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Report 2021-154

Report Title: Community Paramedicine – Clerical Support and Paramedic Team Lead

Committee Name: Community Health Committee

Committee Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Prepared by: Susan Brown
Chief
Northumberland Paramedics

Reviewed by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Date: October 20, 2021

Strategic Plan Priorities: Thriving & Inclusive Communities

Recommendation

That the Community Health Committee receive Report 2021-154 ‘Clerical Support and Paramedic Team Lead’ for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council approve the Ontario Health Team Northumberland (OHT-N) funding for the temporary full-time positions for the Community Paramedicine program: Clerical Support and Community Paramedic Team Lead, for the duration of the 2021 fiscal year.”

Purpose

To provide Council an overview of the involvement of Community Paramedicine in the OHT-N, and the opportunity for funding for the positions; Clerical Support, and Paramedic Team Lead for at least the remaining 2021/22 fiscal year.

Background

Northumberland Paramedics initiated a Community Paramedic Program in July of 2019, funded through the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), presently referred to as Ontario Health. The objectives of our Community Paramedic program are to help alleviate ER room congestion and hospital admissions by promoting prevention Health Care and redistributing lower acuity 911 calls to more appropriate resources. The Community Paramedic program also allows for the medical surveillance of patients utilizing remote patient monitoring (RPM) devices. The patient cohort for this program includes; frail elderly, homelessness, mental health and addictions, and palliative care.

The OHT-N launched December 6, 2019 upon the announcement by the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliot. This objective of the OHT-N is to improve the patient and caregiver experience of health care in our community and improve patient outcomes.

The OHT-N set three initial Year One projects; Volunteer Peer Support, Rural Outreach Clinics and Community Paramedicine. These three projects have continued as their main project of focus into Year 2. In determining the budget and funding for the Year 2 projects, Community Paramedicine requested funding for clerical support and project management in the form of a Community Paramedic Team Lead to assist in the expansion and development of the program. The overall budget was approved inclusive of these positions within the Community Paramedicine project.

The OHT-N 2021 budget runs on a fiscal year – April 1, 2021 through to March 31, 2022. The operation and funding for these positions will correspond to this time.

Consultations

OHT-N Collaborative Council

Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations

The risks associated with not approving the funding of these positions by OHT-N is the ability to maintain and further expand the Community Paramedicine program in Northumberland County. Our current program is beyond capacity with the current funding and requires these supportive positions to maintain the current program and begin to increase our program and its functionality to the Community.

Discussion/Options

N/A

Financial Impact

There will be no financial impact to the County as these positions will be funded by the OHT-N.

Member Municipality Impacts

The benefits of the Community Paramedicine program are equally beneficial to all member municipalities and the defined co-horts within the Community Paramedicine program.

Conclusion/Outcomes

Staff recommends that County Council approves the implementation of the Ontario Health Team Northumberland (OHT-N) funding for the temporary full-time positions for Community Paramedicine program: Clerical Support and Community Paramedic Team Lead for the duration of the 2021/22 fiscal year