



Social Services | Services Sociaux
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin
Sault Ste. Marie District

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board

Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 4:30 PM
548 Albert Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #24-039

Moved By: S. Spina

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 3.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Agenda for April 18, 2024** District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting be approved as presented.”

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution #24-040

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: L. Vezeau-Allen

- 5.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Minutes** from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **March 21, 2024** be adopted as recorded.

6. MANAGERS REPORTS

EARLY YEARS

Resolution #24-041

Moved By: S. Spina

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.1 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Early Years division to flow up to the revised allocation amount of \$196,379.56 in Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding to eligible child care operators as per the Emerging Issues applications and in alignment with the 2024 CWELCC Guidelines.”

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Resolution #24-042

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 6.2 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept the offload delay report as information.”

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #24-043

Moved By: E. Palumbo

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 9.1 **"BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we do now adjourn."



Social Services | Services Sociaux
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin
Sault Ste. Marie District

**District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board**

Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

DSSMSSAB REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM
540 Albert Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Present: **Stephanie Hopkin** **Marchy Bruni** via
Angela Caputo **Zoom**
via Zoom **Ron Zagordo**
Lisa Vezeau- Allen **Enzo Palumbo**
 Sonny Spina

Mike Nadeau
David Petersson
Miranda Scott
Joanne Pearson
Antonio Borrelli
Pam Patteri
Joanne Pearson
Tanya Ritter
Denis Rooney

3. CALL TO ORDER at 4:31

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe

and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #24-024

Moved By: S. Spina

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 3.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Agenda for March 21, 2024** District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution #24-025

Moved By: M. Bruni

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 5.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the **Minutes** from the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board meeting dated **February 15, 2024** be adopted as !! recorded.

Carried

7. MANAGERS REPORTS

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Resolution #24-026

Moved By: E. Palumbo

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.1 “**BE IT RESOLVED** the district of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) allocate remaining 2023/24 Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding of \$371,000 in one time investments as follows:

1. \$250,000 towards staffing the Housing and Homelessness System,
2. \$121,000 City of SSM for the Downtown Ambassador Program”

Carried

Resolution #24-027

Moved By: E. Palumbo
Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.2 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 as outlined in the report”

Carried

Resolution #24-028

Moved By: E. Palumbo
Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.3 **“WHEREAS** Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada. This program provides funding to urban, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs;

AND WHEREAS Reaching Home supports the goals of the National Housing Strategy, by supporting the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable, and affordable housing and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027 to 2028;

AND WHEREAS Homelessness has an impact on every community in Canada. It affects individuals, families, women fleeing violence, youth, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. In 2016, an estimated 129,000 people experienced homelessness at an emergency shelter in Canada.

AND WHEREAS only five of the 11 NOSDA members are funded to deliver the Reaching Home Program and they have been informed that their reaching home funding will be cut 57% in fiscal 2026-27;

AND WHEREAS this 57% reduction will mean that, the 5 NOSDA members who deliver Reaching Home will lose \$2.6 million annually by fiscal 2026-27.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) support NOSDA’s call on the government of Canada to meet its obligations as announced in 2016, and reaffirmed in 2022, by immediately reversing the decision to reduce the Reaching Home Funding by 57%;

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT DSSMSSAB support NOSDA’s call on the Federal Government to increase the annualized funding allocated for Reaching Home and provide Reaching Home Funding for all eleven NOSDA members;

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT DSSMSSAB support NOSDA’s call on the Federal Government to maintain its commitment to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027-28 and fund each northern Service Manager equal to their provincial Homelessness Prevention Program allocation; and

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT the DSSMSSAB support NOSDA’s call on the Federal Government to work in partnership with the Province of Ontario to meet the provinces’ goal of creating 1.5 million new homes by 2030.”

Carried

EARLY YEARS

Resolution #24-029

Moved By: S. Spina

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.4 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Early Years Emergency Issues report as information.”

Carried

Resolution #24-030

Moved By: A. Caputo

Seconded By: E. Palumbo

- 6.5 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board reallocate \$218,500 reallocate administrative funding from the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and \$125,000 from 137 East Street to offset the Early Years funding reduction implemented by the Ministry of Education”.

Carried

COMMUNITY AND CLIENT SUPPORT

Resolution #24-031

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.6 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the 2024 Ontario Works Service Plan Addendum.”

Carried

PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Resolution #24-032

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 6.7 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept the offload delay report as information.”

Carried

Resolution #24-033

Moved By: A. Caputo

Seconded By: E. Palumbo

- 6.8 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept funding from the Ministry of LTC to deliver community paramedic services t in 2024/25 and 2025/26”

Carried

Resolution #24-034

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: E. Palumbo

- 6.9 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) enter into a data sharing agreement with the Ministry of Health for connectivity to the Ontario Laboratories Information System.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the DSSMSSAB also enter into a data sharing agreement with Ontario Health’s Home and Community Care Support Service (HCCSS) to gain access to the Health Partner Gateway”.

Carried

Resolution #24-035

Moved By: E. Palumbo

Seconded By: L. Vezeau-Allen

- 6.10 “**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now enter into closed session for labour relations purposes.”

Enter Closed Session at 5:18pm

Carried

Resolution #24-036

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: A. Caputo

- 6.11 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board now enter into open session.”
Return to Open Session at 6:09pm

Carried

7. CORRESPONDENCE

8. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #24-037

Moved By: L. Vezeau-Allen

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 8.1 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board (DSSMSSAB) appoint Enzo Palumbo to the Finance Committee effective immediately”

Carried

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #24-038

Moved By: E. Palumbo

Seconded By: S. Spina

- 9.1 **“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we do now adjourn.”

Carried

Adjourned at 6:10pm



Social Services | Services Sociaux
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin
Sault Ste. Marie District

District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board

Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

DSSMSSAB BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Tanya Ritter

DATE: April 18, 2024

RE: CWELCC Emerging Issues

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board approve the Early Years division to flow up to \$196,379.56 in Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding to eligible child care operators as per the Emerging Issues applications and in alignment with the 2024 CWELCC Guidelines.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March 2024, the Board was updated on the CWELCC emerging issues applications received from child care operators. The Board heard that the amount of emerging issues funding received from the Ministry is insufficient to cover the estimated need of \$1,376,415. The Early Years Division recommended a mix of Federal and Provincial funding to child care operators to provide stability and support their continued participation in the CWELCC System. The Early Years Division advised the Board that the team would be revising the emerging issues report to the Ministry to advise them of the \$663,058.84 required to address local needs.

On March 28, 2024, the Ministry of Education provided System Managers with a Memo titled *Updates to Ontario's Child Care Workforce Strategy and the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System*. Attached to this memo were the updated 2024 CWELCC Guidelines and the 2024 Incremental CWELCC Allocations. The DSSMSSAB is receiving an increase in Emerging Issues funding in the amount of \$132,893 which increases the total allocation amount to \$528,819.

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The Board was made aware of the emerging issues funding shortfall at the February and March 2024 Board Meetings. With this memo, the Ministry announced an increase in emerging issues allocations. This increase in funding provides a slight reduction in the remaining pressures that were previously communicated to the Board.

The Early Years team will continue to monitor the supporting documentation received from child care operators as emerging issues funding will only be approved and allocated based on complete applications that include supporting documentation showing that identified pressures are in fact non-discretionary.

Total Identified Pressure	\$1,376,414.84
CWELCC Emerging Issues Funding (Federal)	-\$395,926
Additional CWELCC Emerging Issues Funding (Federal)	-\$132,893
Special Purpose Funding (Provincial)	-\$317,430
Subtotal	846,249
Remaining Pressures	\$530,165.84

With Board approval to begin allocating funds to child care operators, the Early Years team will begin by allocating funds based on priority for critical non-discretionary cost pressures. Priority items include rent increases, wage increases as per collective agreements or wage grids approved prior to the implementation of CWELCC, and immediate repairs and maintenance that are eligible according to the guidelines. The first allocation of funding to 5 different child care operators will be a total of \$196,379.56 based on submissions and supporting documentation from operators.

CCA Rent Increase	\$	70,680.00
DSSMSSAB Wage Increases	\$	68,558.00
Waterfront Rent Increase & Immediate Repairs	\$	49,337.28
YMCA Tarentorus Rent Increase	\$	4,826.28
HS McLellan Rent Increase	\$	2,978.00
TOTAL	\$	196,379.56

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The CWELCC program aligns with the pillar of Service Delivery and Community Partnerships.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding to implement CWELCC is provided at 100 percent from the Ministry of Education with no cost share to the DSSMSSAB. As stated in this report under Emerging Issues, (and approved through Resolution #23-082) \$317,430 in provincial funding will be issued to support the Emerging Issues pressure.

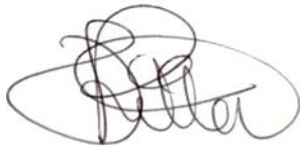
The Ministry Guidelines state that the DSSMSSAB has flexibility within the CWELCC allocation to support fee reductions, workforce compensation, cost escalation and emerging issues where needed. As operators increase enrollment, it will impact the amount of flexibility within the current CWELCC allocation and additional CWELCC funding may be required from the Ministry. The Early Years Division continues to review child care operators 2024 operating budgets to identify critical needs that will be

prioritized and allocate funding where funding flexibility permits to cover any eligible remaining pressures. Later in 2024, the Ministry may request updated or more detailed information to support further understanding of non-discretionary cost pressures in the sector and resulting taking-up of emerging issues funds. It is at this time that the DSSMSSAB can send the revised expenditure forecast to the Ministry for review.

CONCLUSION

The emerging issues funding and the ability to utilize the flexibility within the 2024 CWELCC allocation is essential to stabilize child care operators and ensure they can continue to provide inclusive and high quality child care for children and families in Sault Ste. Marie and encourage future space creation to expand our local child care system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Ritter', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Tanya Ritter
Integrated Program Manager



Social Services | Services Sociaux
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin
Sault Ste. Marie District

**District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services
Administration Board**

Conseil d'Administration des Services du District Sault Ste. Marie
Zhawenimi-Anokiitaagewin

DSSMSSAB BOARD REPORT

AUTHOR: Kate Kirkham

DATE: April 18, 2024

RE: Monthly Offload Delay Report – March Update

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board accept the offload delay report as information.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The availability of ambulance services is critically important to meeting the emergency needs of a community. A significant contributor to ambulance availability comes from offload delays. An offload delay refers to any time spent waiting to transfer patient care from paramedics to Emergency Department (ED) hospital staff. Offload delays are calculated as the difference in time from when the ambulance arrives in the ED until Transfer of Care (TOC) is documented and acknowledged, less the standard thirty (30) minutes it takes ambulances to return to service.

Ambulance offload delays (AOD) are a well-recognized issue throughout Ontario. A combination of ED crowding and high call demand for ambulances are key contributors to the AOD challenges in the District of Sault Ste. Marie. Sault Area Hospital (SAH) staffing pressures have further worsened this issue. These complications have left us with resource inefficiencies, affecting our emergency response times and our ability to provide community safety.

Several mitigating strategies are in place to manage ambulance offload delays, and we continue to work with SAH and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to find solutions. We will provide monthly status updates to the District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administrative Board (DSSMSSAB).

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

District of Sault Ste. Marie Paramedic Services

	March 2023	March 2024
# of Patients to SAH	834 patients	763 patients
Max # of minutes on offload delay	232 minutes (3 hours, 52 minutes)	343 minutes (5 hours, minutes)
Total pts over 30 minutes	225	123
Total offload hours for period	406 hours	295 hours
Average Offload Time per Day	13.1 hours/ day	9.5 hours/ day

2024 - Current Year Results

	January	February	March
# of Patients to SAH	1002 patients	874 patients	763 patients
Max # of minutes on offload delay	719 minutes (11 hours, 59 minutes)	321 minutes (5 hours, 21 minutes)	343 minutes (5 hours, 43 minutes)
Total pts over 30 minutes	322	216	123
Total offload hours for period	685 hours	428 hours	295 hours
Average Offload Time per Day	22.10 hours/ day	14.76 hours/ day	9.5 hours/day

SAH has recently seen a significant rise in patient volumes, impacting its emergency department operations. These pressures are diminishing, and our offload delay numbers have improved compared to last month and March of the previous year. However, ED pressure affects our emergency response capacity, so we want to continue preparing for future challenges. To address this, we are pursuing targeted community care initiatives and enhancing care coordination to provide the most appropriate care to patients. These strategies aim to optimize patient care delivery and mitigate the impact of increased patient volumes on our ambulance service. We are committed to ensuring timely and effective emergency care for our community.

The following list describes some of the initiatives we are moving towards:

Rapid Response Community Paramedics

These paramedics would be called to manage acute, low-acuity patients in their homes or long-term care (LTC) facilities, collaborating with different organizations to avoid unnecessary emergency department visits. We are actively working with Ontario Health, SAH, and representatives from LTC facilities to analyze this project idea and explore funding options.

Integrate Case Mangers into the Community Paramedic (CP) Team

Social and physical health are intertwined in complex ways, with social factors exerting a profound influence on health behaviours, mental well-being, access to resources, and biological processes. Recognizing and addressing the intersection of these health issues is crucial for promoting holistic well-being and reducing health disparities within communities. Adding case managers to the CP team would allow this to happen, helping patients make the health and social connections they need in the community.

Alternative Pathways

The paramedic service is looking for alternative patient care pathways outside of our traditional transfer to the emergency department. By doing this, we can identify and divert patients to existing community resources that may be better suited for managing specific needs. We currently have alternative pathways in place for withdrawal management and the CRC shelter. We want to expand our diversion options to other shelter locations, primary care clinics, and through enhanced mental health referrals. These efforts would help alleviate pressure on the hospital and provide more tailored and appropriate care for individual needs in the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Many initiatives are in place to manage the increasing rate of offload delays, while still offering high quality, person-focused services. Aligning with the pillars of Service Delivery and Community Partnerships, DSSMSSAB continues to collaborate with community partners in an effort to navigate system-wide healthcare challenges. This strategic engagement will enhance community well-being and provide service excellence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The actual financial implications of offload delays are difficult to discern within the paramedic-operating budget. However, there is no question that significant costs are associated with delayed patient offloading, including forced overtime, missed meal breaks, and up-staffing of additional paramedic units to meet community emergency response needs. With continued reduction in offload delays, we will have fewer associated costs, and paramedic operations will be managed more efficiently and economically.

CONCLUSION

Effectively managing ambulance-to-hospital offload processes remains one of our biggest challenges in providing appropriate emergency care to the community. We continue to work closely with Sault Area Hospital, the Ministry of Health and Ontario

Health to find the best approaches and solutions. We will continue to report our statistics on a monthly basis.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Kirkham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Kirkham
Chief Paramedic Services