



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	January 28, 2021
Subject / Report No:	PSR-CW-03-21
Title:	Grey County Community Paramedic Program Expansion – Community Paramedic Support for Long Term Care Proposal (CPLTC)
Prepared by:	Kevin McNab
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, Kevin Wepler
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW28-21; Endorsed by County Council February 11, 2021 per Resolution CC16-21;

Recommendation

- 1. That Report PSR-CW-03-21 regarding the Grey County Community Paramedic Program expansion (CPLTC) be received for information.**

Executive Summary

Community Paramedics play an important role in supporting vulnerable patients in their homes. Community Paramedics provide home visits to undertake assessments and evidence-based treatments of patients under the medical delegation of primary care physicians to decrease the rate of hospitalization for patients living with chronic disease.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) are requesting proposals to expand community paramedicine programs. The MOH is expanding community paramedicine through Local Health Integration Networks as a capacity enhancer to work alongside home and community care and other services to assist higher needs patients to stay in the community.

Grey County has been selected as one of the communities to submit a proposal for the CPLTC initiative. The government intends to provide 100% funding and expects to continue the program through to at least 2023-24, pending further approvals. The County's proposal includes a plan to implement the program by March 31, 2021. The annual funding allocation is based on waitlist data and would provide up to \$1 million annually. The program would include a \$250,000 funding allocation for January-March 2021 that would be utilized to train 12

paramedics for the program as well as to purchase three defibrillators. If the proposal is accepted, the Province will forward an agreement to be approved by Council; it is anticipated that a response will be received within the next few weeks in order that the January-March allocation can be utilized.

Staff have put together a proposal to allow for coverage across the entire County, allowing for equitable care. The model would involve incorporating all family health teams, individual primary care physicians and community health centres within the County that would like to participate. There is a potential to add an additional 300-350 patients to the current 125-150 patient roster.

The CPLTC program is to be 100% funded by the Ministry. To expand the program there is a capital investment required for vehicles and other equipment. Staff has developed a proposal that maximizes the funding for program delivery and boots on the ground for patient care. It also recommends that the County up-front the capital costs from the Paramedic Services Equipment Replacement Reserve which is anticipated to have a balance of \$1,318,612 at December 31, 2021 and costs would be recovered over the next 5-7 years.

Background and Discussion

Community Paramedics play an important role in supporting vulnerable patients in their homes. Community Paramedics provide home visits to undertake assessments and evidence-based treatments of patients under the medical delegation of primary care physicians to decrease the rate of hospitalization for patients living with chronic disease. Grey County has been offering a community paramedic program for over six years.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) are requesting proposals to expand community paramedicine programs. The MOH is expanding community paramedicine through Local Health Integration Networks as a capacity enhancer to work alongside home and community care and other services to assist higher needs patients to stay in the community. The MLTC is creating a new program, Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care (CPLTC), in partnership with select municipalities to keep individuals stabilized in their illness trajectory and in their own home for as long as possible.

The long-term care (LTC) sector is faced with increasing capacity pressures. As of August 2020, the wait list to access a bed had more than 38,000 people on it. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this capacity challenge. There has been an estimated reduction of approximately 6,000 beds due to LTC homes implementing COVID-19 protocols, such as restricting admissions into multi-bedrooms and creating space for isolation. The goal of the CPLTC program is to help address system capacity issues by supporting individuals to safely stay in their own homes for as long as possible, while also providing “peace of mind” for caregivers. It will do this through preventive and responsive care, directly in the home.

This 100% provincially funded program will focus exclusively on seniors in three categories of eligibility:

- Those on the waitlist for long-term care;
- Those who have been assessed as eligible for long-term care by a LHIN Care Coordinator (but not yet on the waitlist); and,

- Those who are soon to be eligible for long-term care.

Grey County has been selected as one of the communities to submit a proposal for the CPLTC initiative. The government intends to provide 100% funding and expects to continue the program through to at least 2023-24, pending further approvals. The County's proposal includes a plan to implement the program by the end of March 31, 2021. The annual funding allocation is based on waitlist data and would provide up to \$1 million annually.

Staff has put together a proposal to allow for coverage across the entire County, allowing for equitable care. The model would involve incorporating all family health teams, individual primary care physicians and community health centres within the County that would like to participate. There is a potential to add an additional 300-350 patients to the current 125-150 patient roster. Staff are proposing adding an additional two twelve hours shifts 7 days per week as well as a community paramedic and coordinator daily Monday to Friday. These additional shifts will allow coverage from 07:00 – 00:00 each day.

Staff are looking forward to building upon our already well established community paramedic program to support the CPLTC initiative. We believe that the partnerships we have developed in the community will aid us in the expansion to meet the demands of this new opportunity and enable Grey to become a stronger partner to support patients.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None

Financial and Resource Implications

The CPLTC program is to be 100% funded by the Ministry. To expand the program there is a capital investment required for vehicles and other equipment. Staff has developed a proposal that maximizes the funding for program delivery and boots on the ground for patient care. It also recommends that the County up-front the capital costs from the Paramedic Services Equipment Replacement Reserve which is anticipated to have a balance of \$1,318,612 at December 31, 2021. The following costs would be recovered over the next 5-7 years:

- Three (3) vehicles at a cost of \$65,000 each or \$195,000 in total, recovering costs over seven (7) years at \$27,857 per year
- Two (2) ISTAT machines at a cost of \$10,600 each or \$21,200 in total, recovering costs over five (5) years at \$4,240 per year
- Acquire three (3) computers and docking stations to be used in vehicles at a cost of \$6,125 or \$18,375 in total, recovering costs over 5 years at \$3,675 per year

The program would include a \$250,000 funding allocation for January-March 2021 that would be utilized to train 12 paramedics for the program as well as to purchase three defibrillators. If the proposal is accepted, the Province will forward an agreement to be approved by Council; it is anticipated that a response will be received within the next few weeks in order that the January-March allocation can be utilized.

If program funding were to end prior to full payment of these capital items they would be redistributed in emergency 911 system or be sold to recuperate costs left outstanding. At this

time there has been no indication of future inflationary increases to the funding allocation; however staff has asked that this be considered for future years.

Relevant Consultation

External:

Internal: CAO, Finance

Appendices and Attachments

None