



COCHRANE DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD
CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DES SERVICES SOCIAUX DU DISTRICT DE COCHRANE

500 Boul. Algonquin Blvd. E.
Timmins, ON P4N 1B7

Tel: (705) 268-7722 Fax: (705) 268-8290 Toll Free / sans frais 1-877-259-7722
www.cdssab.on.ca

September 26, 2018

Mr. Ron Farrell
Chair
North East LHIN
555 Oak Street East, 3rd floor
North Bay, ON P1B 8E3

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2018

RE: Non-Urgent Patient Transfer

Dear Mr. Farrell,

The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board provides Emergency Medical Services to thirteen municipalities, including Timmins, Moosonee, and all communities along Highway 11 from Matheson to Hearst. Since taking over EMS in 2000 the CDSSAB has been working with health funders and partners to develop a patient transfer service with the goal of improving ambulance availability for 911 calls. As you can appreciate EMS services were never intended to be funded from the municipal property tax base. As it stands the CDSSAB and member municipalities pick up 50% of the annual costs which include costs associated with non-urgent patient transfers.

In 2016, due to escalating costs and impact on ambulance availability, the CDSSAB was forced to stop performing the bulk of non-urgent transfers which resulted in additional burdens to local hospitals while impacting patient care. In order to mitigate the impact the Cochrane DSSAB, along with Algoma DSAB and Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, agreed to participate in a transfer service request-for-proposal exercise and contribute funding to the contract. This exercise started in 2017 and after 18 months the work of the joint committee has reached a point where the contract is ready to be awarded. This is the closest that all parties have come to actually implementing a solution to our collective patient transfer needs. The CDSSAB fears that should the contract not be awarded at this time, the provincial funding will be withdrawn thereby, essentially, cancelling the project. The service partners and especially the patients cannot afford for this to happen.

Page 2 – letter to Mr. Farrell, North East LHIN

While the system to be implemented with the successful bidder may not be perfect, it will be better than no system at all and I am confident that, together, the project partners will work out any deficiencies to ensure a quality service evolves.

The Cochrane DSSAB encourages the NE LHIN to honour the terms of the RFP project and award the transfer service to the successful bidder in order to take advantage of the funding and serve our patients.

Yours Truly,



Steven Black,
Chair – Cochrane DSSAB

cc: NE LHIN Board of Directors
Cochrane DSSAB
Algoma DSAB
Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB
Jeremy Stevenson, CEO – NE LHIN
NE NUPT Advisory Committee