

## Report PSR-TAPS-05-16

**To:** Chair Bell and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee

**From:** Wendy Bieman, Quality Assurance Manager and Public Access Defibrillation Coordinator

**Meeting Date:** March 17, 2016

**Subject:** To provide an update and options for sustainability in regards to the Grey County Public Access Defibrillation program. (PAD)

**Status:** Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS42-16; Endorsed by County Council April 5, 2016 per Resolution CC45-16;

### Recommendation(s)

**THAT Report PSR-TAPS- 05-16 regarding the Grey County Public Access Defibrillation program be received for information.**

### Background

The Grey County Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program has been in place since 2007 and now has 145 units in both public and private locations. The County has automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in all public and separate high schools and several primary public schools. Every community centre, recreation facility and arena in Grey County is equipped with an AED. Grey County PAD has provided London Ambulance communications a list of all AED locations within Grey County so the ambulance dispatchers can notify any caller of the location of the nearest AED. This could aid in reducing the time it takes for an AED to get to a victim's side.

The Paramedic Services department plays an important role in support and guidance for PAD sites. Grey County PAD assists with troubleshooting for sites that have any issues with their AED, cabinets or alarms. Grey County PAD also will secure a spare AED for sites to use on loan should their unit need repair or stop functioning.

In 2016 the Grey County PAD will also enroll all sites in a free “Track my AED” software tool that will give them notice of expiring PADS and batteries as well as when monthly checks are due. Sites can also order consumables from this tool as well.

Grey County PAD has provided educational support for all AED sites which include AED reviews and educational material on our website. All AED sites in Grey County have received AED and CPR training after the placement of their AED unit. The County also aids in scheduling cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certifications and re-certifications as well as mass CPR events held within the County. Grey County’s PAD program has hosted two of these events in conjunction with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. To date the PAD program has provided CPR training to approximately 2,500 citizens in the County of Grey

Grey County PAD has been involved in four “saves” which directly involved an AED placed in a facility within the County of Grey. Many of these units have been utilized on Grey County citizens in attempts to save a life. Grey County PAD will go to sites and download all information on the AED after use on a victim of cardiac arrest and deliver that information to the physician or coroner.

## Program Sustainability

With the growth of the PAD program and the focus AED’s are now given both provincially and nationally this program expects to continue steady, modest growth in the future.

Most programs do not pay for the consumables such as defibrillation pad replacement, battery replacement, or repairs as this is each site’s responsibility. A site should budget for approximately \$150.00 per year to purchase consumables. For sites with multiple AED’s this cost is further reduced with large volume order discounts.

Simcoe County’s PAD program has one full time coordinator responsible for approximately 600 units. A facility may have one or several units, however each site is charged \$300.00 per year to cover the cost of administrative support, one training session per year (per site, not per unit), tracking program to track expiry dates and send reminders for when to order pads and batteries, troubleshooting help, downloading of data if the unit is utilized, debriefing for sites who may require it, and a courtesy unit program for use if a site’s unit requires repair. Much of this program is run with money recovered from Heart and Stroke when donation AED’s are implemented and the annual charge from sites.

Grey County Paramedic Services (PS) through the Quality Assurance manager and staff (including those on modified duties/return to work) support the current AED sites.

The Grey County PS scheduler also has a designated day per week for PAD program work. This has been helpful in meeting the needs of the current program size; however future growth will be a challenge.

## Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

### Considerations

Grey County PAD program has a website and public email address within the County's home page for the public to access and gain information on AED's and the program. This site also has support and information for current sites to read and download if they require any forms, check sheets or information about the AED's. Each site has signed an agreement with Grey County to ensure all legal and liability issues are covered.

For more information on the Grey County Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) please contact: [greycountypad@grey.ca](mailto:greycountypad@grey.ca)

Currently, the Grey County PAD program has received funding through donations from Heart and Stroke Ontario as well as privately purchased units. The Heart and Stroke Foundation will refund money for training and consumables to a predetermined amount for each AED allotted to Grey County. This cost recovery process requires that a minimum of ten citizens per site are trained in CPR and use of the AED. The cost of administrative support to the sites is not recovered. In 2015 there were no Heart and Stroke grants issued to the Grey County PAD program.

## Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

### Goal 2 - Enabling Healthy and Resilient Communities

The Public Access Defibrillation program fully encompasses the above goal as both residents and visitors to Grey County will be better served under the direst of circumstances.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Mike Muir

Director of Paramedic Services