

Report PSR-CW-01-17

To: Warden Barfoot and Members of Grey County Council
From: Mike Muir, Director
Meeting Date: January 26, 2017
Subject: **Community Paramedic Program Shutdown**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW-11-17; Endorsed by County Council February 9, 2017 per Resolution CC07-17;

Recommendation

- 1. That the Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (EPIC) Program be shut down as of February 28, 2017 to minimize the funding shortfall, as there has been no further funding provided by the Province to continue the program beyond March 31, 2017.**

Background

In late 2014 the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funded a number of Community Paramedicine initiatives across Ontario of which Grey County Paramedic Services participated in the Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (EPIC) clinical trial partnering with the Owen Sound Family Health Team and St. Michael's Hospital. Grey County has received approximately \$700,000 in funding since the beginning of the program which would have funded the program until March 31, 2017. It has been identified that the program has run into a funding shortfall and will need to be shut down by February 28, 2017 to minimize the shortfall. The program has two full time community paramedics working seven days per week providing care to the enrolled patients at a cost of approximately \$25,000 per month.

As of early January 2017, there have been no announcements of sustainable funding from the Ministry even though the County has lobbied the government through AMO Delegations, letters to the Minister of Health and through Ministry staff contacts.

There are approximately 100 EPIC patients that will need to be notified that the program will be ending as well as other partners including members of the Owen Sound Family Health Team, Ministry officials and St. Michael's Hospital. Patients will be educated to

use the traditional 911 system in place of calling the EPIC medics directly should they require assistance.

The program has seen excellent results and it is anticipated that the results of the trial will be published in the near future. EPIC will be the only Community Paramedic program shut down at this time.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/Information Technology Considerations

Financial –Any funding shortfall will be offset by any surplus in the Paramedic Services budget or if insufficient funds exist, from the Paramedic Services reserve as identified in FR-CW-01-17.

Link to Strategic Goals/Priorities

Goal 2 - Enabling Healthy and Resilient Communities:

The Grey County Community Paramedic Program encompasses the above goal by aiding residents of Grey County to live safer and healthier lives in the comfort of their home.

The participation of Grey County Paramedic Services in the CP initiatives will help to provide evidence based patient centered outcomes that may be used in planning for future health care delivery.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted by,

Mike Muir
Director of Paramedic Services