



## HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 10, 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 on January 13, 2021.
5. Delegations:
  - (a) 9:30 a.m. – Mr. Ken Foulds and Mr. Scott Robertson, Re/fact Consulting presenting Seniors' Housing Strategy.
  - (b) 10:10 a.m. – Ms. Judy Hill, Executive Director and Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre presenting Virtual Family Health Team Pilot Project.

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8. Board of Health Minutes – May 27, July 28, September 29, October 9 & 27 and November 24, 2020.	43
9. New Business.	
10. Closed Meeting – None at time of mailing.	
11. Date of next meeting (Wednesday, March 17, 2021) and adjournment.	

**NOTE:** (a) **County Council: Wednesday, February 24, 2021.**  
(b) 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:** February 10, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Department Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Palliative Care Model**

Attached as Appendix ES-I is a letter from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, stating that the Ministry of Health has approved the RPPEO Joint Treat and Refer (On-Scene Symptom Management) Palliative Care Model, specifically for palliative care patients, as outlined in a proposal to the ministry. The pilot proposal has been approved for a 12-month period upon implementation.

**2. Gratitude**

Attached as Appendix ES-II are e-mails from a grateful parent, and from the Pembroke Regional Hospital Vascular Health.

**3. County of Renfrew AED Program**

There are currently 367 active defibrillators in the County of Renfrew. The Service currently has five units available for use through a loaner program, and through a successful grant application from the Legion Command, four additional defibrillators will be added to this complement.

The pandemic has affected the defibrillator program in several ways. It has been difficult to complete equipment deliveries due to the COVID

restrictions and most defibrillators are now behind locked doors, inaccessible to public use.

Phase Two of the Defibrillator Program will involve making the defibrillators accessible again by relocating them outside. There is currently only one outdoor heated defibrillator cabinet that is approved by the Canadian Standards Authority (CSA) to withstand our winter temperature to -45 Celsius, and they cost over \$1,000 per unit. To alleviate this cost, Mr. Robert Blackwell, our Public Access Defibrillator Program Coordinator has become a distributor, cutting the cost in half, and will continue to apply for funding to purchase these cabinets.

To date, \$10,000 has been received from the Canadian TransCanada Pipeline, and \$7,500 has been received from Hydro One. This grant funding has facilitated the purchase of 34 outdoor heated cabinets, enabling placement of defibrillators and any other necessary emergency item available to our communities on a 24/7 basis.

The cabinets have been inspected and approved by a master electrician to be legally installed in Ontario and the cabinets meet all Ontario electrical code guidelines. One cabinet is being inspected by Glenenergy to operate off-grid using solar panels. This is important for locations such as Shaw Woods. All cabinets are ready for delivery once restrictions have been lifted.

#### **4. Operative IQ Inventory Management Software**

The Service has migrated to Operative IQ for management of inventory. This program continues to track inventory in the field providing visibility of supplies as they are used, reducing stock issues, managing expiration dates, and generating purchase orders based on supply usage and current requirements. Maintenance records are kept and a maintenance schedule established from date of purchase with complete historical records – a legislated requirement from the Ministry of Health.

Additional features include:

- **Asset Tracking** – performs periodic audits of checked out equipment and identifies when equipment has changed locations or becomes

missing, transfers equipment during the audit process to update location and views the audit history.

- **Asset Classes** - indicate required equipment for vehicles, stations or clinics to field personnel performing inspections. Allowing field personnel to report back what equipment they have in their possession and identify items that may be missing. Missing assets can be recovered quicker by establishing last location.
- **Check Out / Check In**  
Keep track of an equipment's location by checking it out to crew members, vehicles, stations, clinics, or external agencies. Transfer equipment during shift changes, capturing electronic signatures and return dates.

## **5. VTAC Update**

VTAC continues to provide accessible medical consultation to the underserved population in an innovative manner, through on-line or over phone consultation, or by utilizing our Community Paramedics to assess and treat patients in their own homes in consultation with a physician. This model continues to preserve capacity in our County emergency departments by supporting people at home when they are well enough to be at home. VTAC continues to provide COVID-19 testing at 10 different clinics in 6 locations across the County, or in the homes of the most vulnerable and immobile residents through our community paramedics. VTAC will be an integral part of the vaccine registration process.

## **6. Vaccine Distribution Planning**

The Renfrew & County District Health Unit is the lead agency for vaccine distribution. Several vaccine decision-tables have been developed using the Incident Management System (IMS). The Command Table will provide overall direction to ensure optimum resource management. The Command Table will include senior health sector leaders from across the County of Renfrew, and includes the RCDHU Chair, representatives from the Paramedic Service, congregate care (including Long-Term Care/Retirement Homes), Hospitals, Primary Care and Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nations.

A Regional Leads Table will include a physician and administrative lead from each of five designated areas, Pembroke, Deep River, Renfrew, Barry's Bay and Arnprior. The RCDHU, Paramedic Service, pharmacy and a municipal representative will also sit at this table. The Service will also sit at the five area Local Planning Tables.

The role of the Service includes transportation of vaccine to clinic sites, providing administrative, post immunization observation and security supports. Paramedics will provide immunization services through mobile and mass immunization style clinics and participate in communications campaigns.

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

Chief Nolan will present regarding the status of the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care project.

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

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**TO:** Health Committee

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

**DATE:** February 10, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Department Report

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**INFORMATION**

**1. Bonnechere Manor Resident Statistics**

Statistics	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	Jan 31, 2021
Population at end of Month	175	172	172
# of Female Residents	103	101	104
# of Male Residents	72	71	68
Vacant Beds at End of Month	5	8	8
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respice	97.15%* **	96.83%* **	96.59%* **
Resident Deaths	1	8	6
Resident Discharges	0	1	0
Resident Admissions	5	6	5

**2. Miramichi Lodge Resident Statistics**

Statistics	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	Jan 31, 2021
Population at end of Month	155	157	155
# of Female Residents	106	109	105
# of Male Residents	49	48	50
Vacant Beds at End of Month	11	9	11
YTD Occupancy Rate: LTC Respice	96.46%* **	96.31%* **	94.73%* **
Resident Deaths	6	5	6
Resident Discharges	0	1	0

Statistics	Nov 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	Jan 31, 2021
Resident Admissions	4	8	4

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>

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

- Symptomatic and Surveillance Testing

An up-to-date status report will be provided at the meeting.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care has advised all long-term care homes that they must transition to point of care rapid antigen surveillance testing for staff, student placements and eventually essential caregivers and general visitors (not currently permitted related to lockdown).

This change presents significant challenges regarding human and physical resources as it is equal to setting up a mini lab onsite and

available 24/7 related to the various times of staff and other's entering the Homes. The government has recently made regulatory amendments under the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act (LSCCLA) allowing for a time-limited exemption from the LSCCLA for persons to collect specimens and perform COVID-19 point-of-care antigen testing, e.g., Personal Support Workers and Occupational Therapists. Building on our existing relationships within the Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC), we are in discussions regarding the potential for assistance to aid the implementation of antigen testing.

Costs, including for additional staffing or sector support, that are incurred for the purposes of surveillance testing including point of care testing, are eligible expenses under the Prevention and Containment Fund; but with no increase in that amount of funding.

- Vaccines
    - Renfrew County & District Health Unit (RCDHU) Control Group
- The RCDHU is taking an incident command approach for all phases of the vaccine distribution. I am representing long-term care until Phase 1 is completed (LTC). Other participants include paramedics, acute care and primary care.

The RCDHU has completed a Vaccination Distribution and Administration Plan and is pending final review by the Province. They also provided an education package and are providing guidance on the utilization of the COVAX APP.

- Resident Vaccination
- Four of the nine long-term care homes completed resident vaccine administration with the small allocation provided to the RC&DHU during the week of January 25, 2020. Unfortunately, the Health Unit received notice that the vaccine delivery for the week of February 1, 2021, which included the allocation for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge was delayed by 5-7 days. The County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Homes are prepared to operationalize our vaccination plan when the vaccine does arrive.



On February 2, 2021, the Ontario government advised that their goal of completing the administration of first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to residents in each long-term care home has been amended to February 10, 2021. Staff will provide an update at today's meeting.

I have participated in three meetings regarding vaccination distribution planning with General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier, Chair of the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, Minister of Long Term Care, the Honourable Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Health, the Honourable Christine Elliott and Solicitor General, the Honourable Sylvia Jones to date with the most recent being January 28, 2021. We have not been informed at this time when the vaccine for staff and essential caregivers in Renfrew County will be provided by the Province.

- Long-Term Care Commission

As previously communicated, the Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission must submit its final report to the Minister of Long-Term Care by April 30, 2021. The Commission issued a survey to all long-term care homes, which was submitted by our Homes by the deadline of January 29, 2021. Regarding the Homes' responses to the survey, the Commissioners have determined that the individual Homes' responses will be confidential. While the Commission may publish analysis of the data, along with anonymized responses individually or in aggregate, the confidentiality of the identity of the Home that provided the data or responses will be maintained.

The Association of Municipalities Ontario's (AMO) final submission to the Commission is available at: [Improving the Long-Term Care Outbreak Response in Ontario](#).

- Additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding

Following the same formula, long-term care homes received funding in January 2021: \$112,000 for Bonnechere Manor and \$105,000 for Miramichi Lodge.

- February 3, 2021 myFM 104.9 Pembroke Today radio station reported that the [province announced](#) additional \$1.09 million funding to increase prevention and containment efforts in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke long-term care homes, however we have not received formal notification to date.

## 5. **Provincial Long-Term Care Staffing Plan**

In follow up to the information provided at last month's meeting regarding the Province's long-term care staffing plan entitled '[A better place to live, a better place to work: Ontario's long-term care staffing plan](#)'; I have been asked to join an advisory group with Advantage Ontario. This will be an opportunity to provide advice to the government on the implementation of the provincial staffing strategy with the first priority being the four hours average of resident care.

On January 21, 2021, the government announced a \$2.4 million investment to train up to 300 personal support workers for positions in long-term care homes in the Ottawa area as part of the province's long-term care staffing plan. Committee is advised that Bonnechere Manor continues its onsite "Living Classroom Personal Support Worker (PSW)" with this year's class of 19 students starting in January and that both Homes continue to provide clinical placements to BScN, Practical Nursing and PSW students through Algonquin College. We ensure all students meet the same requirements as our staff with respect to COVID-19 protocols.

In addition, I have been working with Work Matters who was recently approved provincial funding for a PSW program "Pathway2PSW" to be delivered by the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) available to Renfrew County students. Participation includes a PSW recruitment video and Virtual Reality (VR) to recruit and inform potential candidates. The pre-work for this project included two other videos: [Long-Term Care Employer Ambassador](#) video that showcases our Long-Term Care Homes including culture, workplace facilities, job opportunities and being a business in Renfrew County and; A "[Day in a Life](#)" video that highlights what it is like to work, live and play in our community with our Employee Ambassador, Bounsavanh Phanthathirath, Registered Nurse at Bonnechere Manor.

## **6. Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Review of Long-Term Care**

As Committee is aware, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) commissioned a review of the Eastern Ontario long-term care homes as a priority in 2020. Please find a letter dated February 1, 2021 attached as Appendix LTC-I with the final report available at: [Review of Eastern Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities.](#)

On behalf of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus delegation, Warden Robinson led the presentation to the NDP Caucus and the Multi-Ministerial meetings during the ROMA Conference. Below are the five recommendations identified by the EOWC:

- 1) Increase direct care funding to achieve the Provincial benchmark of the four hours of care model;
- 2) Transition to a per bed funding model to increase clarity, efficiency, and transparency of the funding process;
- 3) Increase Provincial capital funding predictability and provide on-going support for capital maintenance;
- 4) Promote and support resource sharing between long-term care homes; and
- 5) Improvement in long-term care processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

## **7. Ontario Health Teams**

An Ontario Health Team (OHT) Joint Meeting / Retreat took place on January 29th, 2021 supported by two external Facilitators, Mark Hundert and Bernita Drenth. Next steps include focus groups and ultimately a revised Network 24 OHT submission.

## **8. One-Time Funding Reallocation Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program**

The Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) advised Bonnechere Manor Senior/Adult Day Program of the one-time funding reallocation of \$73,000 due to the in person day program being closed following the COVID-19 Pandemic provincial guidelines. These funds will be utilized for the improvement of infection prevention and control practices by replacing flooring, 18 fabric recliner chairs, handrails, automated door

openers for washrooms, screening tools that include iPads and thermal sensors, and personal protection equipment (PPE) for both day program locations in Renfrew and Cobden.

## **9. Pharmacy Services**

The Long-Term Care Homes Act requires that every long-term care home shall retain a pharmacy service provider for the Home. At present, pharmacy services for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge are provided via Committee and Council endorsed service agreements. Bonnechere Manor services are contracted with Aikenhead's Drug Store (1999) Limited via an agreement expiring August 31, 2021. Miramichi Lodge services are contracted with MediSystem via an agreement expiring December 31, 2021. The costs of the Pharmacy Services provided to the residents by Aikenhead and MediSystem are paid directly by the Province, through Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or directly by the residents themselves.

Given the termination dates of the aforementioned contracts, pursuant to our Corporate Procurement Policy, staff would very soon be undertaking the procurement process to allow for the competitive tender for the Pharmacy Services provided at Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge. However, the circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic have ameliorated against the immediate procurement of these services through the competitive process and the potential transition from one Pharmacy Provider to another. As Committee is aware, the County of Renfrew declared a state of emergency on March 20, 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and that this state of emergency continues to date. Further, Committee is aware that no sector has been impacted greater than the long-term care sector. Given that the rapidly changing conditions in relation to the Pandemic continues to pose a serious threat to long-term care and the disruption associated with a potential change of Pharmacy Service Providers combined with staffing challenges - it is in the best interest of our residents and staff to defer the procurement process at this time with respect to Pharmacy Services and await more certain times, when the proper resources can be dedicated to the process of procurement and the possible transition to new provider(s).

The County of Renfrew's Procurement Policy provides that the requirement for a competitive bid solicitation for goods and services may be waived under the joint authority of the appropriate Director and the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk (CAO) where, in the event of a Special Circumstance as defined by the Policy, a requirement exists. A 'Special Circumstance' is defined, in part, as an event that is exceptional or could not be foreseen and is a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public. The Director and the CAO agree that this adequately describes the COVID-19 Pandemic, both as it currently stands and into the foreseeable future. We sought legal counsel to confirm this interpretation. Therefore, staff will extend the Service Agreements expiry dates for both Homes to March 31, 2022 and commence the competitive Request for Proposal process prior to March 31, 2022. Both current service providers were consulted regarding this potential extension and are agreeable.

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

As reported to Committee in January, the Employer returned to the bargaining table with the Canadian Union of Public Employee (CUPE) Locals 3586 (Miramichi Lodge) and 1508 (Bonnechere Manor) on January 18, 19, and January 28 and 29, 2021 respectively. Committee is advised that all parties agreed to continue bargaining. Committee will be kept apprised.

**11. Fundraising**

Given the challenges to effectively fundraise during the Pandemic, we are focusing our efforts on non-event based initiatives at this time. Committee is informed of the various ways our community can support our Homes through the following handouts:

- Ways to Give attached as Appendix LTC-II
- Butterfly Champion Program attached as Appendix LTC-III
- Monthly Giving Program attached as Appendix LTC-IV.

In addition, the Foundations have commenced new Foundation Newsletters – The Butterfly Bulletin Issue 01 attached as Appendix LTC-V.

## 12. Expressions of Gratitude

Both Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge have received the following expressions of gratitude:

- a) A family recognized the excellent care provided to their loved one while resident at Bonnechere Manor:

'We want to say thank you sincerely to all at Bonnechere.

We never once doubted or worried that our mother received excellent care.

A Special thanks to Faye and Colleen for making it special for her (and for everyone) and to Dr. DiPaolo for his care and concern.

Best Regards.'

- b) A family recognized the excellent care provided to their loved one while resident at Miramichi Lodge:

'To the staff at Miramichi Lodge, specifically 2-B,

Our mother lived at the lodge for the past 5 years. During her time there, our family always thought she was well cared for and were impressed with how the staff interacted with her and other residents.

Due to the fact that our mother had a massive stroke many years ago, which left her without the ability to communicate her wants and needs properly, it was nice to see that though the staff is very busy they would take the time to try and understand what she needed.

This year our mother's health deteriorated and it was a very difficult time for us.

Due to her failing health our family was continually by her side and what we witnessed was exactly what you hope happens to your parent or family member when in a long-term care home. The devotion and care that the 'lovely' staff on 2B gave our mother was impressive, they truly treated her like she was a member of their own family and made us all at ease & happy to know that it wasn't just a workplace it was her home, surrounded by people that care.

Sadly, my mother passed away in January after a long hard fight.

So we would like to thank the staff of 2B, we can not express how much it meant to us in our mother's time of need that you went above and beyond to make her journey as painless as possible. Sadly we don't know everyone's names that work there, but we thank you all, RNs,

RPNs , PSWs, housekeeping and kitchen staff, the jobs you do mean so much to the people you help and their families.'

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **13. The Long-Term Care Home's 2021 Operational Plan**

**Recommendation:** THAT the Health Committee approves the County of Renfrew Long-Term Care Homes; Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge 2021 Operational Plan.

#### **Background**

In November 2017, the Health Committee and County Council approved the Strategic Map: 2017 – 2024 for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge, which was based on feedback from key stakeholders: residents/families, staff, volunteers and elected officials. Annually thereafter, Committee has approved the annual Operational Plans. Attached, as Appendix LTC-VI is the summary of accomplishments for 2020 and well as the 2021 Operational Plan for Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge. The annual Operational Plan is created based on Accreditation Canada recommendations/comments, Provincial Quality Improvement Plan, Ministry of Long-Term Care Compliance reports and residents/substitute decision maker's (SDM) satisfaction survey responses. The most recent resident/SDM satisfaction survey results for each of Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge are attached as Appendix LTC-VII.

### **14. Seniors Housing Strategy Update**

**Recommendation:** THAT the Health and Community Services Committees recommend that County Council receive the Final Seniors Housing Strategy: Strategy Summary Report/Strategy Technical Appendix. Further, that staff be directed to initiate a prioritized work plan.

#### **Background**

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: Strategy Summary Report / Strategy Technical Appendix were made available for feedback from our community and in particular, seniors themselves.

The report will be presented to both the Health and Community Services Committees at today's meeting and staff recommend that both the Health and Community Service Committees recommend that County Council receive the Final Report.