

Patient transfer service pilot project a success thus far

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ESPAÑOLA — The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is pleased with the results of the non-urgent patient transfer service pilot program. As reported previously, the North East Local Health Integrated Network (NELHIN) had approved the pilot project and funding for the non-urgent patient ambulance system. The project involves the Espanola Regional Hospital, Manitoulin Health Centre and the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB.

“The numbers are pretty good and we are very happy with what we are seeing so far,” stated Fern Dominelli, chief administrative officer (CAO) of the DSB last week. “We gave an update on the transfer project and so far it is doing really well.”

The statistics presented last week are from the period of March 11 to April 30, 2012. “The average duration of a patient transfer from March 11 to April 30 has been three hours and 55

minutes, and we are averaging 2.2 transfers per day and that includes both one way and two ways,” said Mr. Dominelli. “There has been a total of 132 trips made with a patient (that includes 32 one way and 50 two way trips), with 80 patients having been moved.”

“The total ongoing costs of \$29,993 have been over nearly eight weeks, with \$44,342 having been budgeted,” continued Mr. Dominelli. He explained that the total costs, including the pro-rated start up (two-sixth of total start-up costs), has been \$52,422 and the budget was \$61,342, he said. “And the ongoing cost per hours is \$56.37; if you recall the board report estimate of \$63.96 per hour was ongoing,” said Mr. Dominelli.

“In comparison to EMS non-urgent activity for the same time period last year without a non-urgent alternative, the EMS non-urgent inter-facility calls number 196 in 2012, and 115 in 2013, which is a decrease of 41 percent,” continued Mr. Dominelli. “The EMS urgent inter-facility calls in

2012 for the same time period were 127 while this year it is at 98, which is a decrease of 23 percent, which is very good.”

“Statistics indicate that the service is working well and allowing our ambulances to stay within the community to deal with urgent calls,” said Mr. Dominelli. Since this pilot project is only for six months, and with the num-

bers being good so far the DSB is hoping that if this continues, funding can be provided to make this a permanent program. To this end, “we have asked for a delegation to meet with the Minister of Health at the annual meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. We have put a request in to talk to the minister,” added Mr. Dominelli.