

Non-urgent patient transfer project update

During October's Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board meeting Mike MacIsaac, chief of emergency medical services, gave the board a verbal update on the non-urgent patient transfer project.

The six-month pilot project had been extended to Nov. 30 due to remaining funds in the budget and extra funding from the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The staff has continued to monitor the project during the duration and will present a final DSB report to the board at the November meeting at month's end.

MacIsaac said on Oct. 8,

staff received word from the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre (ERHHC) that the LHIN was requesting funding plans for small hospital projects. Staff reported that the ERHHC would like to see the non-urgent patient transfer continue and request available funding be used for this purpose.

A funding proposal template was received and the hospital partners completed.

Project staff undertook to develop a small update to how the pilot project was performing. The pilot project is making a positive difference on the four LHIN

goals. Staff added economical efficiency as a fifth goal of the project and proceeded to detail its successes.

Within the update, there was also discussion of enhancements to the project and considerations for future long-term needs. Some of the immediate needs were included in the budgetary proposal, which staff put together for the partnership.

The most significant of which is a coordination and dispatch function. The original plan had the CACC participate in dispatching, which was refused by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

Wanting to ensure that

the project succeeded staff initiated an internal process for dispatching and oversight that involved the EMS training manager, David Wolf.

It was felt that a submission for a four-month extension of the current system would be the best solution seeing that the LHIN has a steering committee created on this topic under the guidance of a consultant who is preparing a report early in 2014.

On Oct. 18, the submission for a four-month extension with the goal to change to ongoing funding was delivered to the LHIN. More will be updated in Dec. 5 issues of the Mid-North Monitor