ontario will most likely operate out of Sudbury. Not many details are known at this time but we will try to get more information as soon as possible.

Kim has already contacted the Sault Ste. Marie Base Hospital. Lynn and Kim will also try to contact Dr. Hoogovens to discuss this matter. Lynn would like to see local representation with the Base Hospital and feels that this could be a positive change. We will need to wait to see what happens.

5. TWOMO Update

Kim attended a meeting in Sudbury on October 6, 2003. DSSAB representatives from across the North met with Marjorie Wilcox from the MOHLTC to discuss the new TWOMO funding template. Andy supplied a handout for committee members regarding this issue and the impact of the new model for DSSMSSAB. The report compared the new method of funding with the old. Andy voiced his concerns with the TWOMO issue and the newly implemented funding method.

Andy mentioned his apprehension with the new template as cross-border costs are not included and there is no room for adjustments. Andy reviewed his comparison with committee members. He commented that there might have been some confusion over the material required for these reports, as he did not attend the meeting in Sudbury. Andy feels that he still requires more direction and information. Lynn McCoy would like to suggest that Andy be approved to attend meetings involving finances. The EMS / Land Ambulance Committee agreed.

The information necessary for the MOHLTC reporting is often "buried" in with other financial information and may not be properly represented in the expenses or revenues. The DSSAB may need to reconsider how our financial statements are compiled as a result of these requirements. The proper figures should be separated in the financial statements but the Provincial Government is looking to just use "easy access" information from our statements. Andy will change the record keeping to more accurately reflect the accounts from now on.

Andy needs to know how the surplus and deficits will work. He and Kim will contact the Ministry of Health to ask some questions. Andy has concerns regarding the implications of a possible surplus or deficit on the submitted reports. Kim suggested a conference call with Marjorie Wilcox that would include Andy, Lynn and herself. Andy suggested that it might be best to just mail the report in and see what the reaction is before contacting the Ministry.

Mr. McRae will start keeping better records for TWOMO in the new way that the Ministry of Health has requested. This will help to make reporting easier from here on in.

During a review of the Financial Issues, Andy identified that the Reserves for Vehicle Replacement has not been set up due to advise he received from City of SSM Financial Unit. Lynn McCoy expressed concerns for the fact that the reserves to cover the costs of new ambulances may not be accumulating and could result in the MOHLTC recouping these funds. Andy was unsure whether or not he could go back and change the financials to show the ambulance expenditures. He will look into the matter and report back.

- **Reports from the Fire Chief:**

Chief McCoy reviewed his written report included in the meeting package.

1. Staffing Update

Chief McCoy commented that in prior minutes it mentioned that sick time has decreased. Since that time employees have become eligible for sick days and personnel now appear to be using the time given. Lynn has tried to use part-time employees to fill the gaps in order to help control costs. Part-time employees are called in at "straight time" rather than asking regular employees to come in and pay over-time hours.

There is one paramedic on a modified work program and another soon to be away on maternity-leave. Two part-time workers will be used to fill the paramedic roster at that time. Employees on leave will continue to accrue vacation and benefits. The EMS Division will be losing another full time employee soon. There are three people in the Sault College program right now that may be added to part time staff when they are ready.

2. Other

EMS Division continues to work on the tenders for the purchase of new vehicles even though it has temporarily been put hold due to the Judson changes. Kim mentioned that the suppliers would honor Judson tenders and quotes as well.

The new EMS First Response vehicle is in place now. The vehicle is for emergency on call use by the EMS Division Managers. The Managers will eventually take it home when they are on call.

The EMS Division is involved in a community service activity of providing a Medications listing tool for seniors. Paramedics are promoting the tool on their own time as a public service. There have been 324 contacts made to assist seniors with the home medical forms. The local cable show "Plugged In" is currently carrying a story about this

service. Lynn McCoy would like to do a monthly story about Fire or EMS services using this medium.

Chief McCoy is currently putting together the 2004 budget. Salary increases will be implemented at this time and Lynn is trying to put together the budget to be more reflective of any exact costs. This revised budget will also help him to get a better handle on what the actual costs are.

- **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

- **Next Meeting**

The next EMS / Land Ambulance committee meeting will be held on February 18, 2003

- **Adjournment**

David Edgar adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Neil DelBianco needed to leave meeting at 1:30 p.m.