



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
County of Renfrew Administration Building

### AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof.
4. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting held November 12, 2020.  
(circulated previously).
5. Emergency Services Department Report (attached). 2
6. Long-Term Care Report (attached). 8
7. Administration Report (attached). 16
8. Board of Health Minutes (none at time of mailing).
9. New Business.
10. Date of next meeting, Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

#### **NOTE:**

County Council: Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Submissions received from the public, either orally or in writing may become part of the public record.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**  
**EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

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**TO:** Health Committee

**FROM:** Michael Nolan, Director of Emergency Services/Chief, Paramedic Service

**DATE:** January 13, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Department Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Feedback from Champlain LHIN – Palliative Care Program**

Attached as Appendix ES-I is an email from Local Health Integration Network Palliative Care Coordinator, Stephanie Knox.

Based on an existing need identified within our community, an opportunity existed for paramedics to increase the timeliness and appropriateness of Palliative Care and end-of-life patient-centered care was identified. Using Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) methodology, a Community Paramedic Palliative Care Program was established, developed in partnership with local palliative care agencies and family physicians. The aim of the Community Paramedic Palliative Care Program is twofold: to increase the quality of episodic, patient-centred care and to act as a stopgap within the healthcare system when called upon. A group of 30 Advanced Care, Community Paramedics were provided with Palliative and End of Life Care specific education. Paramedic symptom management kits were assembled with appropriate palliative care. The Community Paramedic Palliative Care Program will be implemented for a trial period of six months. Program impact will be evaluated by frequency of consultation, symptom management kit use, and avoidance of inappropriate patient transport. Individual cases and associated after-action reports are reviewed by the Community Paramedic Palliative Care multi-disciplinary team to identify successes and areas for improvement.

The Community Paramedic Palliative Care Program has proven successful in the three months since its implementation. Increased consultation with local palliative care stakeholders, and increased symptom management kit use, combined with the ability to treat patients at home, has contributed to timely and effective management of the palliative care and end of life patient population by paramedics. The Community Paramedic Palliative Care Program has allowed for the identification, and creation of a paramedic specific role in the multidisciplinary palliative and end of life circle of care in the County of Renfrew.

**2. Gratitude**

Attached as Appendix ES-II - A letter from Minister John Yakabuski, relaying thanks from a resident of the County of Renfrew for care provided by Paramedics.

**3. County of Renfrew AED Program**

Attached as Appendix ES-III- A letter from the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Provincial Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation announcing the successful grant approval in the amount of \$5,784.00 to purchase four defibrillators and accessories.

**4. RC VTAC – Nursing Student Research**

Attached as Appendix ES-IV - A poster presentation authored by Mr. Vincent Charbonneau Martel & Ms. Alisa Volyeva, BSCN Year 4, University of Ottawa in collaboration with Algonquin College, entitled, Effectiveness of Renfrew County Virtual Triage & Assessment Center in Reducing Emergency Department Visits.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**5. Intermunicipal Billing Agreement – County of Renfrew/Lanark County**

**Recommendation:** THAT Health Committee recommend to County Council that staff be directed to explore an agreement with Lanark County that would allow for annual reconciliation for Intermunicipal Billing costs. AND

FURTHER THAT information will be brought back to County Council by March 2021.

### **Background**

Attached as ES-V- A draft agreement and costing between the County of Renfrew and Lanark County for the provision of Intermunicipal ambulance service. Lanark County has proposed that the County of Renfrew enter into an agreement for 2020 – 2025, as our previous agreement expired December 31, 2015.

One of the principles upon which the Paramedic Service Delivery system in Ontario has been developed through legislation is the seamless delivery of service by the closest available Paramedic Service unit to emergency calls regardless of municipal geographical boundaries. As a result, there are occasions where responses are provided in a municipality by Paramedic Service providers that are operated and funded by another municipality. Typically, these responses are in rural areas where paramedics units from another municipality are located closer to a call than those from the municipality in which the call is located but can also include circumstances where local paramedic service resources become overwhelmed due to a sudden increase in call demand or a multi-casualty incident requiring additional assistance. With the migration of Paramedic service delivery to single and upper-tier municipalities, and the shared funding arrangement with the Province, there is recognition in legislation that an expense to the municipality that provides cross border services exists. Specifically, the Ambulance Act allows municipalities to enter into agreements with respect to the costs associated with the provision of cross border services.

## **6. Draft 2021 Emergency Services Budget**

**Recommendation:** THAT Health Committee recommends that the Draft 2021 Emergency Services Budget be approved by this Committee and forwarded to the January 18, 2021 County Council Budget Workshop for approval.

### **Background**

The 2021 Draft Health Committee Budget is attached as Appendix LTC-II in the Long-Term Care report.

Attached as Appendix ES-VI - Paramedic Service Business Cases.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **7. Community Paramedics for Long-Term Care**

**Recommendation:** THAT the Health Committee recommend that County Council approve that a By-law be passed authorizing the Warden and CAO to sign the Transfer Payment Agreement between the County of Renfrew and the Ministry of Long-Term Care at the next session of County Council.

#### **Background**

Attached as Appendix ES-VII - A letter and transfer agreement. The letter is signed jointly by Ms. Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Care, Policy Division and Ms. Sheila Bristo, Assistant Deputy Minister, Long Term Care, Operations Division. The letter provides details of the agreement with the County of Renfrew to support seniors on the provincial long-term care waitlist through the Community Paramedic Program.

Community Paramedicine is a model of community-based health care where paramedics use their education and expertise in community-based, non-emergency care roles, outside their emergency response and ambulance transport roles. Existing community paramedicine programs have reduced the number of costly 911 calls and avoidable emergency room hospital visits and provided additional supports and connections for high-risk or vulnerable. The Ministry of Long-Term Care is funding a community paramedicine program to provide services to individuals who are waiting for placement in a long-term care (LTC) home or who are soon to be eligible for long-term care. This initiative is part of the province's modernization plan to address systemic barriers in long-term care bed development and the growing demand for long-term care.

Attached as ES-VIII - A document authored by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, entitled Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care, A Framework for Planning, Implementation and Evaluation.

### **8. Memorandum of Understanding – County of Renfrew Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre**

**Recommendation:** THAT Health Committee recommends to County Council that a By-law be passed at the next session of County Council authorizing the Warden

and CAO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Renfrew and Arnprior Regional Health (per the Ministry of Health) for the ongoing operation of the County of Renfrew Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre.

### **Background**

Attached as Appendix ES-IX - Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Renfrew Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) and Arnprior Regional Health (per the Ministry of Health) clarifying the roles, responsibilities, and mutual expectations with a view to enabling efficient and effective operations of the RC VTAC.

## **9. Hospital/Paramedic Service Partnership**

**Recommendation:** THAT Health Committee recommends that a By-law be passed at the next session of County Council authorizing the Warden and CAO to sign the Agreement between the County of Renfrew and Pembroke Regional Hospital for a partnership with the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service to include a Paramedic in the Emergency Department.

### **Background**

The COVID-19 pandemic has further strained the already over-taxed health care system. Several pressure points including staffing shortages, particularly in hospital ERs have had detrimental effects to service delivery by increasing off-load delays and ability to provide coverage to our community. This can be expected to worsen as our working population ages and effects of COVID-19 progress. The development of RC-VTAC has reduced the number of patients going to ER but there is more that can be done.

For the past 10 years, Paramedics have increased knowledge, scope of practice and ability to the point that hospitals look to the Paramedic Service for solutions to assist with patient care.

The benefits of including both Primary and Advanced Care Paramedics in the Emergency Department care team, working with our health care partners to alleviate off-load delays, ensure continuity of care, and keep patients from falling into the cracks of an over-taxed system.

County of Renfrew Paramedics have taken part in clinical placement at the hospital over the last 10 years to ensure clinical acumen. The opportunity

exists to have a Paramedic placed in the Emergency Department, at no cost to the County of Renfrew, to assist our hospital partners while increasing the level of knowledge clinically and at a system level.

From an Ontario Health integration perspective, this partnership of care for our patients is an opportunity to collaborate and break the systemic health care silo that currently exists – this is a model of the future.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**  
**LONG-TERM CARE REPORT**

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**TO:** Health Committee

**FROM:** Shelley Sheedy, Director of Long-Term Care

**DATE:** January 13, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Department Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Bonnechere Manor Resident Statistics**

Statistics	Oct 31, 2020	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020
Population at end of Month	171	175	172
# of Female Residents	102	103	101
# of Male Residents	69	72	71
Vacant Beds at End of Month	9	5	8
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respice	95.81%* **	97.15%* **	96.83%* **
Resident Deaths	4	1	8
Resident Discharges	0	0	1
Resident Admissions	5	5	6

**2. Miramichi Lodge Resident Statistics**

Statistics	Oct 31, 2020	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020
Population at end of Month	157	155	157
# of Female Residents	109	106	109
# of Male Residents	48	49	48
Vacant Beds at End of Month	9	11	9
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respice	96.61%* **	96.46%* **	96.31%* **
Resident Deaths	2	6	5
Resident Discharges	0	0	1



Statistics	Oct 31, 2020	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020
Resident Admissions	3	4	8

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the following is applicable:

\*Suspension of occupancy target is in effect until February 28, 2021

\*\*The Respite Program has been temporarily placed on hold, converting the respite beds into long-term care beds.

### 3. Champlain Local Health Integration Network Home & Community Care Client Waitlist Information

Renfrew County Long-Term Care Homes	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
Bonnechere Manor	221	221	240
Caressant Care Cobden	100	100	106
Deep River & District Hospital – The Four Seasons Lodge	53	53	55
Grove (The) Arnprior & District Nursing Home	140	1031	163
Groves Park Lodge	163	56	173
Marianhill Inc.	218	38	220
Miramichi Lodge	357	26	362
North Renfrew Long-Term Care Services Inc.	90	309	94
Valley Manor Inc.	73	25	71
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1415</b>	<b>1859*</b>	<b>1484</b>

\*The October 2020 numbers were questioned with the Champlain Local Health Integration Network and appear to be brought into line for the November report.

### 4. COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Long-Term Care

- Symptomatic and Surveillance Testing

Miramichi Lodge was notified December 31, 2020 of a positive COVID-19 test result involving a Lodge employee who last worked on December 27, 2020 on Resident Home Area 3A with no resident interactions and a small number of co-worker interactions. While the employee wore personal protective equipment including a surgical mask and protective eyewear, consistent with provincial directives for

one case, all residents and employees must be tested. An up-to-date status report will be provided at the meeting.

- Further to the government's province-wide shutdown effective December 26, 2020 which moved all public health units into the grey zone; the requirements and restrictions applicable to long-term care homes in grey zones include the following:
  - Resident absences – short term or temporary absences are not permitted except for medical or compassionate reasons.
  - Visitors – essential visitors are the only type of visitors permitted to visit long-term care homes in Grey zones; general visitors are not permitted to visit. A maximum of one caregiver may visit a resident at a time.
  - Testing – staff, volunteers, student placements, caregivers and support workers must satisfy applicable testing frequency requirements for Grey zones in the Minister's Directive: surveillance testing is now required weekly.
- COVID-19 Vaccines  
The Province has prioritized long-term care in receiving the early COVID-19 vaccine:
  - Residents, staff, essential caregivers and other employees of congregate living settings (i.e., long-term care homes and retirement homes) that provide care for seniors as they are at higher risk of infection and serious illness from COVID-19;
  - Health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals and other health care personnel;
  - Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and
  - Adult recipients of chronic home health care

We will provide a verbal update regarding the status for Renfrew County long-term care residents and staff at the meeting.

- Additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding

Following the same formula, long-term care homes received funding in both November and December 2020: \$112,000 for Bonnechere Manor and \$105,000 for Miramichi Lodge for each of these months.

5. **2020-21 Influenza (Flu) Campaign**

We are pleased to report the excellent uptake with the influenza immunization by both residents and staff at each long-term care home:

Home	Residents	Staff
Bonnechere Manor	93%	94%
Miramichi Lodge	98%	90%

In addition, neither Home has experienced a flu outbreak to date.

6. **Province Launches Long-Term Care Staffing Plan**

On December 17, 2020, the Province released its long-term care staffing plan that sets out actions to hire more staff, improve working conditions for existing staff, drive effective and accountable leadership and implement retention strategies. The “A Better Place to Live, A Better Place to Work: Ontario’s Long-Term Care Staffing Plan” (2021-25) focuses on six key areas of action to be delivered over four years.

- Investing up to \$1.9 billion annually by 2024-25 to create more than 27,000 new positions for personal support workers, registered nurses and registered practical nurses in long-term care to meet the direct care commitment; in addition, providing a 20 per cent increase in direct care time administered by other health care professionals such as physiotherapists and social workers.
- Accelerating and expanding education and training pathways in order to prepare and train the tens of thousands of new staff that will be required.
- Supporting continued professional development and growth of long-term care staff to improve retention.
- Improving working conditions for staff by coordinating with long-term care employers to increase full-time employment and promote innovative approaches to work and technology.

- Driving effective and accountable leadership in homes across the province to improve oversight, guidance and medical outcomes in long-term care homes.
- Measuring progress against key performance indicators.

The full plan can be found at this link: [A better place to live, a better place to work: Ontario's long-term care staffing plan | Ontario.ca](#)

Staff will share further details as they become available.

## 7. **December 31, 2020 - Occupancy Targets**

Prior to the Pandemic, the long-term care homes were required to achieve a 97% average occupancy in order to be eligible for 100% Ministry of Long-Term Care funding. A Ministry of Long-Term Care memorandum dated December 31, 2020 advised that the suspension of occupancy targets in effect under the COVID-19 Emergency Measures Funding Policy (COVID-19 Funding Policy) that was set to expire on December 31, 2020 will continue to be in effect up to and including February 28, 2021. This alleviates the requirement of 97% occupancy for long-stay beds to receive 100% of the level of care per diem funding.

## 8. **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Long-Term Care Homes**

On October 28, the Provincial Government announced up to \$1.05 billion in federal-provincial funding through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to build or renovate health and safety-related projects in long-term care, education and municipalities that will help Ontario respond to the impacts of COVID-19. This included up to \$250 million for the Local Government sub-stream that will help municipalities to address critical local infrastructure needs.

Eligible projects include infrastructure to support physical distancing, social infrastructure, active transportation and disaster mitigation projects. Each municipality is allocated a certain amount of funding for which they can apply, with a minimum allocation of \$100,000. Successful projects will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis, with nominations by the Province to the federal government for approval by March 2021.

Bonnechere Manor submitted an application for \$990,000 to complete the HVAC retrofit. Miramichi Lodge submitted an application for \$106,000 to update the humidification system. Both applications were submitted prior to the December 18, 2020 deadline.

9. **Long-Term Care Homes and Canadian Union of Public Employees Bargaining**

As reported to Committee in November, the Canadian Union of Public Employee (CUPE) Locals 3586 (Miramichi Lodge) and 1508 (Bonnechere Manor) had requested a No-Board Report be issued, meaning the parties would go forward to arbitration. The Unions subsequently advised the Employer that they were willing to return to the bargaining table with negotiations scheduled for Miramichi Lodge on January 18, 19, and Bonnechere Manor on January 28 and 29, 2021. Committee will be kept apprised.

10. **2021 User Fees for Long-Term Care**

Attached as Appendix LTC-I is the current user fees associated with the Homes. Committee is advised that the Homes are not proposing any changes to the user fees for 2021.

11. **Seniors Housing Strategy Update**

Committee will recall that in 2020 a consulting firm was engaged to assist in the development of a Seniors' Housing Strategy for Renfrew County and area. Re/fact Consulting has conducted a comprehensive review of senior services across the county which formed the creation of a "Seniors' Housing Strategy" intended to assist the County of Renfrew in strategic decision making and policy development regarding seniors' housing options. The review included examining services such as assisted living; supportive housing; Long-Term Care (LTC)/ Community Paramedic Partnership in the client's home; and/or additional Long-Term Care Beds. The consulting team reached out to a wide range of community stakeholders as part of the study process and has sought their feedback on the draft strategy.

Background information can be found via the County of Renfrew web site at [County of Renfrew Community Services, Seniors Housing Strategy](#).

The draft reports of the Seniors Housing Strategy are now available for feedback from our community and in particular, seniors themselves at these links: [Strategy Summary Report](#) / [Strategy Technical Appendix](#).

The report will be presented to the Health and Social Services Committees and County Council in February 2021.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 12. Short Stay Application

**Recommendation:** THAT the Health Committee recommend that County Council approve that both Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge advise the Champlain Local Health Integration Network that we decline from operating the two short-stay (respite) beds per Home at this time, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to keep these beds vacant to facilitate isolation of suspect/confirmed COVID-19 residents. FURTHER THAT this decision will be reassessed when the declaration of the Pandemic has been rescinded.

#### Background

Ontario Regulation 70/10 under the Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) Act, 2007 defines the short-stay program as a program in which a person is admitted to a long-term care home for a definite number of days. The Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) require that Long-Term Care Homes (LTCHs) who operate short-stay respite care beds within their approved/licensed bed complement formally apply each year through the Short-Stay Care Beds Application and Survey Form. Prior to the Pandemic, Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge each operated two short-stay beds. The Ministry of Long-Term Care paused the respite program in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, however these beds remain funded by the Ministry at the long-term care basic rate whether occupied or not. Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge recommend that we decline from operating short-stay (respite) beds at this time due to the COVID-19 Pandemic as these beds are utilized for isolation of suspect/confirmed COVID-19 residents, with the option to reassess this program when the Pandemic status has been lifted.

The Champlain Local Health Integration Network requires long-term care homes to advise if they wish to operate the respite beds by January 15, 2021, but staff have requested an extension until January 28, 2021 to allow time for County Council consideration.

**13. Draft 2021 Budget for Long-Term Care**

**Recommendation:** THAT the Health Committee recommends that the Draft 2021 Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge Budgets be approved by this Committee and forwarded to the January, 18, 2021 County Council Budget Workshop for approval.

Background

Appendix LTC-II includes the 2021 budget guidelines and draft budgets for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge. The Director of Long-Term Care will overview the budgets.

**COUNTY OF RENFREW**  
**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

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**TO:** Health Committee  
**FROM:** Paul V. Moreau, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
**DATE:** January 13, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Correspondence Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Board of Health**

Attached as Appendix I is a letter dated December 10, 2020 from Ms. Heather Daly, Acting CEO/Director, Corporate Services, Renfrew County and District Health Unit giving notice to the County of Renfrew that pursuant to Section 72 (5) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (H.P.P.A.) the amount that the Board of Health estimates will be required to defray its expenses under Section 72(1) for the year 2021 is \$1,733,289. These payments are to be made in 12 equal installments due the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month. The 2021 funding request is 8.5% higher than the 2020 request for \$1,598,003.

The Treasurer will be providing more detailed information in the Finance & Administration Committee report.